

July 12, 2023



5A. Approval of Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Meeting

SUMMARY

The minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting are attached for the board's review and approval.

ATTACHMENT(S): Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Forward Pinellas meeting

ACTION: Board to review and approve the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes.



Board Meeting Minutes MAY 10, 2023

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

The Forward Pinellas Board held this public meeting in person on May 10, 2023 at the Pinellas County Communications Building in the Palm Room. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Commissioner Janet Long, Forward Pinellas Chair.

The following members were present:

Janet C. Long, Chair, Pinellas County Commissioner
Michael Smith, Vice-Chair, City of Largo Commissioner
David Allbritton, Treasurer, City of Clearwater Councilmember
Julie Ward Bujalski, Secretary, City of Dunedin Mayor
Gina Driscoll, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember (late arrival 1:18 p.m.)
Representing Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Dave Eggers, Pinellas County Commissioner
Richie Floyd, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember (late arrival 1:06 p.m.)
Mayor David Will, Town of Redington Beach Mayor
Representing Beach Communities
John Muhammad, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Patti Reed, City of Pinellas Park Vice Mayor
Brian Scott, Pinellas County Commissioner

Absent

Jarrold Buchman, City of Oldsmar Councilmember
Representing Oldsmar, Safety Harbor and Tarpon Springs
Chris Burke, City of Seminole Councilor
Representing Inland Communities

Also Present

Whit Blanton, Executive Director, Forward Pinellas
Maria White, Assistant County Attorney
Forward Pinellas Staff
Other Interested Individuals

The board authorized staff to advertise for a public hearing to consider the proposed Countywide Plan Amendments.

Linda Fisher and Kaitlyn Neiman presented proposed Countywide Plan amendments to address and clarify additional planning topics that have been discussed with local governments. The amendments would be adopted concurrently with the Target Employment and Industrial Land Study (TEILS) Update amendments. Proposed amendments concern: The Multimodal Accessibility (MAX) Index; transfers of density/intensity; and multi-jurisdictional activity centers (ACs), multimodal corridors (MMCs), and planned redevelopment districts (PRDs).

- Mayor Julie Bujalski asked how these fit in with development given the state has reduced concurrency. Whit Blanton noted this gives more tools for local government to look at options that are more feasible to deliver on the ground than major transportation projects (e.g., widening/more lanes, expanding intersections). This focuses on a network of multimodal strategies within context to the county overall and the area surrounding the proposal.
- Commissioner Eggers inquired if transfer of density must be amongst like properties. Linda Fisher explained the properties can be the same or different, but if transferring density, it must go to a category that allows residential. Approval of developments are administered at the local government level.

The board adopted a set of Performance Measures and Targets.

Chelsea Favero presented the MPO’s selected performance measures and targets. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires MPOs to adopt performance targets for defined pavement condition, bridge condition and system performance measures, and to demonstrate progress towards meeting those targets annually through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Forward Pinellas staff is recommending supporting the statewide targets for all measures, except for pavement condition on non-interstate NHS roadways. Staff is recommending that the pavement condition target be the same for both interstate and non-interstate roadways, a threshold higher than the state has set.

The board unanimously approved proposed amendments to the FY 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Jensen Hackett from the Florida Department of Transportation presented two proposed amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). One proposed amendment concerns the SR 694/Gandy Boulevard EB Exit Ramp and Frontage Road at 94th Ave. N., and the other solar powered zero-emission bus and facility charging infrastructure.

The board unanimously approved the proposed modification to the FY 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Every two years, funds remaining from the previous Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), need to be incorporated into the current UPWP. The UPWP has been amended to show the updated amounts and the TIP must be modified to match.

The board recommended approval of one amendment to the Countywide Plan Map.

Case CW 23-04 – A request from Pinellas County to amend a 0.116-acre property located at Ridgemoor Dr. from Recreation/Open Space to Public/Semi-Public. It is the intent of the applicant to construct a telecommunications tower on a portion of a neighborhood park serving the Ridgemoor community.

- Commissioner Eggers inquired if the tower would include camouflage. Evan Johnson, Planning Division Manager for Pinellas County, responded that it is a singular monopole, so it is considered camouflage under the code.

Forward Pinellas staff and board discussed the Pinellas Planning Council FY24 Preliminary Budget.

Rodney Chatman outlined the status of the Pinellas Planning Council FY24 Preliminary Budget. Budgeted funds are used to carry out the primary responsibilities of the PPC, which include the administration of the Countywide Plan, providing technical assistance to our local government partners, and conducting special studies and research. A preliminary budget outline, including one scenario with a seven percent increase in property tax revenues and one that uses property tax revenues based on the “roll back rate” were provided for discussion.

- Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Eggers inquired about the multimodal impact fees. Whit Blanton clarified this type of fund comes from development activity, are charged based on anticipated trip generation of development, and can only be used for capital. The proposed study would evaluate the current impact fee and determine whether an alternative mobility fee approach would be better.
- Rodney Chatman further clarified that impact fees collected for a zone must be spent within that same zone.
- **This item will be brought back to the board in July as an action item to approve the FY24 millage rate and budget, prior to consideration by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.**

Forward Pinellas staff brought back draft alternatives of the Forward Pinellas Apportionment Plan for the board’s consideration and discussion.

At the request of the board, Chelsea Favero brought back the draft Apportionment Plan, which included four alternatives based on discussion from April’s board meeting. Reviewing the apportionment plan is a state and federal requirement and is necessary to identify the voting membership and rotational seat terms for all Forward Pinellas members. The four alternatives address a variety of comments made by local governments and board members, including requests for additional seats for municipalities, requests for more proportionate representation from all members, while adhering to legal requirements that the Board of County Commissioners retain a minimum of 20% of the seats and a seat be retained for PSTA.

- Chair Janet Long inquired about the weight given to the Board of County Commissioner (BCC) seats. Chelsea Favero noted that sometimes BCC representatives are county wide and sometimes are district based, so on a year-to-year basis it could vary and is not predictable. There is flexibility in the apportionment plan to allow for a BCC seat to be designated as a countywide seat.
- Councilmember Gina Driscoll asked if having four BCC seats, which would be a quorum for BCC meetings, is a legal issue considering what is voted on in the Forward Pinellas Board then goes next to the BCC. Chelsea noted that the legal council did not see it as a concern, but are investigating further.

- Chair Long, Councilmember Driscoll, Commissioner Scott, and Councilmember Muhammad expressed their dissatisfaction for Alternative #3 regarding a city having less than a full vote, (e.g., 0.5 of a vote).
- This item will be brought back to the board in July as an action item to approve the draft Apportionment Plan.

Forward Pinellas and the Forward Pinellas Board welcomed Mayor David Will to the board.

Mayor David Will will be representing the beach communities.

The board presented a Staff Service Award to Jared Austin.

Forward Pinellas staff member, Jared Austin, was presented with a Staff Service Award for his five years of service.

SPOTlight Updates

- Executive Director Whit Blanton provided updates on
 - There will be a Waterborne Committee meeting on May 26th. Forward Pinellas has been meeting individually with local government staff in Clearwater, Dunedin, and Pinellas County.
 - FDOT is moving into construction for the SR 580 to Curlew Road project on the US 19 corridor, as well as adding a second southbound turn lane at the junction of US 19 and Gandy Blvd.
 - The resurfacing project for 34th street in the Skyway Marina District, a part of a Complete Streets Construction Award, is about to begin.

Consent Agenda

- Laura Canary, of Placemaking Collective, requested that Toole Design Group and Inspire Placemaking Collective be reconsidered for inclusion on Forward Pinellas's Planning Support Services Consultants Selection list, considering their work on the Urban Design Services Program. Whit Blanton and Rodney Chatman of Forward Pinellas provided clarification on the selection process and how score cut-offs between applicants were determined.

Other Items

- PSTA Report
 - A plan to provide free fares to disabled veterans will be brought forward at the May meeting for action.

- Enhancements are being considered for the SunRunner, including a new station closer to the St. Pete Pier, that can be implemented with cost savings from the SunRunner's construction.
- Regional Activities Report
 - Chair Janet Long received the Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership at the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit.
- Legislative Committee Update:
 - Senate Bill 250 passed. It puts broad preemption within 100 miles of where Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole made landfall and prohibits local governments from adopting more restrictive or burdensome amendments to comprehensive plan or land development regulations before October 21, 2024 and is retroactive to September 29, 2022.
 - House Bill 657 which concerns enforcement of school zone speed limits passed. It will enable school systems to opt in to allow cameras in speed zones.
 - Senate Bill 766 passed and concerns enforcement of school bus passing infractions. Schools are allowed to install cameras in school buses to detect unlawful passing.
 - House Bill 425 includes language regarding consolidation of Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough MPOs. It requires submission of a feasibility study report for the regional MPO to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House.
 - House Bill 1397 concerning Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) passed. It directs FDOT to explore if dissolution of HART will create operational efficiencies and further a regional approach to transit.
 - House Bill 155 which dissolves Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) passed.
- Pinellas Bayway South Cycle Track
 - The track is more than a mile stretch along Bayway South that closes the gap of a bi-directional bike trail on north and south end in Tierra Verde that connects to the Pinellas Trail loop. The project was in response to earlier concerns from residents about the trail affecting their landscaping and the Tierra Verde Civic Association initially supported the project in 2018 and 2019.
 - Since construction, FDOT and Forward Pinellas have received a series of concerns and complaints from Tierra Verde residents regarding the safety of the track.
 - FDOT is responsive to concerns and a longer discussion of this will occur at the July Forward Pinellas Board Meeting where FDOT will present their analysis and considerations for moving forward and Tierra Verde residents will be in attendance.
- Public Comments:
 - David Geddis Jr. provided a public comment expressing his concern over the relative location of Disney owned lands and water supply.
 - Vice Mayor Craig Lunt of Tarpon Springs read an email memo from Mayor Costa Vatikiotis requesting consideration of a seat devoted to Tarpon Springs be incorporated into Forward Pinellas Apportionment Plan.
- There will be no Board Meeting in June.

**Action Sheet
May 10, 2023**

At its May meeting, the Forward Pinellas Board took the following official actions:

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 10-0)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the April 12, 2023 Meeting
 - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
 - C. Approval of Forward Pinellas/FDOT Joint Certification Statement and Summary
 - D. Approval of Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - E. Approval of Update to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - F. Approval of Request for Proposals (RFP) #23-0365 Forward Pinellas Planning Support Services Consultants Selection
 - G. Approval of Cancellation of the August Forward Pinellas Board Meeting
 - H. Approval of Scope and Fee for Public Outreach Web Technology Tool

- **Proposed Amendments and Modification to the FY 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program**
Following a presentation by Jensen Hackett, FDOT, and a public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved two amendments and a modification to the TIP. (roll call vote: 11-0)

- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
Following a presentation by Rodney Chatman, Forward Pinellas staff, and a public hearing, one case was approved:
 - 1. CW 23-04 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)

- **Proposed Countywide Plan Amendments**
Following presentations by Kaitlyn Nieman and Linda Fisher, Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, authorized staff to advertise for a public hearing to be held at the July meeting. (vote: 10-1; Commissioner Eggers dissenting)

- **Performance Measures and Targets**
Following a presentation by Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, adopted the performance measures and targets. (vote: 9-2; Commissioners Eggers and Scott dissenting)

Chair