

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM
One Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, Florida
January 30, 2018**

Present were:

Priscilla Whisenant Trace, Chairman
Robin DiSabatino, First Vice-Chairman
Carol Whitmore, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Betsy Benac
Vanessa Baugh
Stephen R. Jonsson

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

AGENDA AND SIGN-IN SHEETS

BC20180130DOC004

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Priscilla Whisenant Trace, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners, called the Council of Governments meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Members introduced themselves.

3. **2017 ANNUAL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES PLANNING ASSESSMENT**

Amy Anderson, Facilities, Sites and Planning Manager, Manatee School District, gave a slide presentation on the 2017 Annual Assessment and Overview and the history of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Manatee County for Public School Facility Planning in accordance with Florida Statute 163.31777. There are six parties to the ILA which make up the Staff Working Group (School District, City of Bradenton, City of Holmes Beach, City of Palmetto, Manatee County Government, and Town of Longboat Key), and the six parties agreed on policies and processes adopted in the ILA.

She reviewed the five key components to the Interlocal Agreement and displayed a January 2018 Tracking System, indicating a total of 32,382 residential dwelling units that remain to be built. These 32,382 new homes are projected to generate an additional 7,204 new students district wide.

Ms. Anderson addressed a January 2018 Level of Service chart and a 2017 Five-Year School Capacity Program in School Service Areas (SSA) 1, 2 and 3. A new elementary school and a new, North River High School are planned in SSA 1; four elementary school wing additions, a new middle school and a wing addition at Lakewood Ranch High School are planned in SSA 2; and there are plans to consolidate Wakeland Elementary School and Johnson Middle School and have a K-8 facility in SSA 3. SSA 4 includes the City of Holmes Beach and the Town of Longboat Key. These two municipalities are parties to the ILA; however, other cities in this area are not part of the ILA.

In accordance with the ILA and required by law, contiguous service areas must be examined to determine if there is available capacity. A School Report was shown reflecting a development review summary analysis of the projected demands on school facilities for a proposed land development application.

Discussion ensued on the long-range plans for an additional middle school in SSA 3, the lack of school bus drivers which is affecting the percentage of students arriving at school late, building more schools will require even more bus drivers, and what proactive measures are being taken to address the problem.

Dr. Scott Hopes, School Board Chairman, stated that amongst other challenges, School Board member John Colon has accepted the responsibility of the transportation issue. One of the School Board challenges is the competitive salaries of commercial driver license drivers versus the salaries of school bus drivers. Another challenge is school bus drivers not showing up for work on a consistent basis, which causes other drivers to have to run double-back routes.

Discussion continued regarding the delay in finalizing the zoning for the new high school, and all of the middle schools are going to be redistricted and possibly all of the high schools to look at how time spent on buses can be reduced.

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2. **CENTRAL MANATEE NETWORK ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

Lawrence Massey, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), utilized a slide presentation on the Central Manatee Network Alternatives Analysis (CMNAA), Phases II & III. He emphasized that selecting and successfully implementing any potential solutions depend upon the support of local government partners. FDOT will not move forward with any short- or long-term solution without local government resolutions of support.

Brent Lacy, FDOT, stated the CMNAA Study Area encompasses approximately 13 square miles, with primary focus on the downtown areas of Palmetto and Bradenton. The Study Area was expanded to appropriately address the evaluation of regional traffic attributing to the downtown traffic congestion dilemma. There are specific Goals and Objectives for this project, with the ultimate goal of enhanced mobility for all users. The CMNAA Implementation Plan will have various phases to include short-term projects (5-10 years), mid-term projects (10-15 years), long-term projects (15+ years), and "low hanging fruit" (0-5 years).

Mr. Lacy presented three alternatives that the public has indicated the most support of: (1) Alternative A - First Street corridor with local lanes descending from DeSoto Bridge to First Street with elevated throughway ramp connections to U.S. 301 and U.S. 41, (2) 27th Street/Golf Course Alternative, and (3) First Street At-Grade.

Gregory Moore, FDOT, continued with slides outlining Short-Term Operational Improvements (Phase I) to improve downtown circulation for Manatee Avenue and First Street, resulting in travel time savings and long-term needs.

Upon question, City of Palmetto Commissioner Brian Williams was advised that no special provision was given to handle the railroad crossing.

Mr. Lacy continued with slides expounding on long-term needs, existing traffic volumes on the DeSoto and Green Bridges, Daily Traffic Demand on the Green and DeSoto Bridges, Current Daily Traffic Distribution with Green and DeSoto Bridges as Origin, Meeting Regional North/South Travel Needs, Four-Lane Widening Concept (9th, 15th, or 27th Street East),

Elevated Throughway Concept, 27th Street/Golf Course Alternative, projected 2040 Daily Traffic Demand on 1st Street/U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail, Alternative A Conceptual Renderings with elevated throughway and local land Desoto Bridge approach, First Street At-Grade, Summary of Potential Long-Term Options to Meet Future Capacity Needs in 2040, Next steps for the new bridge alternatives, Recap of the total Potential Options Identified Thus Far (16 Options), Multi-modal Emphasis, Complete Streets, Safety, Example Safety Recommendations, Transit Recommendations, Pedestrian and Bicycle Recommendations, Public Feedback Received, and the Next Steps.

Discussion was held on the need for professional staff to work together toward a solution, from the fly-over ramp on the First Street corridor there will be the ability to get off the bridge to get onto the local streets as well as on the south end of 301 and on the north end in Palmetto, special accesses will be provided to the hospital, a bicycle systems plan will be recommended to close the gaps, the Sun Trail will be incorporated to provide access to neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks, the 16 Options must be evaluated, encourage constituents to get correct information, question as to whether First Street At-Grade would require significant right-of-way which would have significant impact on the businesses and would not add much additional capacity, and At-Grade Improvements to accommodate the demand would require additional right-of-way.

County Commissioner Charles Smith read Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance (www.fdot.gov/equalopportunity/titlevi.shtm). He stated all four components recommended by FDOT violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mitchell O. Palmer, Manatee County Attorney, declined to respond regarding the alleged violation by FDOT.

Further discussion ensued that Manatee County has a great partnership with FDOT, the need to allow FDOT to present recommendations, everyone must work together, there is a lot of information to sort through, and this matter was made a priority to move forward.

City of Palmetto Mayor Shirley Bryant implored everyone north of the river, to work together to find a solution.

Upon question as to how frequently FDOT meets during the year with School District Transportation staff to evaluate data to create the most efficiency in traffic flow and bypass existing, heavily-congested roads, Mr. Massey stated FDOT has attempted to meet with School District representatives, but to no success.

County Commissioner Robin DiSabatino thanked FDOT for factual information. She asked everyone to come to the table and work together to share positive ideas and solutions.

City of Bradenton Councilman Bemis Smith thanked FDOT for the presentation and spoke in favor of an elevated roadway across the Manatee River.

School Board Member John Colon emphasized this is a joint effort with the entire community; it is critical that no community is excluded from the process and that no one is marginalized.
(Depart School Board Member David Miner)

City of Palmetto Councilman Jonathan Davis thanked FDOT for the presentation.

City of Bradenton Councilman Gene Brown thanked FDOT for the presentation and stated that a decision must be made. He also commented on short-term fixes to the traffic problems.

Mr. Massey stated that follow-up meetings are planned, and he offered to meet with Bradenton City Council members. He stated FDOT attended the meeting at St. Mary's Church by invitation and diligently sought the opinions and ideas of the working group of citizens who attended.

Commissioner Smith stated the meeting at St. Mary's Church was not a public meeting.

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4. **BACK TO THE FUTURE - 1997-2017-2037**

Simone Peterson, Manatee County Neighborhood Services Specialist, utilized a slide presentation addressing a Back to the Future 1997-2017-2037. She addressed Home to Visionaries, 1968 Conceptual Development Plan, How Will We Grow Vision, Business, Fact and Trends, 1997 Manatee County Map, 2017 Manatee County Map and projected 2037 Manatee County Map, Development Projects/Concurrency Map, 1997-2037 Population Trends indicating a 49 percent projected growth, Median Age, Households 65+, Race, Ethnicity and Culture 2011 Language Map, Homes, Home Ownership projected to decrease and rentals projected to increase, Household Size, Jobs, Employment by Place of Work, Lack of Stability, 2017 Median Household Income, Households by Income, 2001 - 2015, Income in urban cores of Manatee County, and ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constraint Employed).

Madison Moyer, Manatee County Transportation Systems Compliance Coordinator, continued with the slide presentation addressing Infrastructure and Mobility, Mobility 1997, Accomplishments in Transportation Projects, Mobility 2017, 2017 Accomplishments, Infrastructure Sales Tax Projects - Transportation, Mobility 2037, Homes-Roads-Population-Transit Growth, Transportation Funding, Housing and Transportation, Utilities, Potable Water, a down trend of potable water sources, Sewer System, Lena Road Landfill capacity, Parks System, Parks 1997, the last Parks Master Plan was done in 1975, Parks 2017, Parks 2037, Libraries, and County Presence.

Robert Barto, Manatee County Neighborhood Services Specialist, displayed additional slides on Service Delivery Strategy, Challenges for 2037 and Beyond, How Will We Pay for all of the necessary upgrades and services, revenues not keeping up with ongoing needs, Manatee County's Capital Assets, Government-Wide Expenses, Taxable Value of New Construction Compared to Population Growth, Property Tax Revenue, Sales Tax Revenue and growth rate, Impact fees can be used to pay for a new road but not to maintain it, Challenges, Cap on growth of property taxes, how County Services will function in the next 20 years and how will Manatee County survive to 2037, and What Should Manatee Look like in 2037.

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, stated the issue of revenue has been discussed with the School Board and the Mayors. Though the population continues to grow, revenues are stagnant and will continue to be stagnant if the additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption passes in November.

City of Palmetto Mayor Shirley Bryant stated she questioned the Chamber of Commerce as to the lack of position regarding the additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption going on the ballot; and that the millennial population will be hurt by the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption.

There being no further public comment, Commission Chairman Trace closed public comment.

Mr. Hunzeker stated all local governments will suffer because of the additional \$25,000

homestead exemption approval, and it will be a massive challenge to deal with growth, population and operations on a daily basis.

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6. **OTHER COMMENTS BY OFFICIALS**

City of Palmetto Councilman Brian Williams commented on the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption proposal.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no public comment, Chairman Trace closed public comment.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Trace adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____