

New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)
 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, July 13, 2016 8:00 a.m.
 USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Attendance

Vicki Ahrens	MOSI
Julie Bond	NNTA Co-Director, CUTR
Marie Bowen	USF Parking and Transportation Services
Gary Cloyd	Citizen
Barbara Donerly	USF Facilities Management
Chad Elwood	Enterprise CarShare
Christine Epps	CUTR
Lucy Gonzalez-Barr	Safe Routes to School
Sara Hendricks	NNTA Co-Director, CUTR
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Ed McKinney	Florida Department of Transportation
Lisa Montelione	City of Tampa
Francis Morgan	USF Office of Student Affairs
Wade Reynolds	Hillsborough MPO
Robin Rhinesmith	Florida Department of Transportation
Rebecca Rodgers	Hillsborough County Economic Development
Cyril Spiro	City Council Candidate
Charles White	Hillsborough County
Philip Winters	CUTR
Menna Yassin	Florida Department of Transportation
Dr. Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association
Rob Zimprich	UACDC

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am by the NNTA Co-Director, Sara Hendricks, who spoke about the purpose of the NNTA.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and second to approve minutes from the May 11, 2016 NNTA meeting. The board approved the meeting minutes as submitted.

Presentation: Tampa Hillsborough Greenways and Trails Plan Update

Wade Reynolds, Hillsborough MPO, staff to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Mr. Reynolds gave an update concerning the Tampa Hillsborough Greenways and trails plan including new funding. Mr. Reynolds detailed the existing trails and showed how additions to the trails will

connect existing trails to fill in the gaps. The study showed that the trails were disconnected. There is also a proposal of a bridge over Dale Mabry Highway to downtown. Mr. Reynolds also showed the Manatee County connections. Next steps are to identify priorities and funding.

Board members asked about plans for the USF area including traffic crossings. Mr. Reynolds indicated that it will probably not include an overbridge, but may include a beacon. Additional areas including the 50th Street bike lane will be studied. Another member asked if the south side of Fletcher Avenue right of way would need to be acquired to make improvements. Mr. Reynolds indicated that he would need to check with USF concerning the land rights for that area. Other questions concerning the widening of Fletcher Avenue may be directed to the County for further information.

Presentation: Tampa Bay Express Lanes (TBX) PD&E Study

Menna Yassin, P.E., PD&E Project Manager

Ms. Yassin provided information concerning the Tampa Bay Express Lanes (TBX) PD & E study. The traffic congestion in the region is shown to be the 7th most congested city of its size and is projected to continue to grow in size and congestion. This study looked at all possible solutions, including transit. The TBX would provide a choice of an additional lane along the Interstate in certain areas. This would be more reliable for express buses and school buses, which would use these toll lanes for free. An increase in express bus lanes is expected due to increased reliability.

The TBX would create a transit corridor between Interstate lanes. There would be 3 regular traffic lanes, 1 express lane and the middle area would be reserved for a transit corridor. Within Section 7, everything would be within the existing right of way with no additional ROW needed.

There would be dynamic tolling, the person would pay only the price posted when entering the system, the price wouldn't change for that person once they entered the system. Access points will be Pinellas, Westshore, Tampa airport area, Downtown Tampa, Seminole Heights, USF, the Selmon Connector, I-75 and Plant City. All access points for general use will remain the same and additional access ramps will be added for the TBX. During the construction, bus routes and frequency are likely to be increased. FDOT will pay for additional buses and HART can keep the buses when construction is complete.

A board member asked about the timing and location of the TBX construction so that it would not interfere with planned gateway improvements.

Another board member noted that residents who are in the area of construction have voiced their concern about the changes and want to have their voices heard. Ms. Yassin indicated that they hope to use this as an opportunity to reconnect the communities that were separated by previous construction and heal wounds. There is a local outreach office and library tours to reach the community as well as small group presentations are being offered. There is a community engagement meeting scheduled for August.

Some improvements include sound barriers, historic preservation, multimodal stations in future overpasses, lighting under the overpasses and areas to include walkways, art, pedestrian-friendly areas and parks.

A board member asked if carpoolers and vanpools would receive a discounted rate. Ms. Yassin indicated that this is not a HOV lane and studies in other areas showed that this did not encourage carpooling.

Another board member asked if freight trucks are allowed on the managed lanes. Ms. Yassin stated that they are not allowed on the managed lanes because of their slower speed, but they would have access to the general lanes, which should have more lanes free and less congestion.

Many board members stressed the need for many varied transportation options and were concerned that the Tampa Bay area was jumping right to managed lanes before trying other options. Ms. Yassin agreed that many transportation options are needed to manage the growing congestion projected and FDOT welcomes new ideas and strategies like carpools, employers encouraging telework, transit, etc.

Comments may be submitted online, as well as the availability to view documents, maps and find dates for open houses and public forums at tampabayexpress.com.

Announcements

Flyers were distributed to announce the Bike/Walk Tampa Bay Summer Summit to be held on July 21, 2016 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.