

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
OCTOBER 15, 2010**

Chairman Ferreri called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:	Commissioner Wheeler Commissioner Solari Vice Mayor Abell
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Craft Commissioner Coward (Alternate) Vice Mayor Kelly
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Hayes
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Vana Mayor Ferreri Mayor Golonka Vice Mayor Webster (Alternate) Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andel (Alternate)
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Eduardo Balbis Reece Parrish Richard Oujevolk Ramon Trias Michael Davis Bill Hall Kevin Foley Sue Hershey Peter Carney
Ex-Officios:	Ron Bunch, Enterprise Florida Andrew Riddle, Florida Department of Transportation
Council Staff:	Marlene Brunot Michael Busha Kim DeLaney Sandy Gippert Liz Gulick Wynsum Hatton Stephanie Heidt Terry Hess Dana Little

Peter Merritt

Council Attorney: Roger Saberson

The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON
CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

AGENDA

Councilmember Hershey moved approval of the Agenda. Mayor Golonka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Hershey moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mayor Golonka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S
2060 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Staff provided an overview of the latest draft of the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan which was released by the Florida Department of Transportation on September 30, 2010. The current Florida Transportation Plan was adopted in 2005 and contains a 20-year planning horizon out to the year 2025. Given the long-term impact of transportation decision-making and the long-term nature of various visioning efforts across the state, the Department is using a fifty-year planning horizon for the current Plan. The year-long plan development process for the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan began in January 2010, with the establishment of an interdisciplinary Steering Committee which has been meeting in various regions around the state. Commissioner Doug Smith has attended every Steering Committee meeting as well as participated in one of the sub-committees through the process. The plan development process will continue through the balance of 2010, with additional opportunities for public and agency input prior to the statutory deadline for adoption in December 2010. Staff presented a section-by-section analysis of the Plan, its objectives and strategies, and recommended revisions.

Councilmember Hall asked for the methodology and modeling used for the projections in the plan. He stated he wanted to understand where the numbers are coming from in order to do accurate modeling for growth and transportation. Andrew Riddle, with the Florida Department of Transportation, confirmed the projections used are from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

Chairman Ferreri noted the term "Regional Employment Centers" is being frequently used and asked if there was a definition for this term. He suggested the term "Employment Centers" may be preferable. Councilmember Hershey stated this a term being used by the educational institutions to provide additional training. Chairman Ferreri asked if these are linked to the educational institutions

or rather, are in conjunction with them. Staff indicated the suggestion to link the education centers comes from the Strategic Regional Policy Plan which suggests if there is a regional employment center, it should be linked to a transportation system. Staff noted the Strategic Regional Policy Plan uses the term “Workplace District”.

Commissioner Smith stated he has been very involved in the process of developing this Plan over the last ten months. He noted the plan was developed by a steering committee of twenty-nine members from various agencies, special interest groups, governmental entities, environmental groups as well as educational and military representatives. He stated the document that was developed places heavy significance on regional planning and coordination while building a state-wide vision that will allow for coordinated efforts to maximize dollars spent. He stated everyone had a hard time understanding the perspective of a fifty-year project, and everyone was very reticent to add a price tag to what all this means over the fifty years. He stated he believes infrastructure is going to drive the economy for the next few years. He stated that with the opening of the Panama Canal, Florida’s investments in our ports will have a significant impact in terms of our economy. He stated this plan provides the Region with a huge opportunity to participate in and be part of the regional vision that builds up to the state-wide plan for the next fifty years. He noted he and the Executive Director attended the second rail commission meeting where the discussion was studying ridership and the costs. He stated the high speed rail corridor from Tampa to Orlando is happening with a concentration of the train stations around regional employment centers.

Commissioner Coward expressed his concern that if the high speed rail corridor were to be done through the rural portions of St. Lucie County, this could potentially promote future urban development around that rural corridor. He asked if there is a process for the regional planning council to comment and make preliminary recommendations. Commissioner Smith stated the high-speed corridor alignments being studied today are the Turnpike and I-95. Commissioner Coward asked if this is addressed in the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan. Staff indicated this report does not have that level of detail, but the language and policies in the report, as well as the additional language staff is recommending, speaks directly to the issue of land use and development being coordinated with transportation investments. Commissioner Coward stated he believes if the regional planning council feels it is important to concentrate transportation investment and growth management in urban areas, there needs to be more than a broad comment. Staff suggested adding a strategy that would state the preference of the location of high speed rail corridors be focused on the Turnpike, I-95 and within existing urban right-of-ways.

Councilmember Foley stated he believes everyone is in favor of effective public transportation systems, but the current focus should be on where the systems will be located and how they will be funded. Until this is determined, he stated there could not be a lot of discussion. Commissioner Smith agreed noting there has been significant emphasis placed on private partnerships for developing the stations on the high speed rail corridor. He stated the regional planning council needs to stay fully engaged in the rail commission meetings to ensure the Region’s issues are being addressed.

Councilmember Foley stated a public-private partnership is a wonderful concept, but difficult to implement as there is an arbitrage between the amount that cities and counties pay for their money for public projects, and what the market rates are for a private entity.

Commissioner Hayes motioned for Council to go on record directing the high speed rail traffic to be in the I-95 Corridor as opposed to the rural area which would be the Turnpike. Vice Mayor Webster seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith stated he did not necessarily oppose the motion, but suggested Councilmembers need more information to fully understand the dynamics of both corridors before making a decision, possibly having the Florida Rail Commission do a presentation to Council.

Councilmember Davis stated he was not prepared to comment on the merits of either corridor. He recommended Council follow the process very carefully and, when there is an opportunity for comment, Council should present collective recommendations.

Councilmember Foley stated that, due to having to obtain more right-of-way, the additional cost of going through the more populated areas of the I-95 Corridor is staggering. He stated high speed rail should be as close to the existing population as possible, but if it makes more sense to divert from that, then that option should be considered.

Commissioner Coward concurred it was premature to actually identify a specific corridor, stating he would be satisfied with a broad recommendation that addresses the need to integrate the high speed rail with the urban areas and population centers. Commissioner Hayes indicated he would be agreeable to this adjustment of the motion.

Councilmember Trias noted an article regarding high speed rail in Barcelona that was quite expensive as they are tunneling under the City, but it will be located where the people are, which, in his opinion, is the correct place for the service.

Chairman Ferreri clarified that Commissioner Hayes was in acceptance of the recommendations by Commissioner Coward. Commissioner Hayes indicated he was in agreement with the recommendation. Vice Mayor Webster agreed it is very important to get some comparables before supporting a defined location for the corridor.

Staff noted conversations with the Florida Department of Transportation District IV staff regarding involvement with this project. Staff asked for Council direction on the extent to which staff should become involved in the process.

Commissioner Craft noted there does need to be a certain amount of a rural aspect in order to maintain the efficiency of a high speed rail system. He also stated just because it runs through rural areas at some point, this does not necessarily mean there will be stops along the way, or development will take place around the corridor.

Chairman Ferreri agreed with Commissioner Craft, noting there will most likely only be four stations in the proposed plan. He stated that right-of-way will drive the location of the corridor. He stated the piece that appears to be missing is the connectivity of the stations to the urban areas.

Vice Mayor Kelly asked for clarification of the motion. He also confirmed from a recent League of Cities meeting that there will be a railway from Tampa to Orlando that will go through urban areas. He stated the right-of-way will direct where the corridor will be located.

Commissioner Hayes stated the motion was the corridor should be located through major metropolitan areas rather than rural areas.

Commissioner Craft stated the recommendation should be to capture as much of the urban areas as possible, but determining the best location for the corridor should take into account what makes the most engineering, economic, and environmental sense.

Commissioner Vana stated she believes a priority needs to be placed on having the corridor avoid high producing agricultural areas. She stated if Council is giving direction to staff on what the major issues are that need to be represented then she would suggest the three priorities should be preserving the agricultural land, the environment and cost.

Chairman Ferreri noted the motion, based on Councilmember and staff comments, is to add a strategy to the Plan to direct the corridor to where the infrastructure is already in place.

Commissioner Wheeler stated the current discussion is premature. He supports having Council staff work with the Florida Department of Transportation staff and provide Council with more up-to-date and specific information before Council makes any recommendations.

Commissioner Coward offered a substitute motion for a broad recommendation to integrate the high speed rail corridor and future station location into existing urban areas and population centers. **Substitute Motion**
Councilmember Trias seconded this motion.

Vice Mayor Kelly noted there was already a motion on the floor. Chairman Ferreri clarified that Commissioner Coward was making a substitute motion for consideration.

Commissioner Wheeler asked for clarification of the objective of high speed rail, asking if it was to get commuters from point A to B, or Point A to Z. Staff noted it is intended for long distance, "super regional" travel.

Councilmember Davis indicated his understanding that the Florida Department of Transportation was working on a design-build-operate financial arrangement for the high speed rail system. With the international interest from operators who may be constructing the system and/or building the stations, there will be a lot of evaluation necessary to determine the appropriate financial balance for the public and the private sector.

The Substitute Motion carried with Commissioner Solari dissenting.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to direct staff to engage with the Florida Department of Transportation staff in conversations to ensure Council is fully represented and knowledgeable regarding this process. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Commissioner Smith motioned to accept the staff recommendation for changes and additions to the language of the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan and forward those recommendations to the Florida Department of Transportation staff for their review. Councilmember Trias seconded the motion, which carried with Commissioner Solari dissenting. **Motion**

Vice Mayor Kelly asked for clarification of the forecasted \$5 billion deficit in the plan. Staff stated the Department is forecasting a \$2 billion annual deficit going forward just for the Strategic Intermodal System. Vice Mayor Kelly stated he supported the motion just approved, but questioned where the funding will come from as the State has no money.

At this point in the meeting, staff recognized Commissioner Coward for his contributions to Council over the past twelve years in the areas of regionalism, urban design, redevelopment, alternative energy, energy technology, and protection of the agricultural lands and food production. Staff noted the Commissioner has been a real champion for growth management and regionalism. Staff noted this meeting would be the Commissioner's last as he was not seeking re-election. Commissioner Coward thanked staff for the kind words and stated he believes the regional planning council is a great opportunity for local governments to work together from a regional standpoint. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to be a part of Council. Commissioner Smith expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Coward for all he has done in the Region.

ORIENTATION SERIES ON CIVIC AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS: PLACEMENT AND PRIORITY

Staff presented the sixth installment in the Orientation Series. These presentations are to provide information on planning techniques and research to give Councilmembers additional insight and knowledge on how to promote sustainable growth in the region.

Commissioner Smith requested these presentations be put on compact disc for distribution.

Commissioner Craft noted with the current economy, the public is calling for less governmental spending. However, he stated the reality is making investments into the buildings of the communities will add value not only to those buildings, but the adjacent properties.

Chairman Ferreri stated that as an architect he believes the timelessness of a building is the real essence of a civic building.

Commissioner Wheeler stated there will be always criticism with respect to government buildings.

Commissioner Smith recommended Councilmembers visit the museum under the Capital Building if they are in Washington D.C.

Councilmember Hershey, noting she is responsible for numerous public buildings within the Martin County School District, stated she believes it is important for the buildings to have integrity and character, and that although it may be more costly upfront, buildings need to have quality so they will endure through the years.

Vice Mayor Kelly expressed his appreciation for the presentation noting Port St. Lucie has incorporated many of these ideas and is endeavoring to develop the correct way. He stated the cheapest way is not always the best and there will always be criticism as the public does not have patience. He stated he would like to have this presentation at an economic development meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff announced Councilmember Balbis has been appointed to the Public Service Commission by the Governor. Staff stated this appointment is very well deserved, and Councilmember Balbis is very capable of providing leadership in that position, especially for the Treasure Coast and Southeast Florida.

Staff noted the annual evaluation of the Executive Director is due November 18, 2010. The Executive Director asked Councilmembers to provide a fair and objective evaluation, noting no raises are budgeted for staff this year. Councilmembers asked for the evaluation form to be made available electronically.

Staff reminded Council there will be no November meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be on December 10, 2010, which is the second Friday in December.

Staff noted a resignation letter from Councilmember Brinkman. Staff explained this is in response to the new ethics laws in Palm Beach County that prohibit the County from appointing elected officials to various boards who do business with the County. Commissioner Vana stated that the concern with adhering to the Sunshine Law has become such an issue she is putting together a database that will let her know who she can and cannot speak to on issues.

Staff announced the City of Riviera Beach was awarded a grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to do planning for a public market. This market would be for entrepreneurs to market their product and be similar to those in cities like Philadelphia and Seattle. The property for the proposed site is currently owned by the City, and this grant will allow the City to begin talks with private investors to finance the buildings.

Staff also announced an award to Council, in partnership with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, for the Sustainable Communities Initiative Planning Grant. This grant is being awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is designed to support State, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations, in the development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development. Staff noted the grant is not just about transportation but includes environmental projects, water management, alternative energy projects, critical infrastructure projects, and education. The two Councils were awarded \$4.25 million over the next three years to prepare a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development which will better position the seven-county region for future Federal funding opportunities.

COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Councilmember Foley stated he did not want the opportunity to pass without recognizing Commissioner Koons as a former Councilmember who was hard-working and always went the extra mile in his effort to do good public service. Commissioner Vana concurred, recognizing Commissioner Koons for the good work he has done for Palm Beach County.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENT

Chairman Ferreri noted a recent trip to Coral Gables, saying he received a tour by the Mayor. He encouraged others to tour the Town noting the foresight of the developer to visualize and build such a “jewel” in the middle of a swamp. Staff noted this was one of the first sub-divisions to be designed with the car in mind.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Ferreri adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the October 15, 2010 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature