



Council Minutes

October 10, 2011

10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Vice Mayor Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Vice Chair, Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County
Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Past Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Vice Mayor Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach
Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Council Member Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Vice Mayor Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Ming Gao, Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Pamela Vazquez, Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Councilman Sam Henderson, City of Gulfport
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District

OTHERS PRESENT

Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Will Augustine, Hillsborough County Planning Commission
Amy Ellis, Communications Director, TBARTA
Lisa Barrett, Planner, Manatee County
Betsy Benac, Planner, Benderson Dev. Co. LLC
Todd Mathis, Benderson Dev. Co. LLC
Ms. Julia Greene, former Executive Director of TBRPC

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Bobbi Jaroy, Recording Secretary
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
Ms. Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Ms. Amanda Shaw, Senior Planner
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Dodson

The October 10, 2011 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Andy Núñez, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary - None

Announcements: - Chair Dodson

- Councilor Bob Matthews was thanked for providing refreshments.
- Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace, was welcomed back. She is replacing Council Member David Pogorilich.
- Housekeeping Items were in Council folders. Council members were asked to complete the forms, and make their choice for their committee assignments, and return by October 21st.
- A brief reminder that the Council Meeting Recap was provided in Council folders for convenience in reporting back to respective Councils and Commissions.

Retirement Recognition: - Chair Dodson

Ms. Nancy Harrison has served as the accountant for the past 9 years. Her last day at TBRPC will be Wednesday, October 13th. Ms. Harrison was presented with an engraved bookmark as a token of appreciation.

Ms. Beth Williams was introduced. She is replacing Ms. Harrison as TBRPC's Senior Accountant. She was chosen from at least 100 applicants and has been training with Ms. Harrison and Mr. Jacobsen for the past month. Ms. Williams is originally from Ohio with an extensive background in accounting.

Ms. Julia Greene, former Executive Director of TBRPC was introduced. She is currently assisting in the 50th Anniversary program.

1. Approval of Minutes – Secretary/Treasurer Minning

The minutes from the September 12, 2011 regular meeting were approved. (Black/Jonson)

2. Budget Committee – Secretary/Treasurer Minning

The Financial Report for the period ending 8/31/11 was approved. (Kersteen/Black)

3. Consent Agenda – Chair Dodson

A. Budget and Contractual

1. Contract for the Editor of *Bay Soundings*

TBRPC produces the *Bay Soundings* environmental journal with the assistance of a contracted editor. Staff proposes to enter into a contract with Ms. Victoria Parsons to continue her service as editor of *Bay Soundings*. The contract amount will be \$8,250 per issue plus up to a total of \$3,000 for reimbursable expenses. There will be 3 to 4 issues of *Bay Soundings*.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize Council Chairman to sign the contract.

Staff contact: Suzanne Cooper, ext. 32

2. The State Division of Emergency Management has requested assistance from TBRPC for the update and enhancement of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 18 Business and Industry. The scope of work will include the facilitation of two statewide summits bringing public and private entities together to discuss how to better prepare, respond and recovery from a disaster.

Action Recommended: Authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement for up to \$30,000 with the State Division of Emergency Management.

Staff contact: Betti Johnson, ext. 39

3. Statewide Energy Resiliency Strategy

At the September Council meeting a motion was approved to authorize the Chair or Executive Director to sign award contract with the Economic Development Administration for the Statewide Energy Resiliency Strategy Study. TBRPC will contract with the other Regional Planning Councils to conduct efforts in their respective districts.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Chair or the Executive Director to sign agreements with the other Regional Planning Councils.

Staff contact: Avera Wynne, ext. 30

B. Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - September 2011

2. IC&R Database - September 2011

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None

D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR) - None

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports

DRI #103 - Cooper Creek, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve staff report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

F. Annual Report Summaries (ARS)/Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)

1. DRI #108 - Hidden River Corporate Park, RY 2010-11 ARS, City of Tampa
2. DRI #115 - Woodland Corporate Center, RY 2010-11 ARS, Hillsborough County
3. DRI #116 - Tampa Telecom Park, RYs 2009-11 ARS, City of Temple Terrace
4. DRI # 158 - Tampa Bay Park of Commerce, RY 2010-11 ARS, City of Oldsmar & Pinellas County
5. DRI #235 - Southeast Tract (Mosaic), RY 2010-11 ARS, Manatee County
6. DRI #250 - Independence Park, RY 2010-11 ARS, City of Tampa
7. DRI #251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Altman Tract, RY 2010-11 ARS, Manatee County
8. DRI #251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Phase 2, RY 2010-11 ARS, Manatee County
9. DRI #263 - Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation S/D, RY 2010-11 ARS, Hillsborough County

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

G. DRI Status Report

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

1. DCA # 11-2ESR, City of St. Petersburg (adopted)
2. DCA # 10-PTFAR1 (10-1AR), City of Tampa (adopted)

3. DCA # 09-1ER, City of Bradenton Beach (adopted)
4. DCA # 10-1AR, City of Tampa (adopted)
5. DCA # 11-1, City of Holmes Beach (adopted)
6. DCA # 10-2AR, City of Tampa (adopted)
7. DCA # 11-2ESR, City of Clearwater (proposed)

Action Recommended: For Information

Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

The consent agenda was approved. (Black/Núñez)

4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None**

5. **Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion - None**

6. **TBARTA Master Plan update - Ms. Amy Ellis, TBARTA Communications Director**

Ms. Ellis provided a presentation on the 2011 Master Plan Update which was unanimously approved by the TBARTA Board of Directors on June 24, 2011. This legislatively mandated process broadens the plan to incorporate the full spectrum of transportation in the Tampa Bay region, including freight, airports, seaports, air quality and roadways.

Ms. Ellis stated that the Council is very well informed about TBARTA and how the organization was created so she didn't get into the history. TBARTA's primary task was to develop a regional transportation master plan for the seven county region (Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough and Pinellas). This was accomplished in May 2009 and it was a balanced multi-modal system. The first one for the region. It was approved by the board in May 2009 and it was adopted by all of the member counties. We had considerable support and public engagement. That initial plan focused primarily on transit. In 2011 we were required by the state to update the master plan. It wasn't a rewrite of the master plan but a broadening of what we did in 2009 to include additional key elements that weren't a part of the original plan. We refined the transit network. What that means is getting together with all of the transit operators in the seven counties and making sure that we are consistent with what they are doing and the changes they might be making. We added the regional freight network, regional roadway network, and a new aspect that we had to take into consideration - revisions expected from the EPA related to air quality compliance. We included some contingency plans in the master plan related to that. We did extensive public outreach and the final public hearing was in June 2011. It passed unanimously.

The regional network started with the transit network, which was passed in 2009. We added in the airports and seaports, we added in the freight roadway network. The freight rail network was added and finally the regional roadway network. The idea was to make sure that this was a complete balanced transportation plan, not just focusing on transit but on all modes of transportation.

The biggest piece of everything that TBARTA has done is public engagement. Everything that is done is done in Sunshine but we also want to be transparent to the public and listen to what they have to say. To that end, we held seven telephone town halls. We coordinated extensively with all of our member governments and MPOs and we held two public hearings with an opportunity for public comment in between those hearings. We received considerable comment from all of the MPOs, many of which were worked into our final plan and we also received considerable

input from the public. We were really pleased to see that the comments we received were well informed, well thought out and reasonable comments. Many of those were incorporated into our final plan. With the telephone town halls we were very encouraged with the number of people that participated in this type of public engagement. We had 60,522 total attendees, an average of 10,085 attendees per town hall. It was a wonderful one-on-one engagement. The highest amount we had participating at any given time was over 1,000 people which was surprising. We were able to answer 145 live questions, all of which is posted on our website.

What are people telling us? We heard a lot of common messages, we heard some criticism from people who don't believe what we are doing is important and we were able to address those. Mr. Clifford is very open to dialogue and has sat down with some of our fiercest opponents and talked with them one-on-one and has been able to reach some areas that we actually agree upon. The most common comment was that transportation needs to improve now rather than later. TBARTA has done a long-term plan of 10-20-50 years out, but the focus that the public wants to know is what are you doing now in the short term? We have some plans that are underway related to short term improvements. They want to know how they are going to get to the airport, all the way down to Sarasota/Manatee. They want to get to Tampa International Airport more easily as well as the north suncoast. They want us to work with CSX, which we are doing, they want to see that their counties are able to expand local bus service. We are able to work with the different counties to find ways that perhaps share operations such as administrative, purchasing, to help save money so that the funds can be redirected into actual increases in service. Bike safety and pedestrian safety were very big issues for people who called, as were the safety of the disabled and service to the disabled and senior citizens.

The Master Plan is available on the TBARTA website as well as all of our maps www.tbarta.com. TBARTA is also on Twitter and Facebook. We have a Transportation Lounge which is an area where we encourage the public to share their comments and their feedback and all of that is monitored by staff, shared with Mr. Clifford, and shared with our board members.

One of our success stories has been the merger with Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS). Not only did it enable us to consolidate and save taxpayer dollars, it also enabled us to expand what we call our Right-now Solutions for the public. Those are things like car-pooling, van-pooling, school-pooling, and telework. There is also the emergency ride home system that gives people a comfort zone so if they do car-pool, van-pool, or use public transit they will have a way to get home if something comes up and the car-pool driver is not able to take them home. The success is clear by the numbers. More than 1 million vehicle trips were eliminated last year; more than 20 million vehicle miles were eliminated; reduction of more than 362,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions; and more than \$11 million saved in individual transportation costs. For the average commuter who participates in the car-pool or van-pool at least twice a week, those individuals have been able to save: more than 350 vehicle trips per year; 5,000 miles on their cars; 200 gallons of gas; and more than \$1,500 saved each year in transportation costs. We are proud of that program.

We are working very closely with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to look at things in the short-term, 2-5 years, that we can do to ease congestion and help people get from point A to point B in a less stressful way. One of the things that we are very encouraged by is the possibility of running buses along the shoulder. We are looking at I-75 and 275 and possibly I-4. Basically where ever it would make sense, and where there is room and from an engineering standpoint it will be a safe operation. Mr. Ming Gao is very familiar with the short-term enhancement study that TBARTA is working on. Another of the short-term solutions that we are seriously looking at are the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes and the High Occupancy Vehicle

(HOV) lanes, or car-pool lanes. These are used extensively in south Florida. As far as the tolling lanes, what we have seen around the state is that people are willing to pay a little bit in order to bypass congestion. One thing that we came across this past summer when we were doing the Master Plan Update, a report came out that was put together by three organizations-the Reason Foundation, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and Transportation for America. The important thing to note about these three organizations is they often don't agree on very much. What they did agree on was the number of taxpayer friendly solutions, cost effective, short-term solutions that governments can do to improve transportation. We looked at these and were pleased to see that between TBARTA and FDOT and our member county governments, all of these are things we are working on now.

Next Steps:

We are working aggressively with each of the county transit agencies. TBARTA received federal funds to work specifically with Citrus, Hernando and Pasco to identify shared operations, and administrative functions where we can identify some efficiencies. We are working with our Citizens Advisory Committee to come up with ways to engage the private sector. We believe this is the way of the future to find new ways of offering transportation services. And TBARTA will continue to be the convener, collaborator, communicator and catalyst of the transportation conversation. We have a lot of people on our board, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Land Use Committee and we are bringing that brain trust together which represents the full region and trying to come up with solutions to the issues that we have in Tampa Bay.

Questions & Comments:

Councilman Newton:

You mentioned the federal funding, and hybrid vehicles, how is that doing? And what are some of the benefits?

Ms. Ellis:

That was actually the individual transit agencies like HART and PSTA. They were able to purchase hybrid vehicles and that has been very successful. The public is pleased. TBARTA does not actually operate any buses. The federal funding that I mentioned is from the New Freedom Program and that's essentially enabled us to work with Citrus, Hernando and Pasco from a planning perspective and help them come up with more efficient operations such as purchasing, administrative function - things that each of those entities do that perhaps they could do in an umbrella fashion and save some dollars.

Councilman Newton:

What are you doing with BRT?

Ms. Ellis:

Bus Rapid Transit? That's included in our Master Plan. With the public's recent demonstration of less interest in light rail we are looking much more closely at BRT along SR 54/56 corridor in Pasco County. There's a BRT project in Sarasota/Manatee and HART is looking much more closely at BRT because of the result of the referendum. Throughout our region BRT is kind of becoming the way to go.

Councilman Newton:

We have two members on the PSTA in the City of St. Petersburg. Two Fridays ago they released a shuttle that

goes from the Hurricane in Pass A Grille all the way to St. Petersburg. They are finding other ways.

Ms. Ellis:

What we have found is that with BRT in other areas you are able to get what's called the Choice Riders, people who aren't just riding the bus just because they have no other option. That's where you increase the ridership and make it a more cost efficient system.

Mr. Núñez:

You did mention some kind of umbrella organization in assisting in reducing costs. Are you or anybody considering consolidation of transit service providers (PSTA, HART, etc.) to operate much better?

Ms. Ellis:

We know that conversation is taking place in multiple areas. Senator Latvala has come out very strongly. TBARTA doesn't have an official position on whether we think that needs to be done. What we are doing is we are waiting to see all of the information that comes out of those conversations. I believe the TBARTA board eventually will take a position, but where we are right now is we want to be a part of the conversation, and we want to help in any way that we can. If we can be that umbrella organization, then that would be fine. But we just don't know, there isn't enough information currently for us to decide. The Citrus, Hernando, Pasco "umbrella" - I didn't necessarily mean an umbrella organization, but combining those services so they don't have to have as many folks working on the same functions. Again, if it's discovered that an umbrella organization is needed, TBARTA's board is willing to look at that. We definitely are not promoting that at this point.

Council Member Janice Miller:

My original question is, is light rail completely off the table now?

Ms. Ellis:

Absolutely not. Short term, the public doesn't seem to think light rail is the solution. In Pinellas, the alternatives analysis that is taking place, they are still looking at light rail. And they are still looking at possibly going to referendum a ways down the line. Our Master Plan has not been changed to remove light rail but what we're trying to do is focus on the technologies that the public would find more palatable in the short term.

Council Member Janice Miller:

I used to sit on the PSTA board. They get federal money, correct? Doesn't TBARTA and all the rest of them? You couldn't really combine them all because each one is a separate entity with federal money, correct?

Ms. Ellis:

TBARTA is waiting to see how that would work out and we don't know the answer to that question. I know they both receive state funding and the impetus for it seems to be coming very strongly from Senator Latvala. Those discussions are taking place. As far as how it would work and what it would look like, we don't really know.

Commissioner Brickfield:

I'm on the PSTA board. We get about 1/3 of our money from the federal government and I'm all for looking at combining with HART or with Pasco. Some things just don't make sense in our community. People from Palm Harbor go to downtown Tampa everyday, we watch them go over the Courtney Campbell Bridge. If you work in downtown Tampa and you wanted to go to a Rays game, you couldn't get a bus to get there. If you want to get to International Mall from the beaches, good luck. We have people going places and our system doesn't match it. You were talking about BACS services, and a million passenger trips saved and 20 million total-I'm curious about how we are calculating that. Is that one trip for every body who commutes, or is that one trip for every body who owns a car who gives it up to commute?

Ms. Ellis:

The way we calculated that, we have a database with about 5,000 people in it who are registered, wanting to match. All of those don't actually match but we are able to calculate how many do and if they car-pool, van-pool at least 2 times a week then we calculated how many trips a year that would be times all the people who participate in the program. That's how we came up with those numbers and we believe it's a low ball number because many of our participants do car-pool or van-pool everyday. We think that's a conservative estimate. The operator of the database were able to help us come in with those figures.

Council Member Jonson:

Please comment on what is in the works with CSX, and is that Taxpayer Free Friendly Solutions report available some place? I tried to look for that on the Reason Foundation site and I wasn't able to find it.

Ms. Ellis:

We didn't post that to our website, but we may need to because it is a very valuable bit of information and I can send it to Wren and she can distribute it to the board. With CSX essentially what we are doing is opening the door. We opened it about a year ago and it's been a positive relationship so far. What we are looking at is what the public commented they would like to see - the possibility of using existing rail lines for passenger rail. There are a lot of difficulties with doing that because of the standards for safety and in order for it to make sense for CSX we have to take that into account. Those discussions are happening. I don't know where they stand at this point but we are pleased that they are considering it.

Councilman Newton:

Transit funding-there is a proposal to stop a one cent sales tax, what does TBARTA think about that?

Ms. Ellis:

I'm not familiar with that proposal.

Commissioner Brickfield: The PSTA is looking at sunseting our property milage tax and go to referendum and ask the voters of Pinellas County if they would replace it with up to a one cent local option sales tax. We just voted on the language to send up to Tallahassee and ask the legislative delegation to support.

Councilman Newton: I think that's the difference with Tampa going to a one cent sales tax for transportation. I did get feedback from one of my colleagues that they are saving by using the hybrids.

Ms. Ellis: I want to let everyone know even though when you ask questions about PSTA and HART, we are very much involved in the discussions going on.

Mr. Núñez: I believe that your enabling legislation allowed growth in addition to transit. Is TBARTA pursuing?

Ms. Ellis: Currently we - partnerships. As I pointed out, our Master Plan Update does include the roadway network. The authority that created us, the statute, does give us the opportunity or ability to do many things. We are not looking at that directly, we are not looking at operating anything directly at this point. That could change in the future, but in this economic climate we are not seeking taxing authority.

Mr. Gao: Right now the DOT and TBARTA are looking at options. BRT and light rail are still on the table. Once we go through the process, like the PSTA proposal, that would certainly be a part of it.

Council Member Jonson: Is TBARTA trying to influence the way roads are designed so that they are more friendly for transit and transit users?

Ms. Ellis: Yes. One example is the replacement of the northbound span of the Howard Franklin bridge, which will need to be replaced. What we are doing in conjunction with a number of partners is looking at while that bridge is being replaced, there could be a transit envelope in conjunction with that. I think that's the kind of thing that TBARTA is bringing to the table. Any opportunity where there is going to be road work we are very supportive of there being transit in that process.

Council Member Jonson: When a person takes public transit, how do they get across the road when the road has a barrier or wall? Maybe they can get the bus going to St. Petersburg but when they take the bus back they have to walk a mile or more to get the return bus.

Ms. Ellis: That goes to the question of the pedestrian and cycling safety. Where we are right now is 30,000 feet and as we get through the initial phase of studies that will identify what the mode will be, the implementation of that would include those aspects and obviously working very

closely with DOT to make sure that happens. I know that is a primary concern and focus of DOT as well. We haven't completed the studies yet for the various transit options. Our board chair is very interested in this.

Ms. Vance:

Are there any specific private partners or relations that have been developed?

Ms. Ellis:

We haven't identified them at this point. I know that we have our Citizens Advisory Committee, which is made up of a lot of business people. We have them working on that. They will make recommendations to our board. We are putting out a Request for Information to the private sector to see what comes back. Business people know what will work for them and what the opportunities are that they see where we can partner together and they could assist in providing transportation, but would also make a profit. Obviously that is crucial.

Chair Dodson:

Thank you for your presentation.

Staff Contact: Wren Krahl, ext. 22

All Council presentations: www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations_2011.shtml

7. Council Member Comments

- Vice Mayor Roff: Get Ready Tampa Bay - the City of Bradenton is wrapping up completion of eight charging stations inside it's downtown area.
- Council Member Jonson: On Friday we opened our Natural Gas station for vehicles and that will be used by our garbage trucks and Verizon. I was surprised there are several private entities seeking approval so they can take advantage of the 40% savings in fuel costs. I want to thank Commissioner Brickfield for coming and giving our key note speech that we have natural gas in this country so we don't have to import it from overseas.
- Council Member J. Miller: I would like to thank Wren Krahl for coming to our ribbon cutting of our old 1918 Bank Building.
- Commissioner Brickfield: To follow up on Council Member Jonson, we have a workgroup starting between Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. I would like to invite everyone here to get in touch with us. It's \$2.00 per gallon opposed to \$3.50 a gallon.

8. Program Reports

- A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) – Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen- No Report
- B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - No Report

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – No Report

D. Emergency Management - No Report

E. Legislative Committee – Mayor Scott Black, Chair

Other than redistricting, there is not much going-on at this time in regard to the 2012 Legislation. Both the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties will be adopting their legislative agenda in mid-November. There is some general text which says they are opposed to unfunded mandates and support home rule. The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is working on a glitch bill for last year's HB7202 but nothing has been filed.

There are a few bills worth mentioning:

HB191 relating to neighborhood improvement districts... it provides for the creation and funding of safe districts, powers of local governing bodies and ad valorem tax on real or personal property.

HB193 relating to Eminent Domain... it provides that any entity having the right to exercise power of eminent domain may file a petition to acquire private property and provides if such petition is not filed within a specified period; it is barred for a specified period.

SB292 relating to required public notices by governmental entities.... it authorizes a local government to use its publicly accessible website for legally required advertisements and public notices.

On September 29th, Manny and several other RPC Executive Directors met with Doug Darling, the Executive Director for the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). It was a highly interactive meeting and we were able to communicate how the regional planning councils provide a framework to convene the region's in Florida and provide services with economies of scale. We provided information on the various economic programs and projects that engages local and regional entities that result in positive impacts to our communities. Doug Darling shared DEO's future agenda through its three divisions:

- Strategic Business Development
- Division of Community Development
- Division of Workforce Services

During the meeting Doug Darling initiated conversations regarding RPC funding and asked if the vetoed appropriation was recurring or non-recurring. Our Tallahassee team is diligently pursuing RPC funding in the Governor's proposed budget.

He also wants an RPC Director to participate on the committee that will assist in drafting the State's 5 year strategic plan.

Both parties concluded the meeting with the understanding that the state and regions need to teamwork and collaborate to embrace Florida's economic competitiveness.

12. Executive Director's Report - Taken out of order

Manatee County has received a petition in a Division of Administration hearing case regarding the adoption of a comprehensive plan amendment. Basically the petition claims the maps illustrated in the Storm Tide Atlas are not the best available data. The maps were prepared by TBRPC and the other RPCs as part of the Statewide Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study. The Manatee County plan amendment adopted the coastal high hazard area maps into the future land use map series as required by Chapter 163.3178.

TBRPC and other RPC staff will provide support and information to Manatee County as requested. A hearing will be held in this case on November 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the Manatee County Government Building.

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) – No Report

G. Economic Development - No Report

H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) - No Report

9. Other Council Reports

A. TBRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee - Ms. Wren Krahl

Vice Mayor Dodson, I heard through the grapevine that Mayor Black won a huge award. The E. Harris Drew award was presented to Mayor Black by the Florida League of Cities. This is the biggest award presented by the Florida League of Cities to an individual.

There are a couple of big events coming up in 2012. On February 16th, 2012, our organization will be 50 years old. We have developed a committee to work on celebrating this anniversary and I would like to thank Ms. Todd and Ms. Greene for being co-chairs of this committee. Sitting on the committee are Mr. Kersteen, Mr. Núñez, Commissioner Bustle, Councilman Newton. They have all stepped up to the plate to help. We need your ideas and hope that you will think of joining us at the next meeting, following the November Council meeting. The meeting will be about 30 minutes. We will focus on this event first because it happens first. The next big event

will be TBRPC hosting the NARC conference in June at the Vinoy. Our 50th Anniversary is on March 23rd. We are working with the Vinoy to group the 20th Anniversary of the Future of the Region Awards along with our 50th Anniversary as an organization. We will have dessert with exhibitors, moving into a reception for our 50th Anniversary. We need sponsors. In your folders is a form for you to refer a business for contact. There is also a spot for you to check if you think they would be a good sponsor for the NARC Conference. These will be folks that are stakeholders in our organization and in our region. We are looking for more national sponsors for the NARC Conference.

B. NARC Conference 2012 - Ms. Wren Krahl

The conference takes place June 10th through the 13th and will be held at the Vinoy. I will keep you posted.

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson - None

11. Chair's Report - Nominating Committee

It is that time of year when the Chair appoints the Nominating Committee which will present the 2012 Slate of Officers for your approval in November.

I would like to thank the following for agreeing to serve on this year's Nominating Committee: Councilor Bob Matthews, Chair; Commissioner Jack Mariano; Mayor Scott Black; Mr. Robert Kersteen; and Ms. Angeleah Kinsler. Thank you very much.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting prior to the November Council meeting. We would like to invite you to express your desire to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in serving as an Officer, please keep in mind that it is a three year commitment. Those currently sitting on the Nominating Committee are ineligible to serve.

Please contact Manny or Wren by Friday, October 21st if you would like to be considered for the 2012 Secretary/Treasurer position.

Adjournment: 11:04 a.m.



William D. Dodson, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary