

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE  
2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
DECEMBER 9, 2009  
SUMMARY OF MEETING**

The public hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by MPO Chair Joe Affronti followed by his opening remarks.

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

MPO Executive Director, Ray Chiaramonte introduced the MPO's LRTP Video which was shown prior to staff presentation.

Ms. Beth Alden, MPO staff, gave an overview of the Plan including the Cost Affordable projects. She stated that this hearing is the final step in the 30 day comment period for the Plan.

Ms. Lynn Merenda, MPO staff, reviewed the public involvement process that has been on going for over a year. Staff held numerous meetings, two "town call meetings" with over 4,000 participants each, during the Needs Assessment Phase.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Over twenty citizens spoke during this portion of the agenda. The majority of them spoke either for or against the widening of Lithia Pinecrest from Bloomingdale Avenue and Lumsden Road.

The following individuals spoke against the widening:

1. John Rooney
2. Pamela Flaherty
3. Stanley Lee
4. George Niemann
5. Vivian Bacca
6. Pam Clouston
7. Kelly Cornelius
8. Lauren O'Grady
9. Yvette Niemann

## 10. Elizabeth Belcher

Those who spoke for the widening were:

1. Katie Franco
2. Gladys Will
3. Tammy Bracewell

During the public hearing, citizens who could not attend were giving the opportunity to call in and give their comments to staff. Staff received 17 comments via the telephone call-ins that were then reported to the MPO as noted below:

Mr. Gregory Namyak was the only individual who called in and was against the widening of Lithia Pinecrest.

The following citizens called in and were in favor of the widening:

1. Ron Pierce
2. Melissa Medina (for Representative Richard Glorioso)
3. Nancy Conners
4. Karen Wilson
5. Desh Bagley
6. Don Sutton
7. Diana Sutton
8. Jane Lee
9. Gene Best
10. Jolie Harris
11. Ted Wilson
12. Brian Lee
13. Dennis Osborn
14. Lee Hatchett
15. Catherine Baierlein

Mrs. Dee Rooney spoke against the widening because she and her husband have living in their home for over 40 years and do not want to have to move.

Ms Mariella Smith spoke about the lack of greenways trails and especially the east-west bikeway loop along Shell Point Rd. and 19th Avenue, which would connect to the proposed South Coast Greenways Trail. She asked that south county greenways trails be include not just in the "needs list," but in the 20-year "cost affordable" plan.

Mr. Joe Smith spoke in favor of the MPO's 2035 Plan and encouraged the members adopt it. He also complimented staff and all their work.

Mr. Pierre Mathurin stated that transportation in our area needs improvement and also encourage the members to adopt the plan.

Mr. Alan Snel spoke about the need for more bike and pedestrian safety projects to make this area safe to walk and bike.

Mr. Chiaramonte spoke regarding the Lithia Pinecrest issue and encouraged the members to let the PD&E "public process" take place. He said that Hillsborough County would be holding a meeting January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Brandon area on this issue.

He then spoke about the greenways trail issue. He stated that an extension of Shell Point Road is in the Plan and will have bike lanes.

Gena Torres, MPO staff, noted that Hillsborough County has a program to add bicycle facilities to roadways as part of resurfacing projects and that she would check to see if bike lanes could be added to Shell Point Road through that program.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

Councilman John Dingfelder said he spoke with county staff regarding the greenways trail issue and was concerned that there were not trail projects in the South Shore area.

Councilwoman Mary Mulhern thanked the citizens for attending and discussed "complete streets". She said that the Livable Roadways Committee of the MPO is looking at having every road be a "complete street".

Commissioner Mark Sharpe complimented staff on a "heroic effort" of getting the citizens involved in the process. He stated that he supports staff's recommendation to let the public process play itself out for the Lithia Pinecrest issue and that he will work with Mr. Chiaramonte and staff on this process.

**Following discussion, Councilwoman Mulhern made a motion to approve the MPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Ferlita.**

Commissioner Sharpe asked if the MPO could amend the plan once the PD&E Study for Lithia Pinecrest is complete. Mr. Chiaramonte responded that the process to amend the plan would take approximately 30 days.

Councilman Dingfelder felt that the South Shore area was being left out of the process and would like for staff to investigate this issue and report back to the MPO.

Ms. Gena Torres, MPO staff stated that she would work with the county staff about pursuing funding for bike lanes in that area.

Commissioner Ferlita stated that the south county area is in her district and reassured her constituents that she will continue to work with them on the trails issue.

**A roll call vote was taken on the motion to approve the plan and the motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

**Councilman Dingfelder made a motion to direct staff to investigate the South Shore trails issue with the appropriate county staff and anyone else involved in the SouthShore Community together and report back in 6 months. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ferlita and carried.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the public hearing adjourned at 7: 50 PM.**