

Regional Transit Roundtable Recap
Friday, November 5, 2004
9:00 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Welcome

Mr. Ken Hoyt - TBRPC member and HARTline member

Mr. Hoyt welcomed the group to the roundtable and introduced those attendees that were new to the transit roundtables forum.

Discussion Topics

Florida High Speed Rail

The Florida High Speed Rail Authority will be meeting on Wednesday, November 10th in Orlando to discuss where the group will go from here considering the repeal of the constitutional amendment mandating high speed rail.

The Strategic Intermodal System

Mr. Jerry Comellas informed the group that the current draft SIS is out for review with a deadline for comments of November 30th. He also added that the public involvement process is set to begin in mid-December.

According to Mr. Comellas, FDOT does not anticipate five intermodal centers in the Tampa Bay area as had been shown on some maps. He stated that the feasibility study identified six locations for continued study.

Ms. Deborah Kynes asked Mr. Comellas if Bus Rapid Transit has been included in the SIS. Mr. Comellas responded that transit in general other than high speed rail is lacking within the current SIS. He stated that FDOT Districts 1 & 7 are studying this now by conducting a regional transit needs assessment that includes public involvement and should be complete within 24 months.

Mr. Ben Walker stated that approximately 62% of FDOT funding has been and will be going to the FIHS from 2000-2010 based on the required minimum of 50%. He continued by stating that by 2015 the level will be at 75% on SIS facilities and 25% on other facilities.

Cross Bay Marketing Program

Ms. Jill Cappadoro with HARTline discussed the progress and upcoming kick-off of a regional marketing campaign in the Tampa Bay region. The partnership between FDOT, HARTline, and PSTA also included some financial support from the Tampa Downtown Partnership and BACS. The major focus of the campaign is on the shared bus routes between HARTline and PSTA (100X, 200X, & 300X) and on workers that are traveling across the bay. The program has commitment from HARTline and PSTA of 5 buses each for regional advertisements and travel.

The ad campaign will include print ads, rack brochures, a radio commercial, sponsorship of traffic reports, as well as, large ads on the sides of the committed buses. The bus and radio advertisements are set to be rolled out this January.

New Premium Transit Ticket

Ms. Janet Recca with PSTA spoke about the new inter-agency bus pass that was introduced in October. The pass/farecard works on the PSTA and HARTline systems and is advertised throughout both. The transit agencies are promoting this new option with employers as an opportunity to subsidize employee transportation costs.

In emphasizing the importance of this endeavor, Mr. Hoyt shared some figures on the Tampa Bay region work trips that cross county lines. He stated that 10% of Hillsborough, 13% of Pinellas, 25% of Manatee, 32% of Hernando, and 45% of Pasco County work trips cross county lines. Mr. Hoyt shared that he felt this (cooperative effort) will set the stage for all of the region's agencies to work together on regional transit.

West Central Florida's Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Hugh Pascoe shared that the CCC approved the draft Regional Cost Affordable Plan at their September meeting. He showed an interest in presenting a comparison of the funded and unfunded needs as well as a status report at an upcoming meeting.

Some points Mr. Pascoe shared from the Regional Plan process included that during public input, Bus Rapid Transit was at the top of most businesses' lists and that currently High Speed Rail serves as the spine to the transit portion of the plan. The High Speed Rail and many other issues will be examined more at the December 10th meeting between the CCC and the Central Florida MPO Alliance.

Closing

Mr. Hoyt gave recognition to Ms. Sharon Dent, Executive Director of HARTline, for currently being the longest serving transit director in Florida. Ms. Dent will be leaving HARTline early next year.

No meeting date for the next Regional Transit Roundtable was set.

Topics suggested for discussion at future meetings include:

- West Central Florida's Chairs Coordinating Committee Regional Transportation Plan
- a. Status Report (what has been completed thus far)
- b. Funded versus Unfunded Transit Needs

List of Attendees

Beth Alden - Principal Planner, Hillsborough MPO
Christine Bruno - City of Tampa
Jill Cappadoro - HARTline
Jerry Comellas - FDOT
Sharon Dent - Executive Director, HARTline
Cassandra Ecker - Carter & Burgess
Bob Herrington - Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Ken Hoyt - HARTline Board and TBRPC member
Bob Kersteen - TBRPC Member
Joe Kubicki - City of St Petersburg
Deborah Kynes - Vice Mayor, City of Dunedin, Vice Chair, PSTA
Elba Lopez - FDOT
Greg Miller - Planner, TBRPC
Sandi Moody - Executive Director, BACS
Hugh Pascoe - Hernando County MPO
Janet Recca - PSTA
Mary Shavalier - HARTline
Carol Stricklin - City of Largo
Roger Sweeney - Executive Director. PSTA
Doug Uden - Pasco County MPO
Ben Walker - FDOT, District 1
Thelma Williams - Transportation Coordinator, PCPT
Avera Wynne - Planning Director, TBRPC