

**Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway  
Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG)  
Minutes**

**Regular Meeting at  
URS Corporation - Board Room  
7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway  
Tampa, Florida**

**November 21, 2003  
8:30 a.m.**

**Attending:**

Ned Baier, Hillsborough County  
Chris Cook, Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful  
The Honorable Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater Commissioner  
Jeannie Keene, Westshore Alliance  
Tim Kurtz, City of Clearwater  
Mike Palozzi, FDOT/GEC (PBS&J)  
Laurie Potier-Brown, PBS&J  
Ron Rotella, Westshore Alliance  
Brian Smith, Pinellas County Planning  
Jessica White, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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Comm. Bill Jonson, CCSH CAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The minutes of the October 3, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

Ms. Cook, Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful, announced the total volume of litter collected in Hillsborough County for the Great American Cleanup, if stacked in bags would reach the top of the Empire State Building almost 5 times.

**Old Business:**

▶ **Finalize the Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

Comm. Jonson stated the CAG subcommittee met and completed the final draft that was distributed for review. One of the objectives the group wanted to talk about is the trail connection on the LINKS project. Comm. Jonson introduced Mr. Ron Rotella, Executive Director, Westshore Alliance. Mr. Rotella stated the City of Tampa, in cooperation with the ELAPP program has purchased approx. 40+ acres of land at the end of Cypress St. right on the bay, which will be called Cypress Point Park. The City is in the process of developing the park with money from SWFWMD SWIM Program and from the City of Tampa. Mr. Rotella stated he suggested there be a trail along side the interstate system that ties the Westshore Business District into the park. He also suggested connecting the trail from the park to the Aviation Authority property north of the park, which could then connect to the Courtney Campbell Causeway. That would allow a link to the Westshore Business District, hotels, and the malls to the trail along the interstate to the park, then from park to the Courtney Campbell Causeway.

It was recommended that under Goal 6, a., iii, which discusses promoting connectivity of the Courtney Campbell system to the Hillsborough/Tampa Trail system, adding "going north and south" to the end of the sentence.

Mr. Rotella also suggested a short term goal of creating a safe pedestrian crossing from the hotels on one side of SR 60 to the restaurants on the other side.

Mr. Palozzi suggested identifying some of the “quick fixes” that can be accomplished on the Causeway and for the CAG to become advocates to see that these things are completed.

Mr. Baier suggested adding a project or strategy to develop a map that shows where the current needs are for pedestrian linkages. Adding, this could be a short term goal.

Mr. Singerman stated URS had an aerial of the entire Causeway, and we could identify each of the projects on the map. Mr. Palozzi stated that it is required to have a graphic showing the different strategies in the Corridor Management Plan, and the development of this map should be added into the Goals & Objectives.

Mr. Singerman suggested considering a pedestrian bridge over SR 60 that would also serve as the gateway to the Causeway.

Mr. Baier suggested there may be two strategies that need to be identified. The mapping project could be one strategy, and the analysis for the need of pedestrian crossing could be the other.

Comm. Jonson stated his goal for the meeting is to be able to say we have approval of the Goals, Objectives & Strategies (GOS) so they can be included in the final Corridor Management Plan.

Mr. Palozzi stated the rules for the Scenic Highway Program require the GOS be reviewed on a yearly basis and be updated appropriately. He also stated we have a draft Designation Document almost ready to go, with only a few holes remaining; 1) Goals, Objectives & Strategies; 2) the priority assignments of Short Term, Mid term, and Long Term for the GOS; and 3) the Corridor Story.

Comm. Jonson added a strategy to include in Goal #2 which reads; Partner with FDOT, Hillsborough and the Westshore Alliance to evaluate improving pedestrian crossing safety at Rocky Point, and recommend it to be considered a short-term priority.

Mr. Smith recommended having a check list and making assignments to the entities that will be responsible for completing specific projects.

Mr. Palozzi suggested we prioritize the short term, mid term, long term goals. Once the document is approved and we receive Designation, then the real work begins. The state expects the group to complete the project in the plan.

Regarding the mapping project Mr. Singerman suggested taking an 11X 17 map, that will fold out of the document, and show smaller windows of each of the strategies placed over the map.

Mr. Smith recommended refining Goal 6.a.2. by adding “trail development” before “connectivity of the Courtney Campbell.....”

At the recommendation of the SHAC, the CCSH CAG asked the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to provide comments on the GOS. Attached to these minutes are their recommendations. Shown below are the committee’s decisions regarding these recommendations:

- ▶ Introductory Paragraph - substitute “greenways” instead of “preserves” - accepted
- ▶ Goal 1, Strategy b.i - add “identify for future removal and eradication”
- ▶ Goal 1, Strategy c.i. - change “Least Tern population” to “bird populations of special concern”

- ▶ Goal 1, Strategy c.iii. - recommendation should be part of Work Plan
- ▶ Goal 1, Strategy c.iv. - recommendation should be part of Work Plan
- ▶ Goal 1, Strategy iv - recommendation should be part of Work Plan
- ▶ Goal 2. - this is outside of initial scope of Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway.
- ▶ Goal 4, Strategy iv - recommendation should be part of Work Plan
- ▶ Goal 4, Strategy c.ii. - instead of adding recommended verbiage to Strategy c.i., the group decided to delete examples in parentheses. The specific items will be part of the Work Plan.

Comm. Jonson asked for a motion to approve the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies as amended. Motion by Ms. Cook, second by Mr. Baier, approved unanimously.

▶ **Video**

The video was being mastered the day of the meeting, so we were not able to view it.

**New Business:**

▶ **Corridor Story**

Comm. Jonson noted the entry in the draft story asking to check the number of commuters that “traverse the causeway daily” is 50,000--according to the Pinellas County MPO staff. He asked the group if there were any additions or suggestions to add to the story, stating most of the input received so far had been editorial in nature. Chris Cook, KHCB, suggested the closing paragraph be longer.

▶ **Remaining Actions for the Corridor Management Plan**

Mr. Palozzi stated he should have a draft Corridor Management Plan for the group to review. Most of the text is ready, the challenge will be pulling the graphics together.

Mr. Palozzi asked that each of the local governments find out what they need to do with the document to allow them to implement the GOS when Designation is received. Do they need to take it to their Boards, does it need to go through a review process, etc.?

Mr. Smith suggested preparing an executive summary/fact sheet about the project so the information can be presented without having to have the large book available at every presentation.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., Friday, January 30, 2004  
 URS Corporation - 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
 7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway  
 Tampa, Florida

Meeting adjourned 10:20 a.m.