

**New North Transportation Alliance
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
DRAFT
Wednesday, January 11, 2012 8 a.m.**

Attendance

Shellie Davis	HealthAmerica Realty Group	Joseph Michalsky	USF Student Government
Jeffrey Seward	HART	Wit Ostrenko	MOSI
Jessica Farrar	Moffitt Cancer Center	Christian Wells	USF Office of Sustainability
Barbara Donerly	USF Facilities Planning and Construction	Charles White	Hillsborough County
Thomas Locke	University Mall	Sandi Moody	TBARTA
Bob Williams	Florida Hospital Tampa	Lorraine Duffy-Suarez	Hillsborough County School District
Brad Parrish	City of Temple Terrace		
Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association and THAN (Tampa Homeowners An Association of Neighborhoods)	Jason Jackman	CUTR Safe Routes to School
		Ned Baier	Jacobs
		Jennifer Iley	CUTR
		Edward Hillsman	CUTR
Carolyn Clark	for Suzanne Tate, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital	Phil Winters	CUTR
		Julie Bond	NNTA
		Sara Hendricks	NNTA

Welcome/Introductions

Barbara Donerly, Chair of the NNTA, welcomed attendees, introduced our guests, and asked for round robin self-introductions of NNTA members. NNTA welcomed new HART representative, Jeffrey Seward, CFO. Our guest, Shellie Davis of HealthAmerica Realty Group was also welcomed.

Approval of November Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved.

New North Area Presentation

Barbara Donerly, Assistant Director, USF Facilities Planning and Construction, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the USF Tampa Campus Master Plan Update. Master plan updates are required every 5 years by Florida Statute and by the Board of Governors. With support from USF’s Climate Commitment, this Update was put through a ‘filter of sustainability’. Barbara talked about numerous campus improvements, including the replacement of surface parking, shade tree planting, a commitment to energy consumption reduction and use of renewable fuels, preservation of the greenway, limiting traffic on Holly Drive near the dormitories, options for a future tram service, incorporation of TDM strategies in the Master Plan, the completion of sidewalk and bike lane networks, and reducing some 4-lane roads to 2 lanes and using remaining space for on-street parking and bike lanes. Barbara said that while there is currently no funding, planning is still conducted. Many recently completed projects were not anticipated 5 years ago and planning enables readiness to act when opportunities arise. Academic buildings are largely funded by the state and some large donors. Dormitories and parking structures are bonded against the revenues they generate. There was discussion about alternative ways to fund the tram,

including advertising and the Student Green Energy Fund. Barbara received accolades from NNTA members for her longstanding commitment to sustainable transportation, to USF and to NNTA.

Round Table Discussion NNTA Advisory Board

Brief summaries about transportation challenges were shared by six representatives of other large organizations in the New North area. Parking supply/pricing are challenges shared by most. Pursuing partnering opportunities among NNTA member organizations was suggested by discussion participants, to resolve parking and other shared issues.

Bob Williams, Florida Hospital Tampa, was recently acquired by Adventist Health System Southeast, bringing a new vision for the hospital. Access in and out of the hospital is a challenge due to having to cross congested multi-lane streets. Patterns of entry to the hospital are anticipated to change due to plans to relocate the emergency room on the hospital campus. Bob offered to provide a presentation in the future.

Wit Ostrenko, MOSI, described parking problems during special events. A development challenge is a major power line that runs through the property and consumes 20% of acreage. An opportunity is the existence of a rail line that is connectable in the future. MOSI seeks a more stable revenue stream as government funding has dried up. MOSI's busiest times are during the summer and during weekends. During weekdays, MOSI has some spare parking, which is the same time that local hospitals need more parking. Wit agreed to share more about MOSI's development plans in the future.

Jessica Farrar, Moffitt Cancer Center, described the hospital as lacking sufficient parking and having quickly outgrown its space on the USF Tampa campus. Administrative functions are being moved off campus and a shuttle is in operation to transport employees, vendors and contractors to and from a remote parking lot.

Carolyn Clark, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, said that the hospital serves over 1 million outpatient visits per year. She announced that a 1501-space parking garage just opened on the main hospital site. The hospital has over 90 active construction projects ongoing, including a polytrauma center. Traffic congestion thwarts access to the main campus, particularly along 131st Avenue. This may require resolution in coordination with County law enforcement. Many outpatient services have been moved off the main hospital campus. The VA operates a shuttle to off-site clinics.

Lorraine Duffy-Suarez: Hillsborough School District, described bussing students in areas of over capacity to schools with capacity to spare. Bussing requires travel along congested Bruce B. Downs Blvd. The School District has consolidated bus stops to make bussing more time efficient. Another issue is finding suitable locations to compound buses, ideally with a central fueling and maintenance facility.

Tom Locke, University Mall, described plans for redevelopment that will likely alter traffic flow to and from the Mall. Plans include addition of bike lanes to provide connections to bike lanes to USF, to the 22nd Street corridor and to the VA Hospital. The Mall would like to take over maintenance of University Square Road to provide better transportation facilities along that road.

Shellie Davis, HealthAmerica Realty Group attended the NNTA meeting for the first time. She recently moved from Charlotte, NC, where she was active in efforts to pass the ½ cent sales tax referendum that made mass transit improvements possible. HealthAmerica specializes in medical realty and she said they have 20,000 sq ft currently available. They own the University Professional Center on Fletcher Ave. at Magnolia. She described site access and pedestrian safety issues. She seeks to improve connectivity with the USF campus, perhaps through a public/private venture. Their property is also adjacent to Florida Hospital and she suggested there may be additional opportunities for connectivity.

Julie Bond, NNTA, reported that Zimride, a social network for ridematching for USF students, staff, and faculty, now has 2,600 enrollees. Zimride is now supported through USF Student Government, the USF Office of Sustainability, and USF Parking and Transportation Services. NNTA is seeking trusted partnerships with other universities to expand the network of potential ridematches beyond USF. Julie also said that USF continues to pay for the UPASS program that provides free HART bus rides for students and HART bus rides for staff for 25 cents per trip.

Jason Jackman, Safe Routes to School, said that the need for bicycling/walking safety education and encouragement is increasing, as evidenced by the increase in participating schools from 5 to 17 since 2008. Lorraine Duffy-Suarez said that with public school bus consolidation, now is the time to educate parents and students on how to walk/bicycle farther and safely.

Jeffrey Seward, HART, said that HART faces a 35% reduction in federal formula funding and a decrease in funds from ad valorem taxes, making it challenging to maintain current levels of bus service. He provided a handout listing all HART capital projects in the area.

Charles White, Hillsborough County, said there will be a BOCC workshop in late January to discuss funding options for the County Capital Improvements Program. The BOCC is weighing the pros and cons of waiving impact fees. Charles also said that the County is feeling the effects of HB 7207, which revised the proportionate share calculation for developments of regional impact and which no longer requires addressing existing roadway deficiencies. This has resulted in a decrease in proportionate share provision by developers in Hillsborough County from \$52 million to \$23 million and no funds to correct deficiencies.

Sandi Moody, TBARTA, said that RidePro, the regional ridematching system will be upgraded. TBARTA continues to offer the Emergency Ride Home program that provides four annual free emergency taxi rides to commuters who use alternative transportation. She said TBARTA has no plans to widen roads but is engaged in a premium transit solutions project, which seeks opportunities to incorporate transit infrastructure into existing road improvement projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012. Ideas for future meetings included asking staff of the Hillsborough MPO to provide an update on the results of focus groups regarding potential public favorability toward different funding sources for transportation. Another idea is to invite the new CUTR Director, Jason Bittner, formerly of the University of Wisconsin, to speak.