



**DRAFT**

**Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
URS Corporation, 7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL  
Friday, August 16, 2013 - 10:00 am**

**Attending:**

Andrew Blikken, Tampa Bay Bike Share  
Suzanne Cooper, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Pat DePlasco, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful  
Holly East, Hillsborough County  
Debra Evenson, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful  
Ken Hoyt, Hillsborough County Citizen  
Felicia Leonard, City of Clearwater  
Tony Mantegna, Tampa International Airport  
Lori Marable, Florida Department of Transportation District 7  
Mike Palozzi, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.  
Karla Price, City of Tampa  
Chris Weber, The Westshore Alliance

**Agenda:**

● **Greetings and introductions**

Mr. Hoyt, serving as Chair in the absence of Mr. Jonson and Ms. Saul-Sena, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves. Ms. Cooper volunteered to take the notes. Ms. Cooper passed around a CAC membership list with contact information for the members to review and update as appropriate.

● **Old Business:**

1. Mr. Hoyt asked for any corrections to the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. The motion was made by Ms. East, seconded by Ms. Price, and passed by all to approve the meeting summary with one small change. Mr. Hoyt suggested that, in the future, anyone who is slated to give an update or report please also submit it in writing so that the note-taker can incorporate it into the meeting minutes accurately.
2. Discussion of the Draft Annual Report on the Scenic Highway was delayed while Ms. Cooper worked on making copies for the meeting attendees. [See notes after Item #3 under New Business.]
3. a. Ms. East reported that the cost estimate provided by URS in the Amenities plan for the Hillsborough portion of the Trail was included in the draft budget. Hillsborough County's draft budget will be the subject of two public hearings. More items for consideration by the BOCC are coming forward and so the total \$1,253,175 placed in draft budget for the CC Trail amenities is not secure. She said it is very important to have someone from the CAC at the budget hearings to answer questions, and suggested Ron Rotella of the Westshore Alliance - if not a letter from him in particular. Ms. East will let the CAC know of the dates of the hearings.
  - b. Ms. Price confirmed that no amount had been identified in the City of Tampa's budget for the Trail.

c. Ms. Leonard reported that the City of Clearwater had not considered the Trail as a budget item yet - completion of the Pinellas portion of the Trail is too far off. She expects the City to provide the amenities and the maintenance through the City's Parks department. She believes the City will use the style of amenities, the spacing and such it has already approved within the City, as well as the vendors and pricing schedule that is already established. While all the items may not match what is provided on the Hillsborough County side, she hopes to use the same color scheme as Hillsborough does. She doesn't think Trail users will notice if different styles are used. Ms. Cooper asked if additional funding will be needed for more amenities than the City's standard, and Ms. Leonard said yes.

d. No one was present to speak on the Pinellas County budget.

e. Mr. Hoyt asked if there are other sources of funding that the CAC should pursue for the Trail. Mr. Palozzi said that there may be other state or federal grant opportunities for the Trail and that he will send suggestions. Ms. Marable said that she would check also. She also said that the management agreement must be executed, and that amenities will have to be approved by FDOT.

Mr. Weber said that the Westshore Alliance is scaling back the opening ceremony because of the County's proposed budget. They are not soliciting big sponsors. There are opportunities for funding later, possibly by the Tampa Bay Sports Commission which is hoping to have events on the Trail.

4. Ms. Marable said that Trail construction is proceeding essentially on schedule and should be completed by the end of October. She saw several people using the Trail this morning. She showed pictures of the various stages of construction - that will be attached to the annual report. Mr. Weber asked if the section between Bayport Drive and Rocky Point would be ready sooner. Ms. Marable could not guarantee any portion would be completed/granted full clearance before November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Marable also announced that FDOT is scheduling a tour of the Trail for CAC members only, now planned for Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. She expects it to be in the morning in order to avoid the afternoon heat and storms. Ms. Cooper will send out a note and ask for a response by late Tuesday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>. More details will be announced next week.

She also said that the letting of the construction contract for the Pinellas portion of the Trail will occur in September, but construction will probably not start until the first of 2014. Ms. Marable told Ms. Leonard that construction might interfere with Spring Break activities at the beach, and that it may be necessary to close the beach at the west end during construction.

5. Regarding the Trail website, Mr. Hoyt said that the website should be updated to reflect the latest info on the Trail as well as maps showing access to adjacent trails. He will be working with TBRPC on that. No one was present to report on the Student project. Ms. Marable requested that the Trail website be linked to the State Scenic Highway website. Ms. Cooper added that a list of all entities that should be linked to the Trail website is being prepared. Mr. Hoyt reported that a search of Wikipedia revealed no updates on the Scenic Highway in many years. Mr. Palozzi asked that any brochures or announcements on the Trail be sent to him for posting on the FDOT website.

- **New Business:**

4. Needing to leave the meeting, Ms. Leonard provided a brief report on development of the Trail logo. She said that the City of Tampa has drafted two excellent designs and that the City of Clearwater's graphic artist is working on one - to present at the next meeting. Ms. Price had not brought the City's designs to the meeting. It was agreed that the draft designs would be sent out in advance of the September meeting for all to review, with discussion to occur at the meeting. Mr. Weber said that the FDOT design would serve for the Opening announcements.

1. Ms. Price presented on the eastern Trail amenity elements, costs and alternatives. She had pictures of the variety of benches, shade structures, bicycle racks and fountains available, but selection will not necessarily be limited to those shown (presentation attached). Costs for the various items needed vary considerably. For example:

- Dugout-type shade structure - \$15,000-\$17,000      Arched shade structure - \$19,000-\$24,000
- Concrete benches - w/back - \$1,000-\$1,500; w/o back - \$550-\$900
- Trash Receptacles - concrete - \$550-\$700; galvanized metal - \$160
- Bike Rack - \$450      Water Fill Station - \$3,000      Drinking Fountain - \$2,400-\$3,000
- Emergency location markers - \$1,100

Ms. Price said that the URS amenities plan was a concept plan. The \$1.2 million budget includes design and site surveys - necessary to identify land grades, setbacks, and spacing so as to minimize obstructions to views. Colors being considered (which came out in the public meetings) include blues, greens and teals. Materials will be chosen for durability. Mr. Blikken offered the contact information for a local source of concrete benches. Ms. Price added that there will be no picnic tables or restrooms along the Trail - those are provided at Ben T. Davis Beach. The Water fountains or fill stations along the trail would be very expensive because there is no water line along the causeway now and there wouldn't be enough use to keep the water in the line fresh so a booster pump and a flushing mechanism would be needed. Each site will be ADA compliant. The City is already working with the County to incorporate emergency decals into the system, about 150 will be needed to cover the 5.5 miles of Trail on the Hillsborough County side, at a cost of \$1,200. Ms. Price said that she is working with County staff on how the \$1.2 million designated for the Trail amenities will be managed. Landscape enhancements are also part of the amenities' package and the City will focus on trees, to provide shade and minimize maintenance needs. Ms. Evenson volunteered that Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful has just received a \$17,000 grant for trees in Tampa Heights and may be able obtain similar grants for the Trail.

2. Mr. Weber did not have any news on the Trail's opening celebration. He said that the West-shore Alliance is scaling back the sponsorship drive in light of the County's budget proposal. He said that the event is planned for Ben T. Davis Beach where there is abundant parking, and the Tampa Bay Sports Commission is planning a fun run for opening day. He thinks there may just be a ribbon cutting. The hope is that dignitaries will ride bicycles on the Trail on that day. It was suggested that perhaps Tampa Bay Bike Share could provide bikes for the Mayor and other dignitaries to ride. He said that there is not a committee meeting set and there may be no need for a committee since the event is being scaled back.

Mr. Hoyt asked if, similar to the rededication ceremony, the descendants or acquaintances of Ben T. Davis or Courtney Campbell would be invited. Mr. Weber indicated that the idea had not been discussed, but the focus would be on dignitaries. He has no idea of the number of people who might attend. Several people mentioned that the bridge is a significant feature, and the Trail monument is also important and that it might be good to have a separate event at the monument or the bridge, perhaps before the event at Ben T. Davis Beach. Ms. East asked Mr. Weber to provide her with the opening event information and she will distribute it. Ms. Marable said that FDOT gets lots of calls asking when the Trail will be open. It was mentioned that during the site visit on August 27<sup>th</sup> areas for the opening event(s) could be considered.

3. Mr. Andrew Blikken, Program Director for Tampa Bay Ride Share, presented on the program which is underway in the City of Tampa and being considered by the cities of St. Petersburg and Gulfport. He also brought a bike for us to look at. He explained that there are two formulas for

public biking programs - smart dock/dumb bike and dumb dock/smart bike. His system uses the latter approach, which has much lower start-up expense. Under contract to the City of Tampa his company will provide 300 bicycles and three hubs - in downtown Tampa, Ybor City and Hyde Park Village, to be operational by November 2013. The system allows the bicycles to be parked securely anywhere, with incentives for the riders to return them to the hubs. A GPS and cellular device on each bicycle allows it to be found wherever it is, and the amount of time it is used by the renter to be recorded. Pricing includes a \$250 deposit, and a \$5/(2-hour) day, \$25/month or \$80/year, paid via credit card. The deposit and credit card requirements will provide a barrier to use by children and insure against loss. The bicycles come equipped with Kevlar tires, a drive shaft instead of a chain (resulting in much less maintenance), an adjustable seat, a basket on the front, stainless steel and anodized aluminum frame and components, a recharging dynamo, and a coating resistant to paint.

The objective is to sell advertising on the basket so that there is no taxpayer expense. Suggestions were to make the bicycles available in Westshore, on the Trail, or at hotels adjacent to the Trail. Ms. Price said that the City is seeking a concessionaire to provide food, water, and possibly watercraft and bicycles at Ben T. Davis Beach and if a concessionaire is found, this program would conflict. Everyone was very interested in the program and wished Mr. Blikken well.

**Old Business Item #2.** After Ms. Cooper provided copies of the draft Annual Report, Mr. Weber moved approval of the document. Ms. Price seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Ms. Marable suggested that the CAC send a letter to the State Office of Greenways and Trails with an update on the Scenic Trail and information on the opening event.

- **Any Other Business:**

Mr. Hoyt provided a copy of the article in the Tampa Bay Times' North of Tampa section concerning the Courtney Campbell Scenic Trail.

- **Public Comments:**

There were no members of the public present.

- **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at URS Corporation, 7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa. On the agenda for the next meeting: The logo for the Trail and the Trail's opening event.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.