



Council Minutes

www.tbrpc.org

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February 8, 2016

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton, Vice Chair
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County, Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County, Past Chair
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Councilwoman Yvonne Yolie Capin, City of Tampa
Mr. Jacob Cremer, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Carlos Diaz, City of Safety Harbor
Mr. Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Vice Mayor Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Mr. Robert "Pete" Edwards, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Rick Falkenstein, City of St. Pete Beach
Council Member Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Ronald Kitchen, Citrus County
Commissioner Bruce Livingston, City of Dunedin
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Mr. John Neal, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Gail Neidinger, City of South Pasadena
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, City of New Port Richey
Councilwoman Darden Rice, City of St. Petersburg
Commissioner Diane Rowden, Hernando County
Mr. Frank Rygiel, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-officio, FDOT

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo, Chair
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Councilmember Bob Boss, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner Jonathan Davis., City of Palmetto
Commissioner Robin DiSabatino, Manatee County
Council Member Hoyt Hamilton, City of Clearwater
Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Mr. Robert Sebesta, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Council Member Eric Seidel, City of Oldsmar
Mr. Scott Sheridan, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Commissioner Mike Wells, Pasco County
Ms. Mary Yeargan, FDEP
Mr. David Dunbar, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Polan, CUTR
Rob Duran, Consultant, ABM
Mario Gomez, Ops Manager, Savage/GGS
Ed Baldron, Consultant, Arcadis

Kristen Andre, Consultant, Arcadis
Melissa Dickens, Planner, Planning Commission
Anthony Matonti, Planner, TBARTA
Trisha Neasum, Planner, SWFWMD
Alex Lopez, Division Chief, Hernando Fire

STAFF PRESENT

Sean Sullivan, Executive Director
Don Conn, Legal Counsel
Maya Burke, Senior Planner
Randy Deshazo, Principal Planner
Marshall Flynn, GIS Director
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
John Meyer, Principal Planner
Brady Smith, Principal Planner
Beth Williams, Accounting Manager
Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Vice Chair Roff filled in for Chair Brown as Mayor Brown was in Tallahassee with the Leadership Pinellas group.

Call to Order – Vice Chair Roff

The February 8, 2016 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report – None

The invocation was given by Commissioner Gail Neidinger, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Motion to close the Public Comment passed without objection.

1. **Approval of Minutes – Sec./Treas. Long**
Approved the minutes from the December 14, 2015 annual meeting without objection.
2. **Budget Committee – Sec./Treas. Long**
 - A. Approved the Financial Report for the period ending 11/30/15 without objection.
 - B. Approved the Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/15 without objection.
Staff contact: Beth Williams, ext. 15 or beth@tbrpc.org
3. **Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Roff**
 - A. **Budget and Contractual - None**
 - B. **Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program**
 1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - December 2015/January 2016
 2. IC&R Database - December 2015/January 2016
Action Recommended: None. Information Only.
Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org
 3. IC&R #001-16 – Manatee Harbor Navigation Improvements Feasibility Study & Environmental Impact Statement, FSC SAI#FL201512217508C, State of Florida
Action Recommended: Approve staff report
Staff contact: Maya Burke, ext. 40, maya@tbrpc.org
- C. **DRI Development Order Report (DOR) - None**

D. DRI Development Order Amendment Report (DOAR)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following Reports have been transmitted to the State Land Planning Agency and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.:

1. DRI #247 - Long Lake Ranch, Pasco County
2. DRI #416 - Citrus Hills II, Citrus County

The following Report is presented for Council action:

3. DRI # 259 – Lake Hutto, Hillsborough County

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports.

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org

E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Report

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following Report has been transmitted to the State Land Planning Agency and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.:

DRI #218 - Gateway North, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve staff report.

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org

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

1. DRI #68 - Cargill Riverview Facility, RY 2014-15 ARS, Hillsborough
2. DRI #73 - Summerfield Crossings, RY 2014-15 ARS, Hillsborough County
3. DRI #78 - Tampa Downtown Development, RY 2014-15 ARS, City of Tampa
4. DRI #105 - Sunforest, RYs 2013-15 ARS, Hillsborough County
5. DRI #132PP - Gateway Centre/Pinellas Park, RYs 2011-14 ARS, City of Pinellas Park
6. DRI #163 - Cannon Ranch, RY 2014-15 ARS, Pasco County
7. DRI #249 - South Shore Corporate Park, RY 2014-15 ARS, Hillsborough County
8. DRI #250 - Independence Park, RY 2014-15 ARS, City of Tampa
9. DRI #259 - Lake Hutto, RY 2013-14 ARS, Hillsborough County
10. DRI #522 - Sunrise, RY 2014-15 ARS, Hernando County

Recommended Action: Approve staff reports.

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org

G. DRI Status Report

Recommended Action: None. Information Only.

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org

H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the State Land Planning Agency and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C. No report is prepared for adopted amendments that do not require Council comments.

1. DEO # 16-2ESR, Pinellas County
2. DEO # 15-2ESR, Manatee County
3. DEO # 15-1ER, City of Belleair Beach
4. DEO # 15-7ESR, City of Largo
5. DEO # 16-1ESR, City of St. Petersburg

Recommended Action: Approve staff report.

Staff contact: Brady Smith, ext. 42, brady@tbrpc.org

I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

1. DEO # 16-1ESR, Manatee County
2. DEO # 16-1ESR, Pasco County

Recommended Action: Approve staff report.

Staff contact: Brady Smith, ext. 42, brady@tbrpc.org

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed without objection.

4. Item(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)

Council members shall notify the Chair of any items they wish to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. These items will be discussed and voted on separately after the remainder of the Consent Agenda is approved.

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

6. A. Autonomous Vehicle Technology Presentation

Vice Chair Roff welcomed Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee and TBRPC Member; as well as Dr. Steve Polzin with the USF Center for Transportation and Mr. Bob Frey with the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority.

“Autonomous” inter-connected vehicles are a rapidly emerging technology. Most vehicle manufacturers are forecasted to have some type of autonomous technology equipped vehicles in the showroom by 2020.

Mr. Tim Schock provided an intro into the technology of autonomous vehicles. Dr. Steve Polzin discussed research being conducted by CUTR (Center for Urban Transportation Research). Mr. Bob Frey provided an update on the Selmon Expressway demonstration project.

Questions & Comments:

Commissioner Long: I have identified almost 12 different government entities that are working on transportation and transportation solutions and spending millions of dollars to do studies. They all have a separate agenda with a different mission and goals and objectives. How do we position an agency like the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council that represents those counties that have the largest mass and the largest group of people living in a densely populated area and become a leader to bring all these groups together so we’re not throwing all this money down a rabbit hole?

Mr. Frey: From the connected vehicle perspective we’re using the Federal DOT research and rules. With the connected vehicles everything is going to come from that one point. As far as agencies and how they look into different things, each of them have their own jurisdictions.

Commissioner Long: And that’s a problem because – PSTA is buying buses, HART is buying buses. We’re constantly struggling on those boards to figure out what’s the next best thing for us to do because the time frame is so long from the time you order it to the time you receive it the technology is old.

Mr. Frey: There is no one answer. If you look at the volume out there we need the buses, we need autonomous vehicles, we need toll roads, we need managed lanes. You need the whole thing to work together. Each agency has its area of expertise.

Mr. Schock: Joe Wagner, with Transportation Management Leadership (TML) provided a presentation last week. TML is composed of 300 regional MPOs, which includes representatives from the City of Tampa, each of the counties, the City of St. Petersburg, and the smaller cities have representation through the MPOs. It’s important that we have discussions like this so that we are not creating redundant organizations. Where is PSTA and HART and why can’t we have buses that can cross a bridge more frequently? We’re looking at that. The expressway is in a unique position to

collaborate with some of our agencies. I mentioned collaboration in the private sector such as Ford and Google and GM with Uber. The private sector has collaborated with USF CUTR including our local research institutions. I don't think it's necessary to create any new transportation agencies unless it's through some kind of consolidation. If we are looking at where the solutions are going and what's going to happen next, I think these are really important questions that we ask from the technology standpoint of what's coming down the road. We're talking about hundreds of millions or billions of dollars of infrastructure investment and are we making a leap forward or are we trying to catch up to other municipalities? We have a unique opportunity here through USF being one of the few research universities in the country that is recognized and certified by USDOT to conduct transit research. It is one of the three grants by USDOT that was awarded. It almost seems ironic here in the Tampa Bay area that we have one of the few research universities and our transit and public transit systems are very fractured.

Commissioner Long offered a motion that we charge our administration with putting together some kind of a symposium or a seminar that brings all the stakeholders on this issue together, perhaps sometime this summer, to talk about these issues.

Mr. Frey: FDOT every year has an automated vehicle summit. Next year it will be in Tampa Bay and I can pass along that information to him. I will see if we can coordinate with your administrative staff.

Mr. Schock: That will occur next December and is scheduled to be held at the Grand Hyatt near the airport. I don't know if we would want something separate that is for general transportation. One thing that we could look at is doing something related to a public information forum that might be in conjunction with the autonomous vehicle symposium.

Ms. Todd seconded the motion that we can take a look at this and see the best way to make this a summit.

Motion passed without objection.

Mr. Edwards stated he agrees with Commissioner Long regarding the duplication of studies. Neighborhood traffic congestion is left out. Even with the current planning there's no mention of how rural neighborhoods can buy in. If we are going to get involved I would like to include regular neighborhoods. I don't want the RPC to give the appearance that we want to bring all these folks together and the folks in these neighborhoods still can't identify what is going on.

Mr. Frey stated this is real, on-the-street technology that will be used and will be designed in September.

Mr. Edwards asked, how do you tie in – for example – when you looked at the potential residences in Channelside. You have other surrounding neighborhoods that come off Bayshore or the immediate areas developing around the backside of Channelside. How do you get the neighborhoods, even though you have \$13 million for this project, how do you get them involved and to believe that all this taxpayer monies that they are going to benefit from it? What they see is the intrusion aspect of it, where you're just taking care of the people that are passing through while ignoring local neighborhood congestion that may be right on the other side.

Mr. Frey responded by saying they have stakeholder meetings with homeowner associations. Local residents are invited.

Mr. Edwards restated that he liked the motion made from Commissioner Long but would like the neighborhoods and rural areas to be included, particularly since we have Citrus and Hernando Counties. If we are going to be the head representative we have to give an opportunity to neighborhoods and rural areas to be a part of the solution. I would like to make sure that Mr. Sullivan includes this in the motion.

Commissioner Long said she considers that a friendly amendment and is fine with it.

Councilwoman Rice said that a part of her is reeling because this is exciting and innovative. The other part is grappling with the change that it represents. With the federal money that would be coming through USDOT, is that a grant that comes directly through to your organization or does that go through the Hillsborough MPO process? I'm interested in how this works with our existing MPOs and TMAs.

Mr. Frey said this was a solicitation and not a grant. The difference is that we put together a team. The Expressway Authority signed a contract to provide a connected vehicle under deployment and \$17.7 million dollars. We have a contractual obligation with USDOT to do that as opposed to a grant or a TIGER grant. Typically when we would get a TIGER grant we would go out and have to go through the procuring process. Being that this is a contract we are already there with a team. We are more on the hook for performance than just receiving money.

Councilwoman Rice voiced concerns about how this might compete with existing transportation plans that the MPOs have been engaged with for years. What are the impediments and where the pathways for success in seeing this pilot be successful?

Mr. Frey said the autonomous vehicle world is different. The connective portion is coming through the USDOT. It's in the pilot stage where we are looking to see what the benefits are. It's not in the MPO or the Regional Planning process yet. We are looking at 2040 for the autonomous connected when we have the environment in place. Our long range transportation plan is just entering into 2040. We have time to stage this into our plans but what we would like to see is if we have problems in these technologies we would pick the best thing that fixes the problem, whether it's running a bus or Uber or whatever it would be.

Councilman Fridovich said he was skeptical because, for example, his computer locks up sometimes. Cell phones lock up. Credit cards get hacked on a regular basis. I could be driving along in a driverless car and suddenly someone hacks in to something or a chip goes bad. We should be putting our money into rapid transit. We get our road money through the gas tax so we will have less and less money with the driverless cars. There are privacy issues with cars talking to each other and getting back to hacking. I'm skeptical, plus all the money that's being used for these innovative ideas should be used on how to move people from Manatee County across the bridge to Pinellas, Hillsborough, Tampa International Airport with rapid transit. That would give you less cars on the road.

Mr. Frey said in 2014 he went out to the Transportation Research and the automatous vehicle and came back convinced because of the amount of resources behind this. It may take until 2040, it may take longer to get to those places, and this isn't going away. The amount of money behind it and companies that are showing interest in building this and how fast you are seeing these products start to come to market.

Vice Chair Roff was in Tallahassee last week and said a state representative said that as this moves forward local county governments, regional governments – this is going to be a big item for us to figure out how we are going to legislate it. I was just informed also that we have some USF students that are here for a presentation and that they are missing their classes. We need to move on.

Taken out of order:

- C. **University of South Florida St. Petersburg: Practical Applications for Sustainability**
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, TBRPC Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee and Ms. Alana Todd, USFSP Student and Member of the USFSP Clean Energy and Resource Conservation Commission provided information from the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) 16th Annual Conference titled "*The Food, Energy, Water Nexus*" in Washington, D.C. This nationally and internationally recognized group was so impressed

with the work students were doing on sustainability at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus (USFST) that the organization extended scholarships to five students and one adjunct professor from the USF Office of Sustainability (Tampa Campus) to present their work and attend the conference. The group presented on *Practical Applications of Sustainability at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg* and provided a brief overview of their presentation.

Staff Contact: Wren Krahl, ext. 22, wren@tbrpc.org

Questiona & Comments:

Mr. Edwards said he came in early today and looked at the wall poster. He suggested reaching out to the school systems in the region to see about providing this presentation and find out and identify what magnet high schools have these related subjects and tie that in to the presentation.

The response to Mr. Edwards is that the next level is the research and academic piece. Going out to touch K-12 is something that will take some work from our faculty. For them to collaborate, let alone get out and do our community is something that we now realize but before we can do that we have to have a unified faculty and the academic piece. That's where we are struggling right now. We are working on it.

Mr. Edwards said that as we get older we get into our silos and we have to remember that we don't have all the answers and we have to reach back and allow those behind us to help bridge the gap between the old and the young and keep our kids in the State of Florida out of the silos. This is a reminder of what it takes to make Florida grow.

Ms. Todd said that these young people will be working with us as we develop our conference in November and hopefully will be involved with all the cities and counties that are on our RPC so we can find out what everybody is doing.

The Energy Summit last year had a lot of collaboration and good relationships. I already have the support of our administration to host the event at our University Student Center. You are welcomed to use our space to host this conversation.

Commissioner Crist asked if they cross the bridge to the Hillsborough side?

In response it was stated that they have a good working relationship with the USF - Tampa campus.

Commissioner Crist said he liked the easy understandability of the presentation and said if they could transfer the presentation into a Power Point it would be more powerful. Commissioner Crist said he is the Vice Chair of the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) in Hillsborough and I would like to have you come and do this presentation for us. And it's televised. In Hillsborough there are 3 magnet schools – an elementary school which is within walking distance from USF, a middle school, and high school that specializes in natural sciences. What you are doing would be intriguing to those students.

Councilwoman Rice said the examples of the cost savings are such a great example for any audience and the City of St. Petersburg is looking forward to working with you and taking you up on your offer. There could be some great potential with the November date because that is also when we have the festival and that would be a great opportunity to leverage what we are doing with our summit with a lot of other activity that has to do with sustainability.

B. El Niño Update

El Niño is a well-known climate event that has been shown to have an effect on normal weather patterns around the globe. Occurring about every 3-7 years, these abnormal El Niño induced weather patterns may have significant effects on the local weather we experience in and around the Tampa Bay region. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center indicates that a strong El Niño is currently ongoing, and

El Niño conditions are expected to continue for the next several months. Staff provided summary information about El Niño from the National Weather Service, and will present an update on El Niño's expected impacts on temperature, rainfall, and severe storm frequency in west central Florida for the rest of the winter and into the spring season.

Staff Contact: Brady Smith, ext. 42, brady@tbrpc.org

Council presentations can be found at
http://www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations.shtml

7. **Council Members' Comments**

A Council Member said that this was an extremely valuable and very informative meeting today and officially welcomed Sean to the meeting.

A. **Announcements/Events-** None

B. **Emerging Issues for Local Governments-** None

8. **Program/Project Reports**

A. **Legislative Committee - Commissioner Scott Black, Chair**

The legislative session is scheduled to end on March 11TH. The session is now half over so we are starting to see some bills pass, others making their way through committee, and others that have been defeated in committee. A few of the bills that are of interest to the council are:

Medical Tourism: SB-178 by the Health Policy Committee – this bill promotes medical tourism. It has been heard in committee and a committee substitute has been proposed. Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (“Visit Florida”) are directed to promote medical tourism and market the state as a healthcare destination. “Visit Florida” is required to include the promotion of medical tourism in its 4-year marketing plan and showcase Florida providers.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT: SB-7000 by the Community Affairs Committee – this bill has passed out of two committees. It exempts from the DRI process any project that would otherwise be subject to the state coordinated review process if it is consistent with the local comprehensive plan.

DRI PROCESS: SB-1190 by Senator Diaz de la Portilla & HB-1361 by Rep. La Rosa – These companion bills provide that the right to complete a development is not affected even though certain changes are made in that development; authorize the exchange of one approved land use for another under certain circumstances; and authorize certain DRI amendments without review or approval when a project is essentially built-out. The bills have been passed favorably by committees in both houses and are headed to the floor of each house for action.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS: HB-1173 by Rep. Perry and SB-156 by Senator Evers - These bills require local governments to address protection of private property rights in their comp plans and require land development regulations to be consistent with the property rights element of the comp plan; requires local governments to have their comp plan private property rights element approved by the department of economic opportunity. Neither bill has moved through committee in either house.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: SB-552 by Senator Dean & HB-7005 by the State Affairs Committee - These bills were combined into a comprehensive water bill that has been passed by both the house and senate and was the first bill the Governor has signed into law this session. It takes effect July 1st and provides for a conservation lands database, authorized certain water management district pilot projects, requires adoption of minimum

flows and levels for outstanding Florida springs, creates the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, and modifies certain aspects of water use permitting.

FLOOD INSURANCE: SB-584 by Senator Brandes – This bill has passed its initial committees and is now in appropriations. It establishes a matching grant program of up to \$50 million for local governments to implement flood risk reduction policies and projects.

SOLAR ENERGY: SB-172 by Senator Brandes – This bill has been passed by several committees and is now in finance & tax. It deals with renewable energy source devices that store or use solar energy and provides certain tax exemptions for such devices. This bill would only take effect if the voters approve a constitutional amendment in November.

There has been no legislative action to address or modify the duties, responsibilities or membership of the Regional Planning Councils.

FUNDING: At the FRCA Policy Board meeting last month in Tallahassee, the board decided not to seek RPC funding primarily due to the Governor's veto five consecutive years. However, the policy board approved seeking state funding for an economic development project for the ten economic development districts. This request has been amended to the Senate's budget bill and hopefully will be matched in conference with House.

Staff contact: Wren Krahl, ext. 22 or wren@tbrpc.org

Commissioner Crist stated that there might be other bills worth following and one of those bills is for Public Transportation. The Senate Bill primarily deals with insurance and it does what only needs to be done in Florida and what can only be done at the legislative level and that's require insurance companies that underwrite automobile policies in Florida to also make available to anyone who would wish to purchase it a Rider if you want to use your personal vehicle for ridesharing. Personal policies won't cover ridesharing. If the legislature requires insurance companies to make that available then the problem is resolved. The House has similar language but in addition to it they have major reform that would take the right of local regulation away from counties and cities and put it at the state level. The Senate isn't ready to do that yet. It would be good for all of us to have that insurance in place so that whatever level of access we want to give them we know they are insured.

B. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) – Mayor Bob Minning, Chair – No Report

Staff Contact: Maya Burke, ext. 40, maya@tbrpc.org

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

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29, johnm@tbrpc.org

D. Medical Tourism Update - None

Staff Contact: Randy Deshazo, ext. 31, randy@tbrpc.org

E. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

As the Economic Development District for the Tampa Bay region the Council is required to update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy every five years. Staff provided an overview of the update process.

Staff Contact: Randy Deshazo, ext. 31, randy@tbrpc.org

9. Other Council Reports - None

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Vice Chair Roff

Next Meeting: April 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Executive Director's Report – Mr. Sean Sullivan

We recommend a few meeting date changes for the Executive/Budget Committee since the required audit will not be completed due to additional information required by the state. We recommend that the Committee meetings be held April 11th, May 9th and August 8th. Our annual audit is currently underway. Beth Williams, the Accounting Manager for the Council is managing that process. Since my arrival a month or so ago now Avera and Wren have been extremely helpful with my schedule and introducing me to folks. The staff has been exceptionally welcoming to both my wife and I and I am grateful for that. I recently attended an I 75 Relief Task Force meeting in Crystal River. Presentations were made as related to the 4 principals of planning – conservation, countryside, centers and communities, and corridors. FDOT is the lead agency and we are happy to participate in this endeavor which is a required precursor for the receipt of federal transportation funds. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 26 in Alacha County and I will be attending.

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Path Forward Committee, as Chaired by Barbara Sheen Todd, recently met in Tallahassee. Fifteen public relations initiatives were presented to help with the identity and the value of RPCs in the State of Florida. The earliest and most pressing is the re-launch of the web site which is currently underway and it is an exciting time. Initiatives are something that is needed and clearly the Path Forward Committee has presented some great ideas.

The Council was recently advised that we were awarded the NADO Innovation Award by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for preparation of the Statewide Coordinated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and that's good news. When we have good news I like to share that.

From a transportation perspective, I recently met with the Pinellas and Hillsborough MPO and PPC Directors, along with Avera, to help myself learn more about the regional approach to public transportation in the Tampa Bay region. I attended a meeting at PSTA, with the MPO/PSTA Executive Boards about transportation initiatives in Pinellas County. I also recently attended a Transportation Management Area meeting at PSTA with the three MPOs in the Tampa Bay region where we discussed transportation initiatives including a premium transportation study scheduled to commence this summer.

In the month ahead I would like to continue to meet with Council members so I can understand what your needs are and what initiatives you would like to see us follow through on, as well as county and community leaders to listen to them so we can become good doers.

Also plans to help market the services of the TBRPC to local leaders. We are beginning to create a brochure and have a brochure that talks about what we have done but more importantly what we can do. We plan to market that to counties and communities within the region to show the value of the RPC. Please stay tuned for press releases – you should have received a press release about us recently working with the City of Treasure Island and USF to glorify the Sustainability Project. Avera has been the lead on that specific project and Wren has been the lead on the press releases.

At the request of Commissioner Long we updated and created an Organizational Chart for the Council, which is in your Council folder. Our previous chart was slightly outdated.

At our last meeting I heard Commissioner Long loud and clear about the difficulty of seeing the projection from the projector. Marshall has been working very hard and by our next meeting our

intent is to have two new projectors and state of the art technology with a higher resolution and hopefully that will resolve that problem with the Power Points. Additionally regarding the phone system, Councilor Matthews brought that up, our phone system is outdated and antiquated and we are working on improving that. Within the next two months we should have a new system. Equally important to me is the landscape around the facility. We have had some challenges and Wren and I met with a landscaper and we will have improvements to the landscape at a marginal cost.

Commissioner Black said that the press release that was sent out this past week was a very good thing about the City of Treasure Island and how that work can be shared with other such communities. I've already shared that with some members of my local legislative delegation. I think they need to see the constructive and positive things that we're doing as a regional planning council and I would encourage everyone to share that, email and pass it along to your legislative delegation members. That would help us a lot with the legislative committee and what we're trying to do in terms of keeping the funding and also keeping our legislators advised as to the value.

Ms. Todd re-emphasized what was said because the Path Forward Committee of FRCA, as we were looking at what's going on all over the state there's so many people doing similar things and some totally different. If something exciting is going on in your community pass it along to our staff and Sean so that we can improve it and begin to elevate the importance of what our cities and counties are doing. That's what we are about.

12. Chair's Report – Vice Chair Roff

Going back to the autonomous vehicle – the fact that a state representative was informing us about what they are working on statewide said that he was in California recently on a test track where he was in the passenger seat and there was no driver.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment – 12:07 p.m.



Woody Brown, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary