Meeting of the Policy Committee

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 8:30 AM

All voting members are asked to attend in person, in compliance with Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Law. Please RSVP for this meeting. An accurate head-count will allow us to plan facilities. People attending in person are required to wear a mask while inside the County Center building consistent with CDC guidance.

All Others: Audience members, presenters, and any others are asked to participate remotely, to minimize the potential for transmitting illness.

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Public comment opportunities:
To speak during the meeting - No later than 30 minutes before the meeting, please sign up here or phone 813-756-0371 for assistance. Provide the phone number you will call in from, so that we can recognize your call in the queue and unmute you when the chair calls on you. You will receive an auto-reply confirming we received your request, along with instructions.

Comments may also be given up to 5pm the day before the meeting:
- by leaving a voice message at (813) 756-0371
- by e-mail to tpo@plancom.org
- by visiting the event posted on the Facebook page.

Advance comments will be provided in full to the board members and verbally summarized during the meeting by TPO staff.

Rules of engagement: Professional courtesy and respect for others at this meeting are expected, and failure may result in dismissal from the meeting. For more information on expectations for participation, please see the TPO’s Social Networking & Media Policy.

Workshop on Rail & BRT – Where do we stand now?

Agenda

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call of Committee Members & Welcome of Other TPO Board Members (Gail Reese, TPO Staff)

III. Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2021

IV. Public Comment – 3 minutes per speaker, please

V. Discussion Items
A. What was in the long range plan we adopted in 2019? (Beth Alden, TPO Director)

B. Current status of fixed-guideway projects & costs (Sarah McKinley, TPO staff)

C. Steps to move forward & the bottom line (Beth Alden, TPO Director)

D. Transit oriented development on the Streetcar & HART Arterial BRT corridors (Sarah McKinley, TPO staff)

E. Comments from partner agencies (FDOT Representative and HART Representative)

F. Committee questions and discussion

VI. Old & New Business

VII. Adjournment

The full agenda packet is available on the TPO’s website, www.planhillsborough.org, or by calling (813) 272-5940.

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I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Vice-Chairman, Councilmen Maniscalco, called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The regular monthly meeting was held in-person and virtual via WebEx.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS & WELCOME TO OTHER TPO BOARD MEMBERS (Gail Reese, TPO Staff)

The following members were present in person: Commissioner Kemp (arriving at 8:58), Commissioner Cohen, Councilman Maniscalco, Bob Frey, Charles Klug

The following members were present virtually: Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Overman

Welcome to other TPO Board Members present: Councilman Citro (in-person) and Gina Evans (virtual)

A quorum was met in person.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2021

Vice-Chair Maniscalco sought a motion to approve the May 12, 2021. Commissioner Cohen so moved, seconded by Charles Klug, voice vote: motion carries unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

V. STATUS REPORTS

A. Introduction to Meeting Focus: TPO 2021 Studies (Beth Alden, TPO Director)

- Today we offer an opportunity to provide guidance on MPO studies that are underway.
  Sometimes the board does not hear about the studies, from the time the board includes the study in the Unified Planning Work Program, to the time the study is finalized and presented for approval. In addition to the 4 studies on the agenda, we also have underway:
  - Bus stop inventory for HART
  - Mobility as a Service, being studied as part of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan
    - Utilizing Ride Share
    - On-Demand providers
    - Micro-Mobility
  - Additionally, several more studies will start in the next six months or so:
    - Phase 2 of the School Areas Study
    - Plant City Canal Connector Trail
    - Supply Chain Resilience
B. **Park Speed Zone Pilot Study** (Lisa Silva, TPO Staff)
   - Originated in Livable Roadways Committee
   - Part of Vision Zero and Speed Management Implementation Action Plans
   - Develop a procedure that can be replicated over multiple parks
   - Tasks:
     - Park Selection – 440 parks in Hillsborough County – three were selected as representative of different conditions – detailed information on the website
     - Existing Conditions – complete – drafts are posted on the website
     - Public outreach – Online feedback (interactive map), Survey, In-person, Companion Initiatives, partner with other programs involving the parks
     - Countermeasure Toolbox – to be applied to other parks
   - Recommendations

   **Presentation:** [Park Speed Zone Pilot Study](#)
   **Website:** [Park Speed Zone Pilot Study - Plan Hillsborough](#)

   **Discussion:**

   **Commissioner Overman** – Curious if flyers could be put in the libraries for outreach.

C. **Storm Evacuation Forecast & Shelter In-Place Scenarios Study** (Allison Yeh, TPO Staff)
   - Technical study, kicked off in late June.
   - Goal – supplement current evacuation plans; improving level of service without duplication
   - Issue identification
   - Virtual open house – public participation and launch online survey, August 25, 2021, provided flyer to be shared (link below)
   - Quick study, trying to complete in January 2022

   **Website:** [Storm Evacuation Forecast & Shelter-in-place Scenarios Study](#)
   **Open House Flyer:** [Storm Evacuation Forecast & Shelter-in-place Virtual Open House](#)

   **Discussion:**

   **Commissioner Smith:** Looking at data and cell phone data of past evacuations, can you really generalize to a larger storm event? Evacuation events have not been significant in the last several years. There is a challenge with increasing population, rising sea level, storm events, and rain events impacting the area. Would like to see things like alternate evacuation avenues be included in the study, such as opening emergency access points.
**Commissioner Cohen:** We haven’t really been tested by “the big one”; have had events that change at the last minute. Use these opportunities to practice. Use small scale tests. Particularly for supply chain issues, pets, etc. Tested emergency response plans while at the Clerk’s office.

**Commissioner Kemp:** There is confusion about when to shelter-in-place, and people don’t have to go far to get to higher ground/ inland. There are hotels and other opportunities that may not be being used. Thinking about supply chain for fuel, with electric and solar; particularly with electric vehicles. Solar has been shown to be very resilient. Also, the pet shelters are very important and the availability has increased significantly. The message of sheltering-in-place or sheltering-near-by needs to be communicated more.

**Commissioner Overman:** Important to recognize a hurricane pattern change over the years. Appears that the pattern is coming in the Gulf side and perhaps to the Bay; Shelter-in-place might be OK for the area, but the older housing stock is not. Need to identify in communities of concern where the housing stock and the income in the area may be better served by moving to a near-by shelter. Could include reaching out to hotels. Develop communication network, especially for vulnerable communities. Appreciate the study looking at this topic from a different angle.

**Commissioner Klug:** Every May, the Port does a table-top session for different scenarios. Goes back for after-action after each storm. The Port looks at many of the same issues.

**Councilman Citro:** Inquired whether the early warning systems that we receive on smart phones currently are enabled for evacuations. Asked if there is capability to assist vulnerable populations who do not have the ability to evacuate to do so. Followed-up on the level of advanced warning pushes and at what milestones do those go into action.

**Commissioner Kemp:** Noted that there is a rigorous and broad plan for vulnerable populations to evacuate in advance of events; a lot of contingencies are in place for those with special needs, and protocols with mobility organizations.

**D. Smart Cities Master Plan** (Johnny Wong, TPO Staff)
- Went over what a Smart City is
  - These widely used images have no people
  - This image shows a feedback loop, illustrating:
    - Does not matter where you start
    - Shows that the end game is continuing to optimize services
- Reviewed implications of Smart Cities
  - Time + Energy
  - Critiques
    - The inequities that exist in the society will likely be replicated with the use of technology
    - Reserved Parking – does not work for everyone
    - Welcoming critique from public and leaders
- Tampa Bay Smart Cities Alliance
- Developed fact sheets for each type of technology being rolled out
• Created prioritization tool
  o Will inform the TIP priority list
  o The TIP is currently dominated by traditional solutions like adding a turn lane at a bottleneck. How to incorporate technology solutions into the priorities?
  o Shift from current metrics to new metrics – eight criteria
  o Methodology testing in pilots – scoring appears to be supportive

• Next Steps
  o Outreach
  o Workshops
  o Board and Committees

• Revisit methodology based on LRTP
• Current funding allocations are not going to allow for achieving Smart Cities goals.

Presentation: Smart Cities Plan Workshop
Website: 2021 Smart Cities Mobility Plan - Plan Hillsborough

Discussion:

Commissioner Overman: The high priority of building internet infrastructure became obvious during pandemic. Connecting Smart Cities and making internet access becomes a real big priority. We should look at matching up State of Good Repair with building out the internet infrastructure or use right-of-way to increase access.

Commissioner Kemp: Appreciates the priority realignment. Noted Plant City and HART projects incorporated into the TIP priority list for Smart Cities. Regarding the share of TIP funds going to the State of Good Repair program, that is used for purchasing new busses. The amount is a desperate need until more resources are available.

E. USF Area Trail Feasibility Study (Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff) – moved to September meeting due to time.

VI. OLD & NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:53 A