



## Courtney Campbell Causeway

### Minutes

Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee

August 17, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

AECOM 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, Florida

1. Attending
  - a. Alex Henry – FDOT Bike Pedestrian and Scenic Highway Coordinator at District 7
  - b. Susan Miller – Pinellas Forward Pinellas
  - c. Joan Rice – Pinellas County Public Works
  - d. Michael Maurino – Transportation Director at Westshore Alliance (replaced Chris Weber who retired)
  - e. Christina Arenas Environmental Manager for Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful
  - f. Jeff Coleman, Dana Shores Representative
  - g. Heather Young – TBRPC
  - h. Mike Palozzi – Atkins and Statewide Scenic Highways Coordinator
  - i. Greg Edwards – Patel College of Medicine Project Coordinator
  - j. Ron Gregory – VP AECOM and meeting host
  - k. Bill Jonson- Chair CCSHCAC
2. The minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2018 were approved with one correction that Jeff Coleman made the motion to send a letter to the Hillsborough County MPO requesting the sidewalk gap on the north side of the causeway at the tidal gate be completed.
3. Westshore Alliance – Outreach to residents and businesses along causeway
  - a. Mr. Maurino reported on meetings relating to completing pedestrian access on both sides of the causeway in the rocky point area. The big problem is on the north side of the causeway west of the stoplight.

- b. This is a project of the Westshore Development District utilizing district funding. They have retained Lochner Engineers to evaluate the property ownership and utilities conflicts.
  - c. Right now motorized wheelchairs have to use the causeway shoulder to navigate through the area.
  - d. Mr. Maurino reported the Lochner study may not be completed by the CAC October meeting, but would like a presentation to the CAC. **He will provide an update to the CAC October 19 meeting and a special meeting may be schedule for the CAC it needed.**
4. Clearwater Amenities Update
- a. Ms. Young reported that the Clearwater Parks Representatives were not available to attend the meeting, but did provide an email update on the trail amenities: “They have reached an agreement which has been approved with the County for cost sharing on the amenities. They believe they will have site selection nailed down with the contractor and they will start the permitting process and hopefully break ground by the end of the year. It will all depend on how quickly permitting occurs.
  - b. Joan Rice reported that Pinellas County met with Clearwater a couple months ago and reported that actual cost estimates are required and will be provided when the design is further along. We are willing to participate we just need cost estimates for the specific ask to the Board for money. There are potentially two locations on the south side and one at the trail head.
  - c. **Update expected in October.**
5. Pedestrian Overpass
- a. Design is in process and will have a report to make at the CAC October meeting.
  - b. Clearwater is working with the designer so that they may supplement the entrance look to the project.
6. Response to the CAC May 5, 2018 memo requesting a sidewalk link across the tidal gap.
- a. Alex Henry reported that funds were able to be moved around and so FDOT now has a solution programmed for design in 2021 and construction in 2022.
  - b. In the mean time they will provide wayfinding for a safe alternative.

- c. Mr. Gregory asked if the project would include extending the guard rail further to the west as fishermen will pull off and drive along the shoulder. He suggested using the photographs that were provided be used to illustrate the problem. Additionally, there is a need for enforcement of the no parking requirement.
7. Update on the Patel Medical College of Osteopathic Medicine by Mr. Greg Edwards:
- a. The Clearwater Christian College closed in 2015
  - b. The Medical college plan initially planned to use the existing structures, but later a new campus was designed to accommodate both a College of Medicine and a College of Health Sciences with 29 different study areas. The school will be a part of Nova Southeastern University. They currently have a medical school on the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami campus.
  - c. Demolition started in September 2017 and construction started in January 2018. The scheduled completion is for classes starting in Fall of 2019.
  - d. The buildings will have 325,000 sq. ft. and is expected to have a \$600 million economic impact to the area. The site is 27 acres in size. This is less than the old college as some environmental lands were sold to the City.
  - e. Initially there will be 150 medical students in each class initially. The students will spend the first two years on campus. The Health Sciences will likely have 1000 undergraduate students.
  - f. There will be a parking garage, but no resident housing at least initially.
  - g. There are plans to enhance the intersection of Demacus and the causeway but not finalized.
  - h. The group discussed the integration of the College transportation access with the connecting trail network. This could be used for off campus housing for staff or students.
8. As part of the Patel project the group recalled the Clearwater Environmental Mitigation project using property purchased from the Clearwater Christian College. **It was suggested that an update from the City of Clearwater be made at a future meeting.**
9. Report from Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful

- a. Christina Arenas reported that the last major clean-up the day after the Fourth of July picked up three tons of trash just from the Courtney Campbell causeway east of the Hillsborough County line. This included material from both the land and from the shoreline. The group attempts to pick up the trash before it enters the water. This was a partnership with the City of Tampa.
- b. KTBB does four major cleanups a year.
- c. September 15 is their next clean up of the Hillsborough River & Coastal Cleanup.
- d. The group is utilizing a smart phone app “Clean Swell” to track every kind of trash collected.
- e. Volunteers use waders and kayaks to access trash from the water. Grappling hooks are useful to reach trash.
- f. KTBB is applying for grants to plant mangroves as construction is completed.
- g. In the future it may be beneficial to promote education of visitors to the Causeway to haul out their trash rather than leaving it behind. CCSH CAC may be able to assist in working with local governments on this effort.
- h. **The group decided to invite Keep Pinellas Beautiful to a future CCSH CAC meeting.**

#### 10. Other Reports:

- a. Jeff Coleman reported his business has adopted a highway through the FDOT program from the area that KTBB stops back to the park.
- b. He also reported that the Dana Shore Homeowners group has completed the approval process for undergrounding overhead utility wires for 500 homes.
- c. Taylor Development is in the news where the old ala carte pavilion used to be
- d. The neighborhood is doing a golf tournament November 16 to raised \$20,000 for the Rocky Point City Golf Course.
- e. It was noted that the bay fill project at Rocky Point north was denied.
- f. The senior games organization is moving into the second floor of the old FDOT Construction office in Clearwater

#### 11. Next meeting

**12. October 19, 2018 at 10:00 am at the AECOM offices**

- 13. Main agenda item is to work on the 2019 Work plan which is due to FDOT in November**
- 14. Update on the Clearwater Trail amenities**
- 15. Rocky Point sidewalk access evaluation project**
- 16. Clearwater Chamber of Commerce update on the Trail head information center.**
- 17.**