



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 – 1:30 PM
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Board Room
800 NW 33rd Street
Pompano Beach, Florida

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. March 18, 2009 Meeting Notes
- III. Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Update Status
 - A. LRTP Plan Status
 - B. Environmental Objectives
 - C. Regional and Local Revenue Forecasts
 - D. Modeling
 - E. Public Involvement
 - F. Transit Capacity Quality of Service
 - G. Prioritization Process
- IV. SEFTC Meeting
- V. Other Business
- VI. Next Meeting-May 20
- VII. Adjournment



MEETING NOTES

Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC)

March 18, 2009

Date: March 24, 2009 Project #: 9338.16

To: Randy Whitfield, RTTAC Chair

From: Jessica Josselyn and John Zegeer, PE

The following is a summary of the RTTAC meeting held on March 18, 2009.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

SFRTA, 1:30 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

1. Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO, rwhitfie@pbcgov.com
2. Wilson Fernandez, Miami-Dade MPO, Wilson@miamidade.gov
3. Carlos Roa, Miami-Dade MPO, rcf@miamidade.gov (attended by telephone)
4. Ossama Al Aschkar, Broward MPO, oalashkar@broward.org
5. Phil Steinmiller, FDOT District VI, phil.steinmiller@dot.state.fl.us
6. Jose Clavell, FDOT District VI, jose.clavell@dot.state.fl.us
7. Lois Bush, FDOT District IV, lois.bush@dot.state.fl.us
8. Shi-Chiang Li, FDOT District IV, shi-chiang.li@dot.state.fl.us
9. Anthony Longo, FDOT District IV, Anthony.longo@dot.state.fl.us
10. Joseph Quinty, SFRTA, quintyj@sfrta.fl.gov
11. Jonathan Roberson, BCT, jroberson@broward.org
12. Maria Batista, Miami-Dade Transit, bpb@miamidade.gov
13. Arlene Davis, Port Everglades, ardavis@broward.org
14. Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson & Associates, Inc., jjosselyn@kittelison.com
15. Stewart Robertson, Kimley-Horn & Associates, stewart.robertson@kimley-horn.com
16. Dan Glickman, Citizen, danglick@hotmail.com

MEETING NOTES

Below is a summary of the key points discussed at the meeting. The comments have been organized by agenda topic. Underlined text highlights deadlines/schedule items.

I) **Call to Order**

Randy Whitfield called the meeting to order.

II) **February 18, 2009 Meeting Notes**

The February 18, 2009 meeting notes were approved by the RTTAC as is.

III) **Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Update Status**

a) **Schedule**

- A revised master schedule was distributed to attendees. Jessica Josselyn stated to the group that the regional and local plans were all on schedule and moving forward as planned. Specific dates and timelines were discussed under the specific agenda item later in the meeting. Changes to the modeling schedule will be updated in the master schedule.

b) **LRTP Plan Status**

Miami Dade County – The following update on the Miami-Dade MPO 2035 LRTP was presented by Wilson Fernandez:

- The steering committee met last Monday.
- The MPO is compiling project costs and revenue forecasts from agencies – thus far the outlook is not positive as there are reductions across the board except for the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority.
- The needs project assessment will begin in early April.
- In previous LRTP updates, the MPO had assessed the needs projects with the steering committee via the web, but this year they are holding a 2-day workshop for the group to assess and rank the needs projects in late April.
- The cost feasible plan will begin in late spring.
- Ossama Al Aschkar asked Wilson Fernandez if the Miami-Dade MPO combines all project types together in the needs plan to create one list of needs (transit, highway, and pedestrian/bicycle). Ossama Al Aschkar also asked if all counties need to be consistent in how they report projects. Wilson Fernandez stated that all counties do not need to be consistent in their reporting. For Miami-Dade MPO, they do a comprehensive review; however, they do break the projects apart based on geographic location because certain areas have different needs and priorities based on the public involvement feedback.

Broward MPO – The following update on the Broward MPO 2035 LRTP was presented by Ossama Al Aschkar:

- The MPO is currently adjusting their needs assessment approach to focus more on transit.
- The Broward MPO Consultant is currently developing a new transit oriented Needs assessment. This will result in coding changes to the transit network, not the highway. The update will be completed in one to two weeks. Wilson stated that the transit changes will not be included in the baseline Needs network being coded by Corradino.
- The consultant is currently conducting a revenue forecast which should be finalized in the next two weeks.
- The Cost Feasible Plan should be completed by July 2009. A maximum transit scenario will be prepared based on MPO direction.
- Lois Bush asked Ossama Al Aschkar if land use was being tested within their transit analyses. Ossama Al Aschkar stated land use is part of the transit adjustments under a separate scenario. He is working with the planning group; however, they will not be amending the Comprehensive Plan as a part of the LRTP process. Eventually that will be addressed but at a later stage.

Palm Beach MPO – The following update on the Palm Beach MPO 2035 LRTP was presented by Randy Whitfield:

- Randy Whitfield stated that he took the Needs assessment to the MPO after staff evaluated the E+C network.
- Highway, transit, and mixed scenarios have been discussed; a heavy highway scenario will not be prepared.
- The eastern portion of the County has more transit needs, where the western portion of the County has more roadway needs.
- By April 1st, committees will be presented with identified priorities and constraints to begin the preparation of the Cost Feasible Plan. A first draft of the Cost Feasible Plan will be presented to the MPO on April 16th.
- At this time approximately \$9-\$13 Billion is needed, but only \$5-7 Billion revenue is available.
- For the transit needs, Randy Whitfield stated to the group that he made a request to the transit agency stating if they had no constraints what would they implement and how much it would cost. He then asked them, with the funding constraints we are seeing and anticipating what projects would they move forward.
- The revenue forecast is 75-80% complete. They have one more round with the County staff before finalization. The revenue has significantly decreased from previous years.

c) Environmental Objectives

- Jessica Josselyn distributed the approved goals and objectives and follow-up emails from Ossama Al Aschkar and Bruce Offord regarding revisions to the environmental objectives.
- It was discussed that adding all of the objectives is not ideal as the process was intended to remain simplified and measurable.
- Broward MPO and Miami-Dade MPO have adopted the objectives as is; Palm Beach MPO and the Regional LRTP have not.
- Randy Whitfield would like to keep the objectives at a reasonable quantity.
- It was determined that Randy Whitfield will meet with Kittelson to determine how to condense the objectives so that a fewer amount are incorporated into the plan. They will also work together to identify measures for the objectives. Randy Whitfield will follow-up with Bruce Offord.

d) Regional and Local Revenue Forecasts

- The MPOs had the following schedule updates on the revenue forecasts:
 - Palm Beach will be completed by May 21st but Randy Whitfield expects it will be done much earlier than that (April timeframe).
 - Broward MPO anticipates they will be completed within the next 2 weeks/end of March.
 - Miami-Dade MPO anticipates being done in April.
- Jessica Josselyn mentioned that the Regional Consultant needs all of the revenue information by the end of April to stay on the current schedule.
- An RTTAC member asked if alternative funding was being considered. It was stated that yes, alternative funding such as the managed lanes revenue and tolling were being taken into consideration.
- Miami-Dade MPO is considering different financial scenarios in the Cost Feasible Plan. It is not finalized yet, but they are using a proposal from northern New Jersey for the baseline which is conservative in nature; however, different trend lines will be assessed.
- Dan Glickman asked if the Federal Guidelines allow for alternative financial scenarios to be included in the baseline. It was stated that innovative finance cannot be included in the baseline. The Cost Feasible Plan has to have assured funding.
- The question was raised whether or not new starts funding can be included in the financial analysis. Wilson Fernandez stated that in the past they have assumed new starts. If in this update, the local matches are available they will include new starts in this update. If the local match is not available then they will not. Also, it has to be reasonable – how much of the discretionary program funds will realistically come to our area?

- Joe Quilty made a statement that the new Federal bill may completely change the transit funding process. This change, if adopted, will not go into affect until 6 months after the LRTP adoptions.
- A discussion occurred regarding the logistics of the Cost Feasible Plan process. It was stated that if funding changes after adoption then an amendment will take place. The group was reminded that the LRTP is a “living” document.

e) Needs Plan Status/Modeling

- Jessica Josselyn discussed the updated Needs Plan schedule. Changes included revised modeling submittal dates. By March 19th Corradino will send the MPOs the complete draft needs network. By March 26th all 4 sets of consultants will supply their comments to Corradino/D4. By April 3rd the final needs network will be sent to the three MPOs for needs testing.
- Wilson Fernandez stated that the second round of Needs Plan review identified in Jessica Josselyn’s handout should be removed based on outcomes from the modeling meeting held March 17th. Jessica Josselyn stated she will update the calendar accordingly.
- Dan Glickman asked who the RMT was. Jessica Josselyn stated this acronym stands for the Regional Management Team, (i.e., the RL RTP steering committee).
- Ossama stated that the Broward LRTP adoption date has moved to November 12th, the board would like the public hearing to occur in September. Jessica Josselyn stated that although their MPO has moved the adoption date, the MPO must still follow the master schedule as to not affect the other two county adoption dates. Ossama Al Aschkar stated that this would not affect other schedules.
- Randy Whitfield anticipates bringing the Plan to the MPO board in September with adoption in October.
- Ossama Al Aschkar stated that his next workshop will be in June/July.
- Miami-Dade’s Cost Feasible Plan workshop will occur in September.
- Wilson Fernandez stated that he would like the Transit Capacity and Quality of Service that the regional consultant is conducting presented at the next RTTAC meeting.

f) Regional Cost Feasible Plan Methodology

- Shi-Chiang Li asked Wilson Fernandez about the ITS toolbox tool and how the MPO is incorporating that into their Needs Plan assessment? Wilson Fernandez stated that on the Regional side we are trying to avoid subjectivity and that we are trying to provide information on the prioritization process based on outcome based model information as an output. This tool will be looked into further along in the process.

- Wilson Fernandez stated that the Regional Cost Feasible Plan must be based on the 3 county's Cost Feasible Plans. He stated that the Regional Consultant should be prioritizing regional needs based on the local Cost Feasible Plan lists. He stated the regional plan should not be prioritized from the baseline needs list which is currently being finalized. It was noted that each project must be accepted locally and that having a concurrence between both local and regional parties is essential.
- Lois Bush noted that the northern MPOs prioritize from the needs assessment. Wilson Fernandez felt this wasn't the most pragmatic under the current government structure in south Florida. He reiterated that projects must be approved locally. Lois Bush stated that if this is the method we are following, then the Regional Plan needs to be clear regarding its limitations.
- Shi-Chiang Li asked how transit signal priority will be funded and prioritized.
- Jonathan Roberson stated that transit signal priority costs are included in the Bus Rapid Transit projects.
- It was discussed that when conducting cost assessments the agencies need to keep in mind that although one corridor may be upgraded, the costs need to assume that the entire network is sufficient to handle the upgrade; if it is not sufficient then the cost may need to include a countywide upgrade.
- Lois Bush asked if regionally we are putting in compatible systems.
- Jessica Josselyn stated that the Regional Team needs to assess technology compatible as well as physical improvements.
- Jonathan Roberson stated that he would like to see a regional transit signal priority line item in the regional plan.
- It was questioned whether or not a regional ITS architecture should be considered.
- Dan Glickman questioned if the Broward LRTP has a separate line item for ITS. Ossama Al Aschkar stated that he worked with the traffic engineering department when developing the needs list.
- Ossama Al Aschkar asked if a separate regional needs assessment was being performed. Jessica Josselyn said that regional needs are being addressed through the local LRTP process and the compatibility/consistency review being performed. All regional roadways and facilities have been included such as: SR 7, FEC, Tri Rail, I-95, I-75, I-595, Turnpike, etc.
- The regional team will review the individual county LRTP's for consistency and compatibility. The LRTP interim plans will also be reviewed to ensure the region is gaining the biggest benefit in a similar timeline throughout the region.

IV) SEFTC Website

- Wilson Fernandez is sending Randy Whitfield the interlocal agreement amendment.
- SEFTC has approved the amendment but the local boards still need to do so.
- Wilson Fernandez clarified that under the current agreement, the MPO Chair is the SEFTC member; however the chair can designate an alternate. Under the amendment,

the MPO Board selects the county designated SEFTC member (it does not have to be the Chair). The person elected can then have an alternate for when they are not available.

- The SEFTC website needs to be updated to state the MPO Chairs as members and their alternates. Also, it was stated that the SEFTC Chair/Vice Chair positions are affiliated with the County, not the person.

V) Regional Freight Study

- An update on the Regional Freight Study was presented by Stewart Robertson of Kimley-Horn & Associates.
- The Regional Freight Study is an element of the Regional LRTP. Jeff Weidner from FDOT D4 is the project manager of the study and it is funded through each MPO.
- This study is a requirement due to this area being designated as one urbanized area.
- The study will bring freight stakeholders together to formulate one regional approach to freight planning in south Florida.
- The freight needs will be assessed and prioritized. The freight effort will not be done in a vacuum. Continuous and constant communication will occur throughout the process with the local LRTP staff and the RL RTP staff. The freight schedule is in sync with the RL RTP and LRTP schedules.
- Ultimately, the projects will be incorporated in the 2035 RL RTP.
- As of early December, phase 1 of the freight study has been completed. Phase 1 included a national, regional and local freight review, a visioning session, and an analysis of freight data.
- The consultant is now in phase 2 and coordinating with the RL RTP team and the local LRTP staff determining needs and priorities. In addition, the freight team is reviewing the CIP for the seaports and airports regarding transportation and access projects.
- Ossama Al Aschkar asked what the end product would be. Stewart stated that the outcome will be a prioritized list of freight projects.
- Shi Chiang Li stated that most of the project will be SIS connectors and that that funded source could be depleted quickly.
- Stewart stated that projects could rail, roadway, etc. and that revenue identification is part of their scope.
- Jessica Josselyn stated she will send Stewart Robertson the RL RTP revenue consultant's contact information.
- Arlene Davis asked about the follow-up on the comments received to date on Phase 1. She asked whether or not it has done to the board for approval. Stewart Robertson stated that it will go to SEFTC for approval at the next meeting, April 13th.
- Arlene Davis also asked how the freight team anticipates conducting the prioritization of the needs. Stewart Robertson stated that a visioning session will be conducted and that Jeff Weidner will be alerting those involved in the first visioning session in the near future.
- Dan Glickman asked how many phases are in the freight study. Stewart Robertson stated 2 phases. It was also asked if their schedule is online with the RL RTP schedule, this was confirmed to be the case.

- It was stated that the freight team will work with the local LRTP staff on the cost feasible plan similar in nature to how they did on the needs plan.
- Arlene Davis stated she thought the freight study was a component of the RL RTP. It was clarified that the freight study will be a stand alone document; however, it will be consistent with what goes into the RL RTP. The RL RTP will just have a snapshot of the complete freight study. All freight projects will be woven into the needs and cost feasible lists.

VI) US 27 Rail Corridor Study

- Randy Whitfield gave an overview of Jeff Weidner's PTAC presentation on the US 27 Rail Corridor Study:
 - Jeff Weidner is putting together a scope of services to examine issues and to conduct a high level feasibility study
 - It is estimated that the study will cost \$300,000
 - The work will be performed by Keith and Schnars under their push button contract; Cambridge Systematics and Marlin Engineering are also involved
 - A draft is anticipated in June with a final anticipated for August
 - This project is to be considered as a concept in the LRTP's
 - The concept takes into account the inland port in Palm Beach County
 - The US 27 rail concept will tie into existing rail with a connection to the FEC
 - Ultimately, the US 27 rail corridor study in conjunction with other affiliated studies will be compiled and brought back to the RTTAC for review

VII) Other Business

The group discussed the April 13th SEFTC (10am at the SFRPC) meeting agenda to be as follows:

- 2035 LRTP updates
- 2035 RL RTP update
- SR 7 discussion
- FEC coalition
- FEC study
- Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in June
- Regional Transportation Summit
- Status of regional stimulus projects
- DOT report of impact if they reallocated the \$2 surcharge (Joe Quinty mentioned that no one in Tallahassee has agreed to sponsor)
- RTA legislative update
- Regional Freight Study

It was stated that the state report review and the regional environmental goal will be discussed at the next RTTAC meeting before going to SEFTC.

It was also discussed what items the Regional Citizens Advisory Committee (June 17th 4pm at SFRTA) may want to discuss. The following was suggested:

- RL RTP update
- FEC study
- Regional Freight Study
- Latest TRIP approvals
- SFRTA legislative update

VIII) Next Meeting – April 15

The next RTTAC meeting will be held April 15, 2009 – 1:30 PM at the SFTRA.

IX) Adjournment

Randy Whitfield adjourned the meeting.