Council Minutes

March 9, 2009
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT
Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Vice Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Hillsborough County
Ms. Jane Bittner, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo
Deputy Mayor Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Angelesh Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilman Karl Nurse, City of St. Petersburg
Commissioner Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Council Member Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater
Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Ms. Barbara Sleen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Robert Worthington, City of Gulfport
Mr. Mike Downs, Alt., Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Michele Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, South West Florida Water Management District

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Commissioner Larry Bustin, Manatee County
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Past Chair, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Commissioner Harry Metz, City of St. Pete Beach
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Laura Woodard, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Ming Gao, Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
OTHERS PRESENT
Troy Manning, Partner, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland
Sue Donald, Senior Manager, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland
Brian Shuford, Director of Government Affairs, Pinellas Realtor Org.
Brian Watts, SIS Project Manager, FDOT
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Susan VanHoose, SIS Coordinator, FDOT
Waddah Farah, SIS, FDOT
Maritza Rovira-Forino, Gov. Board Member, SWFWMD
Ty Marcy, Planner, EHA

STAFF PRESENT
Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Ms. Lori Denman, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
Ms. Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O’Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Ms. Erika Wiker, Planner
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Dodson
The March 9, 21009 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chair Dodson at 10:06 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary
A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary
No voting conflicts were filed.

Announcements & Recognitions:

Commissioner Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena, was introduced and welcomed to the TBRPC.

Congratulations were provided to Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island, who is now the Mayor of Treasure Island.

A reminder was provided for the 17th Annual Future of the Region Awards will take place on Friday, March 20th, 11:45 a.m. at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. Forty-four entries were received this year and
many Council members have projects that will be recognized. Please RSVP to Sue Young.

Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar, was recognized for her 4 ½ years of service on the Council. Unfortunately Ms. Miller will not be running for re-election due to term limits. On behalf of the Council, Chair Dodson presented her with a desk clock and picture frame.

Council Member Miller said the TBRPC was the best board she served on and will miss everyone.

1. Approval of Minutes – Secretary/Treasurer Collins
   The minutes from the February 9, 2009 regular Meeting were approved (Beckner/Núñez).

2. Budget Committee – Secretary/Treasurer Collins
   A. The Financial Report for the period ending 1/31/09 was approved (Kinnan/Beckner).

   B. Ms. Troy Manning, Partner, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, presented the FY 2008 Annual Audit.

   We met with the Executive/Budget Committee on February 9th and presented the draft of the financial statements and subsequently issued our reports, dated February 25th. Overall we issued unqualified opinions on the governmental activities and the general fund of the financial statements. That means it is a clean opinion, and that the financial statements were presented fairly. That is the highest degree of assurance we can render on a government entity’s financial statements.

   As far as the financial part of our audit and the results of our testing, there were no instances of non compliance with laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements. There was one finding related to the financial statements that was considered a material weakness related to revenue recognition on two performance grants where revenue was recognized as deferred. It should have been recognized as revenue in fiscal 2007. It resulted in a prior period adjustment which is disclosed on note 11 in the financial statements.

   We also performed a federal single audit since the Council receives federal funds. We looked at two major programs and overall there were no significant deficiencies, and no material weaknesses.

   Ms. Manning provided some broad financial highlights. The most significant transaction that was a bit different for the Council for fiscal 2008 was the fact that in September 2008 the Council issued a $2.8 million revenue Note Series 2008 in order to refinance a prior revenue Note Series 2002. There was a swap agreement associated with that revenue note and that swap agreement was terminated. Overall when you look at the financial position of the Council, looking at the General Fund, the fund balance is healthy at $1.5 million. Only 2.5% of that fund balance is reserved. That shows the Council has ample financial resources available for continuing operations.

Chair Dodson: This reflects very well on our staff. They have done a fine job, as they do every year and in particular during stressed times when funding is hard to come by.

Motion to approve the FY 2008 Annual Audit (Waller/Núñez)
Mr. Pumariega thanked John Jacobsen, Nancy Harrison, and Frank Hughes who worked with the auditors to provide the information needed. They also perform the accounting for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and recently, took on the accounting/compliance work for the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). The TBEP audit is coming up and they will assist with that. Next year they will also assist with TBARTA’s audit.

3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Dodson
   A. **Budget and Contractual**
      Help-A-Child, Inc., our tenant, recently informed staff that it will be merging with another entity, effective at the end of March. We are in the process of obtaining specific information about this merger, but Help-A-Child has made it clear that they will be remaining in their current space and will be honoring the terms of their Lease. Nevertheless, it will be necessary to execute an Amendment to the Lease in order to insure that the new entity to be formed by this merger is a party to the Lease and that all rights and obligations under the Lease are assigned to the new entity, with the Council’s consent. The terms of the Lease will not change. If sufficient information is obtained prior to the Council’s meeting in March, a Lease Amendment will be distributed to Council.
      Action Recommended: Authorize the Executive Director to sign Amendment #2 to the Lease.

B. **Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program**
   1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction
   2. February 2009 IC&R Database
      Action Recommended: None. For Information Only.

C. **DRI Development Order Reports (DOR)**
   DRI # 251 – Four Corners Mine/Altman Tract Addition, Manatee County
      Action Recommended: Approve staff report.

D. **DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)**
   1. DRI # 129 – Seven Oaks, Pasco County
   2. DRI # 246 – Suncoast Crossings, Pasco County
      Action Recommended: Approve staff reports.

E. **Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports** - None

F. **Annual Report Summaries (ARS)/Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)**
   1. DRI # 68 – Cargill Riverview Facility, RY 2007-08 ARS, Hillsborough County
      Action Recommended: Approve staff report.

G. **DRI Status Report**
   Action Recommended: None. For Information Only.

H. **Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)**
   *Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.*
   1. DCA # 09-1ER, City of Temple Terrace
   2. DCA # 08-1ARB, City of Oldsmar (adopted)
   3. DCA # 09-CIE, City of Temple Terrace
   7. DCA # 09-CIE, City of Tarpon Springs
   10. DCA # 08-2AR and 08-2ARB, City of Largo (adopted)
      Action Recommended: For Information Only
The following report(s) are presented for Council action:

4. DCA # 09-1ER, City of Tarpon Springs
5. DCA # 09-1PEFE, City of Dade City
6. DCA # 09-1PEFE, City of Gulfport
8. DCA # 09-CIE, City of Belleair Beach
9. DCA # 09-CIE, City of New Port Richey

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

The Consent Agenda was approved (Beckner/Núñez).

4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)**
Consent Agenda Item # 3.F.2., DRI # 119 - Northwood, RYs 2006-08 BRs, Pasco County was pulled by Vice Chair Mariano for further information regarding the removal of the requirement to dedicate a school site to the Pasco County School Board.

Mr. Wynne: My understanding is that it is still a requirement. They never completed the NOPC which makes subsequent amendments to the development order in terms of build out dates and improvement dates. These issues have not been resolved, they are on-going. We will bring back a more detailed analysis at the April Council meeting.

Motion to bring the Biennial Report Summary DRI #119-Northwood, RYs 2006-08, Pasco County to the April Council meeting for further discussion and consideration. (Mariano/Collins)

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

6. A. **Mike Connors, Internal Services Administrator, City of St. Petersburg**
Mr. Connors provided a presentation on the City of St. Petersburg’s initiatives regarding alternative energy and energy efficiency.

Going green - how can you not? As I bring to bear various initiatives that the city has undertaken I think those words will become resounding as you grasp the benefit of going green.

St. Petersburg was platted out with generous rights-of-way, wide roads, and a number of one way and two way roads that allow the synchronized traffic signal system in 300 intersections. 260 of the 300 intersections citywide are synchronized so that if you drive the speed limit you will make those lights. Pursuant to an EPA formula that type of fuel savings affords the motorists a $30 million savings a year in fuel, not to mention the tons of nitrogen oxides that isn’t emitted into the atmosphere.

Last year the Mayor issued a directive for all new city buildings in excess of 20,000 sq. ft., or refurbished city buildings in excess of the same amount of square footage, be LEED certified. LEED certification is a great thing and it becomes pertinent when you evaluate the various features and components of how to get a building LEED certified. The premise on seeking LEED certification has been on cost effectiveness of each individual feature. We will collect water conservation features, incorporate them into a LEED certified design, cost out the incremental increase to include those water conservation features, calculate the water savings, and if the savings are within the payback period of that given feature’s life span then it stays in our LEED certification design and ultimate request to become designated as such. We do that with every component in the seeking of
LEED certification which dictates whether we will go for the gold, silver or platinum.

The city has conducted energy audits of all city facilities. Progress Energy provided those audits for free. Our engineering department then costed out the implementation of those various features within the energy audits of 76 city buildings. We determined that the most cost effective areas to implement fell into retrofitting.

Occupancy Based Lighting Control is a very simple thing. Your maintenance staff can install these features. Essentially the lights go out when there is no one in the room. These have less than a three year payback. We plan on spending over $120,000 converting all city buildings to allow for this feature to conserve energy.

We have converted a number of our fleet. All of our diesel engines are running on biodiesel, a 10% mixture, and all of our flex-fuel vehicles, and the rest are running on up to a 10% mixture of ethanol. We have up to two dozen hybrid vehicles in our fleet. This represents an incremental cost increase of $6,000. We save over $750 a year with these vehicles which allows for a payback period of 8 years which is commensurate with the warranty associated with the hybrid package.

Energy Conservation Priorities include compact flourescent lights (CFLs) to replace incandescent lights. This has a very favorable payback period of less than 100 days. We are working on how to recycle these CFLs since two or three years down the road there will be a lot of them to dispose of. They contain a very small amount of mercury that needs to be properly handled in terms of the solid waste disposal requirements.

The city has converted traffic all traffic signal lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lights. They consume 15 watts of energy. They have four times the life span of an incandescent light bulb and allow for a 3-4 year payback. We expended $450,000 on this conversion process and save $150,000 a year just on energy costs. That doesn’t include the maintenance expense savings. LED technology came out in the early 1900s. LED is taking alternating current and forcing it to go in one direction through an anode that then it arcs over. It is like two filaments in each tiny bulbs in a gaseous state that allows illumination and they last four times longer.

Another cost effective initiative is induction lighting. Most governments in Florida and across the country have more capital money than money to operate. The key is, how do you take advantage of capital expenditures that reduce your operating costs as operating revenues continue to shrink? In the case of induction lighting we have focused our attention on very large energy consumers, parking garages. The typical design of a parking garage allows for very little outside light to enter. They are low level, yet the intensity required for security purposes is very high. Your typical high intensity discharge light consumes considerable energy compared to induction lighting. The South Core Parking Garage in downtown St. Petersburg has been converted to induction lighting. Induction lighting has no filament or electrodes exposed to the heat inside the bulb so these tend to last four-five times longer than the current technology used in parking garages. To date the city has completed two parking garages, the Mahaffey Theater, and we are looking at generating sufficient capital monies to do the same thing with our Mid Core Parking Garage which serves Baywalk and other areas in that immediate vicinity.

Citizens in St. Petersburg consume less than 95 gallons per capita per day of potable
water. The national average is in excess of 135. The savings associated with that water conservation exceeds $3 million a year. That $3 million is calculated by what it would cost to find and develop new raw water sources for potable/drinking purposes. That’s a giant cost avoidance factor when you administer a conservation program that consists of a single staff member and literature and materials of an annual operating cost of $100,000 per year. The city’s contribution to Tampa Bay Water is significant through avoidance through the conservation of St. Petersburg users of water.

Another initiative the city has undertaken is the City Trails Program. We have completed over 90 miles of bike lanes and trails with the intention of capping out with 150 miles over the next 5 years. There is literally $4-6 billion a year in fuel saved when you develop a city trails program to that extensiveness versus motorist travel, not to mention the inherent benefits associated with the recreational and health improvement that is gained.

These initiatives and dozens of others in many communities are part of the momentum sweeping the country in going green. Mayor Baker introduced to the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors a Green City Action Accord. This accord is nothing more than a resolution asking mayors to commit to going green by seeking out a green city or township designation through the Florida Green Building Coalition. The Florida Green Building Coalition has developed a list of 130 criteria directly applicable to city governments and how they can improve the environment in terms of water, stormwater, sanitation, recycling, land use, energy and several other major components. The Action Accord has been signed by over 70 mayors statewide and has branched out to a national level. Two years ago the National League of Cities adopted a resolution in support of the Green City Action Accord to encourage these types of initiatives nationwide pursuant to a national consistent and standard set of objectives that all governments can follow. Because of that, the Star Community Index has now convened to develop these national standards. Those are expected to come out in 2011 and provide a guide for all local governments across the country to do these cost effective initiatives that have obvious environmental benefit, and also address these economic difficult times by saving money by investing in energy saving alternatives and alternative energy.

Progress Energy is doing a pilot study on induction lighting. We have one street lined with LED lights, another street lined with induction lights, and on 3rd Street the standard high pressure sodium lights. We are metering the energy consumption on all three streets and keeping track of the maintenance expenses. Ultimately we hope to get Progress Energy to buy into what is the most cost effective lighting technology to employ city-wide. City wide there are 30,000 street lights. $1.9 million a year is what we pay Progress Energy for electricity associated with those street lights. If new lighting technologies were employed across this country for street lights alone, we wouldn’t have to build another power plant in 10 years. That is significant.

As part of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) there is $2.8 billion authorized for the conservation of block grants. These monies are going to be directly provided to the ten largest cities and counties in each state with a funding formula to be determined by the US Dept. of Energy. They are block grants, entitlement programs, and ultimately cities should be poised, ready, willing, and able to receive these monies and to implement them with energy conservation and alternative energy measures that save operating costs. We have to continue to focus on our problem with making operating
needs in the future because of the expectation of the tax payer for city and county services.

State Revolving Funds have always been administered in the context of loans and they are very attractive loans. They have a fair amount of administrative expenses in compliance with those loan conditions but nonetheless, the stimulus bill has now allowed for grants associated with this loan program. Grants that will allow for improvements to drinking water, wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control, and drinking water infrastructure. St. Petersburg is going to focus its grant applications for these types of money on where user fees can be reduced or held to a minimum increase. We will be looking at variable frequency drives on all pumping systems so that we can take advantage of different flows by utilizing differing levels of electrical requirements. We are going to be looking at different aeration systems. When you treat wastewater the biggest consumer of energy in a wastewater plant are your aeration phases. You are blowing air in there to create bugs that essentially eat the wastewater or the organic material in the wastewater. It is a very energy intensive part of the treatment plant’s process. We intend to make grant applications to convert our system to fine air diffusion which has a much greater O2 transfer rate. We are also going to be looking at how we can capture methane from the release and then convert that methane into energy to offset plant energy/electricity requirements.

20% of the funds will be to address green infrastructure. That’s why we are going to try to put our grant applications to address both - how to improve the environment for cleaner drinking water, cleaner discharge wastewater, while saving energy at the same time.

I think that over time there has been a reduction in the debate of Global Warming, both scientifically and perhaps politically as it relates to human induced impacts of Global Warming. We all need to move past that. Everyone should engage an agreeable theme to reduce harmful air emissions and reliance on foreign oil. We then can move forward on cost effective and environmentally friendly initiatives and to recognize the economic engine for the next generation - green.

Questions & Comments:
Ms. Todd:
I think the City of St. Petersburg has one of the finest Mayors in America. I also think Karl Nurse is an outstanding Councilman. I have had the privilege of meeting with him and other members of the community and he shows strong leadership in promoting these initiatives. St. Petersburg has truly taken the leadership role. I wonder if there has been much of an opportunity for you to meet with some of the Pinellas County leaders who may be working on similar initiatives, and the Mayors, to share some of your experiences with them and maybe work together on some of these grants to see if you can get more coverage. You have outlined some wonderful progressive ideas and I think you have a lot to offer the county. I know you have done this in the past. You have done so much and I would like to see all the cities and the counties in the region be looking at this from a county-wide basis. How can we take some of these leadership initiatives that St. Petersburg has already begun and make sure we are making the most of this energy?

Mr. Connors:
We have engaged the county, but we need to do more. I appreciate how regional aspects on improving the environment and reducing operating
Councilor Matthews: Costs would get the attention of the grants more than singular grant requests. Thank you for a very good suggestion and we will take that up. I drive about 100 miles a day delivering products from my business. Did you have to spend extensive amounts of money in order to synchronize your traffic lights?

Mr. Connors: We have 20 year old technology, PC based. We control our traffic signals through cable lines emanating from our master control center to each individual intersection where you typically see a stainless steel control box. We expend 1/3 of our traffic signals supervisor's time per year in recurring refinement and enhancement of synchronization. We just upgraded and replaced all the hardware and software for a 20 year old system for $180,000. To save $30 million a year in fuel for an annual operating expense, over the life of the system, is less than $200,000. It has an extremely favorable return on investment. The City of St. Petersburg has a $4 million portfolio, which is basically our checking account. We like to invest at the greatest return possible, with the least risk attached to it. We are getting maybe 2-2.5% return on investment. The examples I just gave to you have no less than a 20% return on investment. When you think about the grand scheme of where to put your money and how that money returns to the tax payer in terms of the value of that investment, it's difficult not to do these things.

Councilor Matthews: How many traffic lights are related to that energy savings?

Mr. Connors: 300 single light intersections, 4 per intersection.

Councilman Nurse: I should mention that on the Energy Efficiency Block grant money, although 68% goes to the top 10 cities, the rest of it, through a different formula, goes to smaller cities so everybody is eligible in a different formula they are running through the state.

Commissioner Mariano: In your signs around the city are you promoting that people use LED signs as opposed to traditional signs? The Pasco County board actually changed our sign ordinance to allow more LED signs.

Mr. Connors: We are trying to lead by example. We firmly believe that the private sector is either there, or not too far behind in lighting conversions. They are more proportional in terms of their ability to operate the economic climate than government is. Government finances follow the political climate and the private sector follows economic climates which is very difficult. We are taking every advantage we can - Chamber of Commerce, other business entities, umbrella groups to pontificate how they need to look into saving energy. The energy audit is provided free by Progress Energy and then they need to take those audits and implement them where the most cost effective savings can be realized.

Commissioner Mariano: So you don't have any restrictions as far as the LED signs?

Mr. Connors: No sir. We are not regulating it. We are encouraging it through education and information.

Mr. Pressman: I would like to make everyone aware that Mr. Connors and the city have been an absolute outstanding partner with the District (SWFWMD). They have gone beyond the call of duty and have bent over backwards with their programs and taking on projects like Clam Bayou.

Chair Dodson: I think you can tell from the level of interest that's been demonstrated that you have brought to the Council some valuable information. I know that many of our cities and counties represented here are very interested in
what we can do to reduce our recurring costs. Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity. I would like to say that it is a delight to work with our new Councilman, Karl Nurse, who is in the mainstream when it comes to pursuing these initiatives.

B. Brian Watts, 2010 Strategic Intermodal System Project Manager, FDOT-Tallahassee

Mr. Watts presented the 2010 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Strategic Plan Update.

Florida’s SIS is a statewide system of high priority transportation facilities focused on moving people and freight between regions within Florida and between Florida and other states and nations. The SIS includes airports, the space port, seaports, waterways, rail corridors and terminals and highways most critical to Florida’s economy and quality of life. The SIS is only a part of Florida’s transportation system. We spend approximately 75% of the state DOT money on the SIS, so out of $6 billion a year, approximately $4 billion is spent on SIS facilities.

Regional entities are in the lead for regional significant facilities which are generally major airports, smaller supporting arterials, highways. Local entities are responsible for local roads, and local facilities.

Example SIS project for District 7:

- Tampa International Airport access improvements.
- I-4 reconstruction and I-4/I-275 interchange improvements, Hillsborough County.
- I-4/Lee Roy Selmon Expressway Connector with access improvements to Port of Tampa.
- I-275 reconstruction in Tampa with access improvements to Tampa International Airport.
- I-75 capacity and operational improvements (Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando counties).
- US 19 reconstruction, Pinellas County.
- Port of Tampa channel dredging and terminal improvements. Waterways are also included as a SIS facility.

The update that we are going through next year of the SIS Plan should be adopted by January 2010. This will be a comprehensive update and review of the SIS goals and objectives, designation criteria and policies. We will review the criteria of what makes a SIS facility strategic, identify strategies to make SIS implementation more effective, and provide framework for updating other statewide SIS documents. The plan must address five elements:

- Map of facilities designated as SIS or Emerging SIS
- Needs assessment
- Project prioritization process
- Finance prioritization including 10 and 20 year cost feasible components
- Assessment of impacts of SIS improvements on military installations

FDOT must provide opportunities for the public and transportation partners to participate and comment on plan development, organizations such as:

- MPOs, local governments
- Transportation providers and environmental organizations
The DOT has established a 30 member leadership committee to guide the update process and make recommendations to the Department on SIS policy. The leadership committee is composed of key statewide partners of each mode (rail, air, seaports, highways, waterways, and space ports, environmental, etc.). The committee has met twice so far, once in January and once in February. Regional and local partners provide input and feedback throughout the process. They receive briefings and updates from FDOT district staff around the state, and this is on-going. Regional workshops will be held in each district during the summer of 2009. We have key issues that were obtained through interviews, and briefings of what is important to every entity such as environment, transit, etc. These key issues are going through the leadership committee who will prioritize them. These key issues can be found on our web site. If you have something you would like to add, now is the time to do so. One of the best ways of getting your input heard is through one of the leadership committee members. Pat Steed from FRCA is a member of the leadership committee along with the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties.

The SIS update schedule is:

January-April 2009: Issues Identification and Analysis
- Initial meetings of Leadership Committee to gather input
- Staff prepares draft goals and objectives, issue papers, and potential options

May-June 2009: Initial Recommendations
- Leadership Committee meetings (2)

July-August 2009: Expanded Public and Partner Input
- Regional workshops in FDOT Districts
- Leadership Committee meetings (2)

September-October 2009: Draft Plan
- 30-day public and partner review period

November 2009-January 2010: Plan Adoption
- FDOT considers all feedback, makes necessary revisions and adopts plan

SIS Update Web Site: www.sisupdate.org. The DOT has stimulus money. Information on how DOT plans to utilize these funds can be found at http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/economics stimulus/

Mr. Núñez:
The revenue forecast is that this is a one shot deal and its likely that the legislature will tap into the transportation trust fund again. What else are we looking at? Are we looking at potentially expending the use of tolling facilities to be able to build or rebuild?

Mr. Watts:
I see tolling as being more of a funding in the way of future investments in highway facilities. We just closed on a 595 project in South Florida where they are going to fill in the median and add 2 additional lanes that will be toll lanes. These lanes will change direction during rush hour. They would be considered premium lanes for quicker traffic and hopes to lessen congestion. It is a perfect example of how we are going to fund additional lanes on a particular highway. Will I-95 improvements be expanded?

Mr. Núñez:
Mr. Watts:
I think how successful the pricing is on the first few projects will indicate how
much it will be expanded throughout the state. That is another perfect example of adding a few lanes, and tolling those few lanes. It seems right now we are looking for opportunities to relieve congestion by adding lanes. I get the impression these lanes will be tolled to pay for the additions. The 595 is a private/public partnership so it will be run by a private company as well as being built, operated, and maintained by a private company. They will collect the tolls and DOT will receive a portion of the tolls. We are trying different types of funding and different types of projects that are more than the traditional DOT project of design/build.

C. Richard Owen, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Regulation, SWFWMD
Mr. Todd Pressman made introductory comments. Several folks from the Water Management District were present. Mr. Owen is the Executive Director for Regulation, Ms. Mariza Rovira-Forino, Governor-appointed from Hillsborough County, and Trisha Neasman, who attends meetings and assists with duties relating to this Council. As you know, we are in modified III or extreme water shortage restrictions. Today, Mr. Owen made me aware that Tampa Bay Water will be out of surface water this week. There will be no water left in the Bill Young Reservoir, and water in the Hillsborough River is dwindling. Unfortunately, the desal plant has been down for a couple of weeks due to electrical problems. The Board looked at modified III restrictions at this time. Mr. Owen is here today to review the modified III restrictions, but more importantly, to relay to everyone what steps local government can take. We are in extreme circumstances. Some suggestions include cost increases for water usage and enforcement.

Mr. Owen reviewed the conditions the region is now facing, how that is impacting our water supply, and what the Water Management District is doing to address this, as well as what the District is asking local governments to do in addressing this issue.

There are 16 counties in the Water Management District and we are the only part of the state experiencing drought. Rainfall has been below average since 2006 and that has been affecting our surface water sources, one of which is the Hillsborough River. The Hillsborough River is not only a source of water for the city of Tampa but, during good flow conditions, Tampa Bay Water moves water from the river into the Tampa Bypass Canal and then into their regional system. The 15 billion gallon C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir captures water during high flow conditions off the Tampa Bypass Canal, the Hillsborough River, and the Alafia River.

A schematic of the Tampa Bay Area Regional System shows sources of water as follows:
- 90 MGD - the eleven interconnected wellfields
- 82 MGD - what the City of Tampa can get off the Hillsborough River
- 31 MGD - groundwater from the South Central and Brandon Urban wellfields
- 25 MGD - the Seawater Desalination Plant, operating currently around 18-20 MGD
- 60-66 MGD - what is taken from the Regional Reservoir

The concern we are faced with is that those surface water sources are essentially depleted. Even though there may still be some water in the Tampa Bypass Canal, Tampa Bay Water’s Surface Water Plant must operate at a minimum of 20 million gallons per day.
Once the available surface water goes below 20 they shut it off. Essentially we shift to groundwater and the desal plant at that point in time. We have had problems with groundwater withdrawals in NW Hillsborough and Pasco in terms of environmental impacts, and we have been very successful in reducing those groundwater withdrawals.

We received a letter last week asking the Water Management District (WMD) to authorize over-pumpage. That is unprecedented. We have never been in this situation before and we haven’t determined how we are going to respond to that request. We fully recognize if the demands remain high they are going to have to turn to groundwater. We’ve also been looking at all other sources we can possibly have. The WMD has been issuing emergency measures allowing Tampa Bay Water to take more than they normally would have out of the Tampa Bypass Canal and move that either into the Hillsborough River Reservoir to augment the city’s source or to bring it into the regional system. We have authorized the pumpage of water more than they normally would have, and earlier than normal, from Sulphur Springs into the city’s reservoir to augment the city’s reservoir. The WMD is looking at tapping the Morris Bridge Sinkhole up to potentially 6 million gallons a day and pump that into the Bypass Canal to either augment the city supply or the regional system.

We have been monitoring member government demands in this area. This goes back to October 1997 through January 2009. You heard the earlier discussion about St. Petersburg’s success at conservation, the reclaimed water system. Over the mentioned time period St. Petersburg has actually seen a reduction in its potable water demands. Pinellas County is similar. Areas that have been experiencing high growth such as Pasco County are increasing, the City of Tampa is relatively stable, Hillsborough County is another high growth area and is increasing. That is on the demand side in terms of the trends we are seeing. We have also been monitoring closely activities of member governments in terms of what they are doing to enforce the existing water shortage restrictions. We are hoping that we will see an increase in enforcement.

We recognize that Manatee County is a member of TBRPC so I want to talk briefly about the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. It is similar to Tampa Bay Water but it serves the four county area of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and De Soto. Their main source of water is the Peace River which is under similar conditions. Essentially they cannot remove any water from the river at this point in time. What they rely on is to take water during the rainy season and put it in an above ground reservoir which is currently at about 440 million gallons in storage. The large storage facility is Aquifer Storage and Recovery which has a 7.4 billion gallon capacity, which is now depleted. Not only have they taken all the surface water they treated, they are now pulling native groundwater. We had to issue an emergency authorization to do that. They are over-drafting that system. The reason they left water in their surface water reservoir before going there is to be able to blend in terms of the water quality restraints they have. They are relying on their Aquifer Storage & Recovery system. The City of Tampa went through its ASR earlier than they normally would have during the dry season. We are trying to do everything we can on the supply side, including interconnects so if there are local governments such as Clearwater that has its own sources, but also purchases water from Pinellas who purchases water from Tampa Bay Water and they are faced with their groundwater problems, we are asking those local sources to be developed to the maximum extent possible.

Last week our governing board continued with the restrictions from January 2007, we expanded them down to the Peace River Authority’s area and we also enhanced those
restrictions. The meat of the restrictions is to limit lawn watering to once a week, certain hours of the day. One of the most difficult things we had was regarding new lawns and new landscaping and how to regulate the irrigation of that. We modified those restrictions several months ago at the request of the industry. Maximum of 30 days exemption from the one day per week. For plant material - 60 days.

There was a proposal to move to the next phase of restrictions. When we start to get to that next phase we are cutting into people’s livelihoods so we take that into consideration very carefully. We chose not to do that. We chose to stay on the current restrictions but focus on what local governments might be able to do. We recognize that there are still people who are over watering, watering on days they aren’t supposed to, and we want to focus on those people who continue to not contribute to the solution. Specifically, single family residential users. We think there are opportunities for utilities to adjust their pressures downward and still meet all the standards they have to meet. We are asking local governments to look at rate structures, specifically a drought surcharge. We know rates are an affective tool at causing conservation. Not only does it send the right price signal but if you have an associated news media campaign with that it can really stimulate conservation by the users.

There are reclaimed water systems that run right by people’s lots who have not taken advantage of that source. We are encouraging people to get on reclaimed water and get off potable water for lawn irrigation. We want all the stakeholders to come together and contribute to solutions to this problem and have asked Tampa Bay Water to hold a summit. The Peace River Authority already has one scheduled.

The WMD has a certain role in terms of trying to encourage conservation during this time period. We can’t do that without your assistance. We all need to lead by example. We are asking every local government within our region to contribute both staff resources, Council or Commission support as to the rate structures or overtime. People typically water their lawns in the evening or early morning hours.

**Questions & Comments:**

**Councilor Matthews:**

What kind of guidelines do you have for businesses with or without reclaimed water?

Mr. Owen:

If it is a lawn or landscape they are subject to the same watering restrictions as residential.

Councilor Matthews:

So at a business, watering everyday is breaking the rules?

Mr. Owen:

Yes, they certainly are. Unless it is reclaimed water. The WMD does not subject reclaimed water to these restrictions.

Councilor Matthews:

Pinellas County does restrict reclaimed water.

Mr. Owen:

I saw where the county itself has imposed that.

Commissioner Worthington:

I was wondering why there has been no great effort on homeowner associations who get after their residents because they want them to have green yards? Also, why haven’t we worked more with the lawn industry in creating alternatives to green grass, as in Florida native groundcover? Promote that and drought tolerant plants rather than ordinary green grass that we grow.

Mr. Owen:

Very good points. We actually do have an effort to reach out to
homeowners and property associations throughout our district and have developed a database. If others have information they would be welcomed to reach out and ask them to either amend their conveyance so that people don’t have to have St. Augustine lawns that require irrigation on a frequent basis. That is the biggest culprit - lawns. During these drought periods, ask them to waive any provisions they have for replanting, which requires more irrigation. We do not have the authority right now to enforce that. There is legislation being considered that would prohibit associations from having a conveyance that conflict with the Florida Friendly Landscaping Guidelines, one of which is efficient irrigation and reducing your supplemental irrigation needs. We work closely with the lawn industry and have a Green Industry Advisory Committee. We are always advocating from a variety of perspectives alternatives to your traditional St. Augustine lawns. We promote Florida Friendly.

The City of Gulfport is currently checking and replacing all the main water lines in the city and our sanitary sewer lines because we have had loss of water that could have been going towards reclaimed. We rely on the City of St. Petersburg for reclaimed water and it doesn’t come through out the city. When you talk about fees for people not having reclaimed water, you have to understand that there are some people who would really like to have it but it’s not available to them. Also, there comes a time every year that St. Petersburg runs out of reclaimed water.

All good points.

Mr. Owen:

Mr. Young:

I’ve been personally watching the water situation since 1978 and it has never been on a good trend. We just pray for a hurricane every 3 years. I think we should stop addressing it as a short term problem since it’s not. It is probably one of the biggest problems we have for the future and we don’t seem to be able to get there.

Mr. Owen:

I agree and we don’t get as much news coverage on the long-term programs that we do have. During a drought we have to reach out and touch residents, and people in the area to try and get them to conserve so there is a lot of emphasis on news media coverage as a tool to communicate. We do have long term programs. Not only the WMD at the regional level, but through local governments and Tampa Bay Water serving this area, or the Peace River Authority serving Manatee. Part of the issue is, to what extent do you want to pay for infrastructure to meet all your demands during drought conditions? We will continue to have droughts. There is a balance between long term water supply infrastructure and the tools we have to manage demands during drought conditions.

Commissioner Mariano:

Mr. Pressman brought up a great point at the meeting last month when we talked about the Howard Curran Plant dumping 69 MGD of reclaimed water into the bay. How can we get that water so we can actually reduce groundwater pumping?

Mr. Owen:

We’ve been advocating that for a decade or more. It’s a source of water to help meet the demand in this area. A variety of options have been looked at and pursued over the years and some of those just did not move forward for a variety of reasons. I know the City of Tampa is scheduled
to release a Reclaimed Water Master Water Plan in the near future and the WMD has been looking at new regional options, particularly how we might move some of that down to southern Hillsborough and potentially over to Polk County to meet industrial needs, as well as a new concept in this area where we could take reclaimed water along the coast, put it into the ground at the aquifer to raise the surface and pressure in the aquifer so more groundwater could be used. We are still in the research phase of this project. If it were to move forward it would require usage of reclaimed water. It is essential that a portion of that water going into Tampa Bay eventually needs to be reused.

Commissioner Mariano:
In Pasco County you just started a total rebate program this past year. One of the things we did is residential and we should incorporate businesses as well.

Mr. Owen:
We have funded not only residential but commercial, institutional, and industrial plumbing retrofit programs as well.

Councilman Nurse:
Let me talk about St. Augustine grass for a minute. Really, the bottom line is St. Augustine. I don’t understand why, when you look at our long-term trends, we don’t say we will give the industry 24 months to change over and after that you can’t buy St. Augustine grass anymore. We can’t get there otherwise. Local governments won’t say that and so we need help from SWFWMD to communicate that we just aren’t going to be able to afford to continue planting St. Augustine grass.

Mr. Owen:
I would agree with you in the context that lawns are the culprit of needing the most irrigation. St. Augustine isn’t the only one though. There are other forms of turf that really wouldn’t survive in Florida without supplemental irrigation during these dry times. Our board is subject to all the stakeholder’s involvement and it’s a very well organized industry that a lot of folks are employed within. We would advocate right plant, right place. There is still a role for turf. It provides a variety of benefits in the urban environment. What we want to do is to focus on minimizing the supplemental irrigation of it. That can be done both through the WMD, local governments, and state government.

Councilwoman Mulhern:
For the City of Tampa, one of the problems with the reclaimed water is that there isn’t enough of an economic incentive. I have been encouraging our water department to adjust the rates where you are paying a lot less. We need better incentives in Tampa on the local level. Another thing regarding the turf industry, it makes sense to me that their business plan should be to get into growing native plants. The cost to them to be implementing just turf and the cost of water to develop that just doesn’t make sense. We need to think on a state level for some incentives for the industry to diversify into native and less water intensive plants. We don’t want to put them out of business but we just want them to be smarter.

Vice Mayor Saenger:
Water is a need and it is something that we require all the time physically, I’m not talking about lawns. Tarpon Springs has a clay pipe system, which is basically clay pipes that fit together. When I heard the figures of how much water is lost through pipes it was staggering. When I’m
I'm thinking about infrastructure repair. Just as Mr. Connors from St. Petersburg was saying earlier, you are looking at solutions in a different way such as cost savings on infrastructure instead of reservoirs. Also, I know that industries are big consumers of water. I'm wondering if there are any programs in place to encourage cities to have recycling programs or provide the expertise to show them how to do that. Quite often industries, residents, and everyone pays a different rate structure. Some industries go through millions of gallons of water and it just goes into the sewer system. Why not show them how to reclaim that water so that they aren't the biggest consumers they are.

I agree very much.

Mr. Owen:

Vice Mayor Saenger:

Well what are we to do? We can all agree but at some point we need to start thinking about how these things are going to be implemented.

Using Pinellas County and the municipalities in the county as an example, back in the 1980s or early 1990s the basin board set forth a goal to retrofit every single family residence with efficient plumbing fixtures. They implemented that and moved on to multi-family. They partnered with the county and the local governments, and it was funded 50/50. They got to whatever success they felt they could get and moved on to the hotel/motel industry and the industrial/commercial. They have progressively gone through and looked at who is consuming water and what can be done to assist them into being as efficient as possible. I would say we are getting there in this area. Now it's what is the next step we can do? There are further opportunities for reclaimed water and for efficiency in potable water.

Mr. Owen:

Councilman Roff:

I was in Tallahassee last month for the League of Cities and one of the issues that came up was a bill where the DEP is asking for control of the reclaimed water system. The League of Cities was very concerned about this because everything they are proposing is going to drive up the cost of reclaimed water at a time we are trying to add to it and utilize it.

We are in the middle of that. I would say that we view reclaimed water as an opportunity to be reused and offset the need for potable water. We are pushing that primarily through a cooperative funding program and planning programs. There have been some proposals out there to approach that issue through regulatory tools. One of our sister districts proposed subjecting reclaimed water to lawn watering restrictions. Not just during the drought, but year round. That was very controversial and utilities stepped forward and said the reason they have a problem with that is that sometimes during the year there is a disposal issue. You can't interfere with that primary purpose of getting rid of the wastewater. Limiting users to twice a week could interfere with that. All five districts in the department stepped back and said we will not pursue that. Our research shows that somebody who receives reclaimed water who used to water with potable water is using three times as much reclaimed water because it's cheaper. If you could get them to be more efficient you could meet more people's needs for reclaimed water.

Power Point presentations can be found at www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm
7. **Council Members’ Comments**

Commissioner Worthington: I have been accepted to a leadership training seminar by the National League of Cities and Homeland Security in Washington DC. It will be on the basic missions of Homeland Security: prevention, protection, response, and recovery and will include natural disasters as well. Also, we had a citizen donate a class A motor home with a value of over $300,000 to our Fire Department. We are going to make it into an emergency communications bus and it will be available to other fire departments throughout the county.

Council Member Miller: Oldsmar Days take place on the weekend of March 27th. Thousands of people attend.

8. **Program Reports**

A. **Agency on Bay Management (ABM)** — Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen
   
   A summary of the February ABM committee meetings was distributed. The full Agency will meet on August 12th. On the agenda are several items of interest:

   - The Agency’s Legislative Review Committee’s recommendations on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s legislative list, as outlined the February summary, will be presented for full Agency consideration.
   - U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Thomas Boyles will present the recently updated West Central Florida Area Contingency Plan, which is used to define roles, responsibilities and procedures necessary to respond to a myriad of oil and hazardous substance releases.
   - Consultants for the Florida Department of Transportation will discuss the Howard Frankland Bridge rock groin project, which is currently in permitting.
   - Ms. Andrea Barber, Wildlife Legacy Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will present the Florida Seagrass Conservation Information System and Wildlife Legacy Program. The Legacy program includes an action plan for conserving all of the state’s wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.
   - Mr. Gregg Poulakis, Marine Research Associate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will describe the current level of knowledge about the federally endangered Smalltooth Sawfish and the research underway to improve it.

   All were invited to attend the meeting.

B. **Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)** — No Report

C. **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** — No Report

D. **Emergency Management** — No Report
E. Legislative Committee – Vice-Chair, Council Member Carlen Petersen
In your folder this morning we provided a number of documents which are:

- 2/11/09 version of Senate Bill 360.
- FRCA’s draft letter to Senator Don Gaetz and Senator Mike Bennett.
- Florida League of Cities Position Paper
- Florida Association of Counties Position Paper
- 1000 Friends of Florida letter to Senator Mike Bennett
- Fact Sheet about the DRI process
- FRCA Legislative Bill Report

Although DCA’s recommended $2.4 million, which is our current FY 09 funding level, the Governors budget included $1.4 million recurring appropriation for all eleven Regional Planning Councils. Our legislative team in Tallahassee and Chairman Bill Dodson and other Council members are working with key legislators to restore the current funding level. We are also working on establishing a recurring funding mechanism to provide a more stable funding in the future.

A few of the growth management bills that are being heard by various Senate Committees include:

- SB 360 (2/11/09 version) In general we would be supportive of the concepts which encourage more compact urban infill development and redevelopment, and economic development. The bill creates “dense urban land area” and is defined as a local government having an average of at least 1,000 people per square mile of land area. This allows for transportation concurrency exception areas (TCEAs) to be created for local governments that qualify as dense urban land areas. As indicated in the Florida League of Cities Position Paper, the League has concerns with:
  - Mandatory TCEAs
  - The bill mandates TCEAs but still requires cities to mitigate transportation impacts
  - Mandatory TCEAs for dense urban land areas as defined (works out to less than 2 persons per acre) and in all likelihood will encourage sprawl.
  - Exemption from DRI level projects would not address extra jurisdictional impacts and is not good public policy.

The Florida Association of Counties recommends that TCEAs should not be applied on city-wide or county-wide, in our region it would apply to Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. FAC acknowledges that one of the most important aspects of the DRI process is the intergovernmental coordination component, which allows adjacent local governments to comment on how a large scale development will impact their community.

The Bill extends dates relating to requirements for adopting amendments to the capital improvements element of a local comprehensive plan.
A few other provisions:

- Before designating concurrency exception areas, the local government shall provide for the mitigation of impacts to the Strategic Intermodel System including, if appropriate, access management, parallel reliever roads, transportation demand management and other measures.

- Local Comprehensive Plan may be adopted only once a year, unless the text amendment is directly related to and applies only to a Future Land Use Map Amendment.

- Extends dates relating to requirements for adopting amendments to the capital improvements element of a Local Comprehensive Plan. The Senate and DCA are working on a revised version of SB 360 but it had not been posted as of Friday.

SB 1360 - Provides for a large developer or a large landowner of scale development area of 500 cumulative acres or more may request that local government to create a transportation concurrency backlog area. It all requires that DCA and FDOT shall provide a joint by February 15, 2011 and submit to the Legislative Proposed Amendments incorporating the mobility fee methodology development from the study.

We recommend that you look through this draft bill as it contains a lot of requirements affecting local governments.

By now you are probably aware of SB630 stipulates that notwithstanding any law, ordinance or resolution to the contrary, a county or municipality may not impose or collect any impact fee for any purpose from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012.

The house of Representatives released a proposed committee bill (PCB) on growth management over the weekend. Among other things it will transfer the DCA Division of Housing and Community Development and the Division of Community Planning to the Department of State and the Division of Emergency Management to the Governors office.

- Increases Transportation Concurrency Exemptions
- Alternate State review will apply to counties with populations of over one million and cities over 100,000 if they have greater than 1,000 persons per square mile. Exceptions apply for situations like Coastal High Hazard Area and Annexations.
- Promotes the establishment of a state-wide uniform mobility fee (to replace transportation concurrency)
- Large area mixed use development (greater than 500 acres) are exempt from concurrency if they meet internal capture provisions.
- Extends all building permits and development orders statewide for two years if they were set to expire by October 1, 2010.

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) – No Report

G. Economic Development – No Report
H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) – No Report

9. Other Council Reports - None

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson
No Report.

11. Executive Director’s Report
Staff is working on a couple of workshops. In May we will host a Transit Oriented Development Workshop and once we have the agenda we will share that with you. In September we will hold a form-based planning workshop.

12. Chair’s Report
Councilor Bob Matthews was responsible this morning for providing St. Patrick’s Day cookies and the surprise gift basket. Commissioner Peters was the recipient of the gift basket.

Secretary/Treasurer Collins, Mayor Black, Ms. Todd, Mr. Kersteen, Ms. Krahm and Mr. Pumariaga attended the Florida Regional Councils meeting and then attended the National Association of Regional Councils conference. While in Washington DC we visited with Senators and Congressman from our districts. A lot of good information was provided.

The 17th Annual Future of the Region Awards luncheon and award presentations will take place on Friday, March 20th at 11:45 a.m. and we hope to see everyone there.

Next meeting, April 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 12:02 p.m.

[Signature]
William Dodson, Chair

[Signature]
Lori Denman, Recording Secretary