

Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway  
Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC)  
**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting at  
URS Corporation  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
7650 West Courtney Campbell Causeway  
Tampa, FL

May 18, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

**Attending:**

Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Councilman Bill Jonson, Clearwater City Council  
Karla Price, City of Tampa Parks & Recreation  
Holly East, Commissioner Kevin Beckner's Office, Hillsborough County BOCC  
Lori Marable, Scenic Highway Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation  
Ron Gregory, Vice President, URS Corporation  
Chris Weber, Westshore Alliance  
Susan J. Miller, Bicycle/Pedestrian Planner, Pinellas County MPO  
Shirley Pearsall, URS Landscape Planner

Mr. Gregory called attention to page 4 where it states that an update is to be given at the Westshore Alliance Transportation Committee meeting on May 16. As it turns out, a statement was made the CAC was going to come back. Councilman Jonson indicated that is in the body of that paragraph, about the fourth line down where it states, Mr. Weber indicated that meeting has been overtaken by the Airport Master Plan and he asked if the CAC could come in July. Mr. Gregory confirmed that the group is on the agenda for July 18, 2012.

Ms. Marable questioned that the numbered agenda items jumped from number three on page 3 to number seven on page 4. Ms. Lunsford replied that it was most likely just a mistake and Councilman Jonson stated they would accept that as a correction.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2012 meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**1. Report on the discussion of the trail naming subject at the Pinellas MPO meeting of May 9, 2012.**

Councilman Jonson reported the CAC sent a copy of the letter to Don Skelton regarding the naming of the Trail and the CAC's recommendation. A copy was also sent to Commissioner Neil Brickfield who is the Commission representative on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. He brought this up at the end of the MPO meeting and the notes from that meeting indicate that it isn't going anywhere, that it's in limbo.

Ms. Marable offered an update from FDOT. She reported that at FDOT they have been trying to figure out who has naming rights, and if there is a procedure to follow. FDOT only gives the trails numbers, it's up to the local jurisdictions to name them. There are a couple of different things that can be done. A naming committee can be formed, but it has to be consistent all the way across, in other words, Pinellas can't name it one thing and Hillsborough another. So the naming committee would consist of representatives from each jurisdiction involved who would come up with an agreement as to what the name is going to be. Another thing that could be done is the CAC could write to the two counties and the two cities asking for support in what they want it to be named, and ask them to do a resolution. If there is a consensus from all four jurisdictions, then it can be named that.

The only time FDOT gets involved with naming a trail is when it is named after someone in particular, which then has to be a legislative decision. FDOT believes that if the CAC gets the resolution from the two counties and the two cities, and everybody agrees on it, then it can be presented to FDOT.

Another thing to be taken into consideration, that DOT does, is for the signing, and that is probably something that needs to be moved on, considering the fact that the first section is going to be opening in 2014. Mr. Gregory asked if there is a signing and striping element and Ms. Marable replied that, yes there is, and they will have to back and put the Scenic Highways back up if they have to be taken down for any reason. DOT is using the signage that was off the PD&E. Ms. Marable said at this point the only thing DOT has received is the letter from the CAC stating that they did not prefer the "Dolphin Trail," and that it was never the intention of the committee to name it anything other than the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Trail. Ms. East suggested they come to the Board of County Commissioners where it would be easy for that to be the motion. The CAC could come and make a request so they could vote on the name. Councilman Jonson stated he would yield to the wishes of the CAC members.

Ms. Lunsford remarked that if it's not going to be the Courtney Campbell Trail, then she thought the naming committee should come together because it would only be fair to have input from both counties and the two cities. Mr. Gregory added that, speaking for the Westshore Alliance, since he is a Board member and chairman of the Transportation Committee, that they would want to have a voice in that, also, because everything from Rocky Point in is the Westshore Alliance operating area. Ms. East asked about the second option where this committee would write the two counties and the two cities and ask for a resolution. If this committee is in agreement, generally speaking they have been working toward the Courtney Campbell Trail, is it not appropriate for the CAC to write four letters asking for resolutions naming it that.

Councilman Jonson suggested that since it started in Clearwater, let him go back to the Clearwater City Council and find out whether they want to sponsor something other than the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway, and then if they do, they need to establish this naming committee.

Ms. Marable added that she felt the state Scenic Highway would prefer it to be named the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Trail, or the Scenic Trail or something similar because of the regionality of it. Mr. Gregory agreed with Ms. East's suggestion to bring

the issue of naming the trail to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of discussion, and if the Commission doesn't want to do that, then a committee could be formed, and he added that the Westshore Alliance and its business partners would like to be part of that committee, if one is formed. Mr. Weber asked if the CAC takes the issue to the Board of County Commissioners, do they then take it upon themselves? Ms. East replied that the CAC coming before the Commission has been discussed with Commissioner Beckner and he wants that to happen, but that would be just a presentation, there wouldn't be a motion associated with it. When she does an agenda request to get the group time on the agenda, there is a place for them to put the motion. His motion could be, and the CAC could inform the Board in its presentation that they are here today and they will be going to the Tampa City Council and to the Pinellas County authorities to ask that the trail be named, and the rule is that the two counties and the two cities must come to a consensus or a naming committee will have to be formed. The CAC would be asking the Board of County Commissioners to name the trail the Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Trail.

After that, the CAC would go to the Tampa City Council to see if they will agree to that, and take it to the other two entities and if all four to agree then you have your consensus, and if you don't, then you have the naming committee. Ms. Marable added that then you have all four resolutions to bring to FDOT and state that all four agree that this should be the name of the trail. Mr. Weber indicated he thought it would be a good idea to know pretty much what these organizations were going to say before they visited them. Councilman Jonson said he would like to go to the Clearwater City Council and give this background information that they have a recommendation from the State Scenic Highway Program and the consensus of the CAC and ask them how strongly they feel about the Dolphin Trail, and if they do, the CAC will form a naming committee.

Mr. Gregory suggested adding this issue to the July 18 agenda for the Transportation Committee.

## **2. Update on CSSH/FDOT Construction Projects.**

Councilman Jonson said he placed this on the agenda because he had tried to find a list with the project's schedule, and there's one on the map that starts and stops.

Ms. Marable indicated the construction fact sheet and noted that anticipated completion is the summer of 2013. This is the section from the Pinellas County line to Rocky Point Drive that is being repaved, and included in this segment will be the repaving of the vehicle access road on the north side, and then for the sidewalk and multi-use trail they're going to build a five foot sidewalk on the north side, between Bay Harbor and Westin Resort driveway. Currently, there is no sidewalk or connection to bus stops here and they will be addressing these issues along with some drainage issues. Also, there will be the 12-foot multi-use trail on the south side of the road between the west end of Ben T. Davis and the Bayport Drive exit. Existing signals will be replaced with hurricane-resistant ones at the boat ramp entrance and the Ben T. Davis entrance and guardrails throughout the project will also be replaced.

Mr. Weber added that two projects are going to be happening simultaneously, the resurfacing and then the actual construction of the bridge, the trail, is also going to begin and both of them, hopefully, will be completed by late 2012. Then they start on the

Hillsborough/Pinellas path and that, supposedly, 2015/2016. Ms. Marable noted that some updates have occurred that have not yet been added to the map.

The one project on the west end has been moved to construction 2014, so all construction should be started by then, with completion expected by 2016. The Trail is four separate projects with a portion being built within the fifth project. The resurfacing being done is near the Ben T. Davis area, and then simultaneously will be the multi-use path with the bridge. These are two separate projects being done at the same time.

Then there is the other small section from Rocky Point that goes across to the tidal gate, and that contract is scheduled for letting in 2012. The other two, which is the Pinellas County side, are design in 2012 and then construction in 2014.

Councilman Jonson had a question regarding the design/build concept and the question comes from the Westshore Transportation Committee meeting on Wednesday where they were talking about the I-275 project. In the I-275 project they have a stakeholders committee, design review committee? Mr. Gregory said they are stakeholders and it is a standing committee that was formed under the original outcome of the Master Plan that rolled into the FDIS. The question is, would that committee be looking at the design/build along the way? Mr. Gregory replied that that committee is specifically for the Interstate with its focus being everything within the boundaries of the Interstate system so they have uniformity of amenities and design control to eliminate imbalances. Councilman Jonson asked if they have had a review of the final design, the final PD&E? Mr. Weber asked Ms. Price about the restrooms, and she replied that they are doing restrooms, believe it or not. Ms. Price said they are doing restrooms at the beach and are supposed to have 90 percent plans this month and they hope to go out to bid in June. With the trail that's going in, there are about 90 trees that were slated to be removed in the beach area, and the city decided it wanted to try to save some of those, so on Tuesday they are going to begin the relocation of approximately 40 cabbage palms. They're going to be moved back toward the water in order to get them out of the way of the trail. They will try to retain as many trees as they can.

Councilman Jonson recalled that there was a conflict with trees where the vehicles came off the main road and he asked if the other trees were going to be retained. Ms. Price replied that she is meeting with the contractor for the next phase on Monday to talk about that issue. She said they will talk about where they can be relocated and that the goal is to have it looking much like it does now when the project is complete, but it depends on how much room is left after the trail goes in. Ms. Marable added that a lot of the trail is going to be on the current access road.

Councilman Jonson indicated that Felicia Leonard documented a meeting that she had where there were several maintenance issues, i.e. on the concrete header curbs there is a concern that the edges of the asphalt are subject to some erosion and they were asking for a curb to be installed which would make edging along there easier, as well.

Councilman Jonson remarked that the last item on there indicated that the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Advisory Committee working on something to provide funding. We raised a concern, not that we had a funding application out. Ms. Marable recalled that back when they held the maintenance meeting, the only entity that didn't

make it was Hillsborough County. They haven't been able to make it to the meetings. The draft agreements have gone out for review, all the stakeholders have met and they've all agreed, in principle, to the costs shared. FDOT will stay responsible for the two structures, the two bridges.

### **3. Discussion of trail maintenance and amenities**

Ms. Marable presented a couple of the options they have been discussing. Their section at FDOT is government liaison which deals with the MPOs. There is District enhancement money, but it would have to be prioritized with other projects. Councilman Jonson clarified that the funding for the trail came from state enhancement, not District enhancement. Ms. Marable confirmed this and added that that's not to say there couldn't be more statewide enhancement funding for the trail and local governments requesting it. She went on to say another one is the Scenic Highway grants, and as she was looking through the ones for the last couple of years, she thought it would fall into that category. She suggested that they not wait until the grants come out and have to be input within two weeks. The committee could go ahead and get working on them and have it shelved and ready to go.

Councilman Jonson asked if the federal grants were going to continue to be available. Ms. Marable said she didn't know and they wouldn't know until it was decided, and it's the same with the program and whether or not they decide to continue it.

Mr. Gregory asked if they could use the template from the one submitted last time, and Ms. Marable replied that as far as she knew it is the same. It might have been tweaked a bit. She said she also planned to talk to A1A, because they are so large and many different entities run them, and ask them about some of the things they have done.

The suggestion was made that, before they do anything, the CAC have someone come in who has experience managing long trails. The question was asked if FDOT planned on having uniform amenities along the whole corridor, i.e. the same type of bike racks, the same type of shelters, etc. Ms. Marable replied that that was discussed when Ms. Leonard came in, because DOT did not want Pinellas to have one thing and Hillsborough another. Councilman Jonson was wondering about trying to put together an application, but he stated he didn't know what to put into a grant application as far as where to place the restrooms, how many benches would be used, how many water fountains, and so on. He envisioned that would be part of a whole design package for a trail.

Mr. Gregory stated what was needed is a conceptual master plan for the trail. He pointed out that the visitors center on the Pinellas side was torn down because it had become a "restroom" for visitors, so the water and sewer lines are probably still there and you could build the trail head amenities at the former chamber of commerce site over there. Since all of the utilities are already there, you could put a huge bike rack and seating area with restrooms and potable water right there, and use the signal at the Christian college and enhance it with a pedestrian crossing signal. Now you have your trail head, across from the trail which is actually on the south side. There's parking, you could turn that into a signature trail head, it's even landscaped already.

On the Tampa side there isn't any reason you can't piggyback off the utilities coming to Ben T. Davis Beach, they have water, sewer and power. He didn't think with a trail that short that they would need any more than those two anchors at each end, and now what they would be dealing with in between would be seating, bike racks and trash receptacles.

That could be put together in a matter of a couple of days. Ms. Marable thought that being able to reference back to that is going to help with both the state enhancement funds. A couple of others she didn't get a chance to mention were the Office of Greenways and Trails have grants, also there is the possibility of public/private partnerships. Mr. Gregory suggested taking this to each of the bike/pedestrian groups in both counties and then it could be vetted with some of the other organizations and then you would have the basis that it has actually been vetted with the public and the agencies. Now it could be used as a platform to seek grants. Councilman Jonson remarked that if they can get a master plan that would be something to put in the presentation. They could also take it to the Westshore Alliance meeting in July.

#### **4. Community Outreach**

Councilman Jonson mentioned that some of these have been discussed already. The Tampa Bay Times article in April was one of the actions that the CAC worked on at the last meeting, and thanks to Bob Clifford, that was accomplished. They have already talked about the Hillsborough County Commission meeting. Ms. East mentioned they are coming up on some times when there will not be council meetings during the summer. There are meeting-free periods, the RNC week, the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, so she was thinking someone should call her and reserve a date because there is kind of an unwritten rule that a commissioner does not put forward more than one issue per meeting. She referred to what the group had discussed previously, that being making appointments to visit the other commissioners which can be planned once there is a date selected. A date can be held and she can get a time certain and it can always be cancelled.

To clarify, Councilman Jonson asked if he would make appointments with each county commissioner and do a presentation jointly with the whole board? Ms. East replied that he would want to make some kind of contact with the other commissioners, whether it's writing a letter sending them packet of information. Another thing that could be done is hand out something to each one of them before the meeting so they have something to take back to their office to study. She felt step number one should be to determine a time certain on the agenda and a date and then work everything else back from that.

Councilman Jonson suggested they talk about what they would need that they don't have at present. They would need the amenities master plan. Mr. Gregory thought that would be the cornerstone of the presentation. Ms. East agreed that should be part of it because they are looking for funding, and you never know who's going to come up with a motion to give you money. She also suggested they should be clear regarding some of the numbers, and she indicated she thought this Power Point, as it exists, needs to have some money in it. Ms. East said what they generally do is have the group send them the Power Point and then they watch it in their office, and with permission, may do some light editing.

Mr. Gregory asked when do the grant applications go in? Ms. Marable thought it was January. Councilman Jonson said the other thing the CAC could ask for at that meeting would be the commission's support for a grant application or a resolution. Ms. East said that as the group is getting its presentation together, what they would probably want to do is bring them in to meet with Commissioner Beckner and strategize about what they want to ask for. She also suggested that when they come to commission meeting, it's a good idea for them to bring a group and for there to be more than one presenter so it shows the buy in of the DOT. It's good for them to see that there are different people playing in this. Mr. Gregory added that this is a very high agenda item for the Westshore Alliance because they see it as part of the amenities of moving the Westshore businesses into a cohesive mode.

Ms. Marable reminded everyone that the Annual Report is due on October 1, 2012 and it would be great to have all this done with so it can be included in that report.

Councilman Jonson reiterated that the CAC is on the Westshore Alliance Transportation Committee agenda for July.

Councilman Jonson indicated he had down "Next Steps" under Community Outreach, which was more the discussion of going out to the chambers. Ms. East remarked that once they have the presentation made it's easy to go to all of them, and they will work with the CAC to tweak it.

Councilman Jonson confirmed that the next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for Friday, June 15. Ms. Marable said she probably will not be able to attend on the 15<sup>th</sup>. She also stated they should begin working on the Annual Report, and she's still waiting to hear if it can be done online or if they will have to do as before and send it to them. Councilman Jonson suggested they take the month of July off and then return in August for the finalization of the Annual Report.

## **5. Other Business**

Councilman Jonson found an organization called Tampa Bay Watch and he contacted their director, Peter Clark, and he said they would be interested in coming and sharing an update with the CAC. They have done some work with Rocky Point, so it's something to consider for the June meeting.

Councilman Jonson added that CAC has a request from the architecture school at USF to work with the group. C. J. Reynolds, who attended the last meeting, suggested this. One of the group's outreach goals was to reach out to USF and the Sierra Club, and he's now seeking some guidance as to how to put all these pieces together and where they could use the USF School of Architecture to be of help.

Mr. Gregory said one thing the group is going to have to do is have someone from FDOT's landscape architecture staff gets involved with the definition issues so the CAC doesn't get off track with them. He indicated that URS is currently working with Trent Green at the Westshore Alliance and with the Regional Planning Council on the master plan development for the Alliance. Ms. Marable said she would also like to include someone from FDOT's design group. She told the group about a presentation she saw for a trail in Iowa that had a very unique design and she sent it to their design group

asking why can't they do something unique, and she said that Ron Chin got very excited and he has now told his design group that when they do something like this to start looking outside the box.

Mr. Gregory pointed out that Shirley Pearsall, URS's landscape planner, will be involved with amenities for the trail and not structural elements. Councilman Jonson asked if the group would like to take time to have either Tampa Bay Watch or the USF School of Architecture do a presentation at the June meeting? Mr. Gregory asked what they would be presenting on, as he wasn't exactly certain what Tampa Bay Watch is. Councilman Jonson explained that they are more on the water quality side.

Mr. Gregory asked Ms Marable if she would send him an updated copy of the scheduling map once that was completed so they can have it to use in creating the master plan. Councilman Jonson thought it would be a good addition to the website, as well.

Mr. Jonson said he would send Ron the file for the presentation given to the TBRPC.

**Next Meeting: Friday, June 15, 2012 in the URS conference room at 10:00 a.m.**