

**New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Friday, February 27, 2015 8 a.m.  
USF Center for Urban Transportation Research**

**Attendance**

		Charles White	Hillsborough County
Daniel Jurman	Community Foundation of Tampa Bay	Christina Caputo	TBARTA
Rick Lamphier	Busch Gardens	Phil Winters	CUTR
Chris Farkas	Hillsborough County Public Schools	Charles Stephenson	City of Temple Terrace
Vicki Ahrens	MOSI	Jason Jackman	Safe Routes to School
Lynda Crescentini	HART	Barbara Donerly	USF Facilities Planning and Construction
Marie Bowen	USF Parking and Transportation Services	Sara Hendricks	CUTR, NNTA Co- Director
Raymond Mensah	USF Parking and Transportation Services	Julie Bond	CUTR, NNTA Co- Director
Kebreab Ghebremichael	Patel College of Global Sustainability	Tameika Fraser	CUTR

**Welcome/Introductions**

Daniel Jurman, Chair of the NNTA, welcomed attendees and asked for round robin self-introductions of NNTA members and visitors.

**Approval of November Minutes**

The November 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

**Presentation, USF Parking and Transportation Services Survey**

**Phil Winters, Center for Urban Transportation Research**

Phil Winters gave a presentation on the results of the 2014 Parking and Transportation Survey, administered for the purpose of collecting travel behavior, awareness and preference data on behalf of USF Parking and Transportation Services (PATS), USF Facilities Planning and Construction, and the USF Office of Sustainability. Phil is the Program Director for the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program at CUTR. TDM includes commuting to work using transportation alternatives to driving alone, such as riding public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, telecommuting, and using flexible work scheduling to avoid rush hour traffic. This PATS Survey is conducted every other year. The survey collected data to measure changes in travel mode, and collect information to help improve transportation services at USF. CUTR also developed a dot density map showing the residential location of USF students, staff, and faculty to gauge commuting distances and where transportation services need to be provided. This was an online survey. The survey responses indicated that there are approximately 74 private vehicle trips taken to the USF Tampa Campus per 100 people (students, staff and faculty combined). This is more people driving to the campus than there were two years ago. While the average trip distance to campus is 15.8 miles, approximately 13 percent of USF commuters travel 30 miles or more. This suggests a large potential market for vanpools at USF. Survey respondents were

asked how they traveled to campus by day of the week. One response option was to not travel to campus. Distance learners are likely included in those who responded that they did not travel to campus on certain days. Overall, 82 percent of USF commuters drive alone. Approximately 23 percent of USF commuters either walked or bicycled to campus in the past month. Data suggest that commuters may find walking and bicycling to campus not easy. It is recommended that USF continue to improve connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on campus, actively promote the HART-UPASS. With a valid USF ID card, students ride HART for free and staff ride for 50 cents per trip. USF and NNTA should also partner with TBARTA to promote vanpools for USF commuters. There is a low awareness that Bull Runner services go to the University Mall and to the HART Transfer Center. It is recommended that PATS promote Bull Runner's access to off-campus destinations and activities. The survey also measured awareness about Zimride, Enterprise CarShare and the free Emergency Ride Home service offered by TBARTA. It is recommended that NNTA work with TBARTA to promote the Emergency Ride Home program and that PATS and NNTA should promote how to download USF's Bull Tracker and HART's OneBusAway real-time bus information app.

### **Update on Florida Bike Month**

**Julie Bond, NNTA Co-Director, Center for Urban Transportation Research**

Julie Bond gave an update on the many Florida Bike Month events, scheduled for the month of March, sponsored by Tampa BayCycle. NNTA members were invited to participate. Tampa BayCycle that was founded through NNTA, and the Tampa Downtown Partnership have compiled the many bicycling events scheduled. Jason Jackman is teaching a bike smart course at Beef O'Brady's. NNTA is hosting the Temple Terrace 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike Ride with the Mayor on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were 100 riders and good media coverage. At this year's Ride, the community is involved through many sponsorships. The Ride is just 3 miles along pleasant residential streets, with very short speeches by dignitaries, helmet giveaways, great T-shirts and refreshments. There are also plans to do a Temple Terrace Cyclovia in Temple Terrace on a Sunday in May. There will be a road closure along a segment of 56<sup>th</sup> Street to create a fun safe place to ride for all family members. Tampa BayCycle is helping with the advertising and recruiting of partners and participants.

### **Announcement about the Sustainable Cities Initiative**

Sara Hendricks announced that USF recently hosted visitors from Portland State University who developed a program called the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI). The SCI program matches graduate students with municipal, county and other stakeholders in the area that have particular sustainability issues, including those involving transportation. Students are paired with these stakeholders and then study, collect data, conduct analyses, and help develop recommendations. The Patel Center hosted initial information forums. During the second day of the PSU visit, meetings were held with community representatives, including those from the City of Temple Terrace. Charles Stephenson said that small cities like Temple Terrace have many great ideas but not the resources to get the work done, so the conversation will be continued. Kebreab Ghebremichael added that there is support from the Provost and the Dean of the Patel College of Global Sustainability to move forward with developing a SCI program at USF.

**Presentation: Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Widening**

**Thomas Capell, P.E., Project Manager, Hillsborough County Dept. of Public Works**

**Scott Passmore, P.E., KCI Technologies, Inc.**

Thomas Capell and Scott Passmore who serves as the consultant for Hillsborough County, provided an update on the road widening activities along Bruce B. Downs Blvd., known as Segment A, that started January 20<sup>th</sup>, between Bearss Avenue and Palm Springs Blvd. This is a County road but the City of Tampa owns and operates the traffic signals. They have started with clearing, grubbing, and work on drainage ponds. Mr. Capell explained that one of the reasons that it takes time to rebuild roadways is the extensive underground network of pipelines for utilities that must be put in place. Underground pipe can be 17 feet underground, and worker safety is a top priority. The 45 mph speed limit will be strictly enforced. Speeding fines will be doubled when workers are present. This project currently is estimated at \$36 million. There is a plan to keep traffic flowing during the construction, with an estimated project completion date of early 2017.

They showed illustrations of existing and future 8-lane roadway lane configurations. There will be a 10-foot multilane path that will extend from the Pasco County Line to Bearss Avenue. There will be a 5-foot sidewalk on the west side of Bruce B. Downs. Signals will be replaced with pole and mast arms that are stronger in high winds. There will be landscaping. Barrels will be set out the following week. There will be 3-foot paved shoulders on both sides of the highway, with general use lanes at 11 feet and outside lanes at 12 feet for trucks. There will be utility relocation during the construction. Temporary lanes will be constructed for traffic to allow construction on permanent pavement. Advanced Management System traffic controllers will tie in with the City of Tampa's fiber optic traffic signal network. There will also be traffic monitoring cameras to remotely control the signals to keep traffic moving optimally. There will be pedestrian signals. There are existing street lights now and the existing lighting levels will be maintained. TECO maintains the street lights. Increased lighting is still an option for the future. Over Cypress Creek, the northbound bridge, built in 1959, is being replaced and the southbound bridge is being widened. Segment A will be more daytime work than the nighttime work that was done on Segment B/C. The project has put an emphasis on community outreach to keep the community apprised of what is happening and what to expect. Hillsborough County posts updates on its website about the project. <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?NID=2414> Eric Rose is the field contact for the project. If there are any concerns, you can contact Mr. Rose at (941) 914-6144.

**Next Meeting**

It was initially hoped that the last Friday of the month would be a suitable time for scheduling the NNTA meetings; however, the last Friday of the month is the day of the TBARTA Board meeting. NNTA will search for an alternative date for the next meeting and issue an announcement for it.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 a.m.**