

New North Transportation Alliance

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 8:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mark Sharpe	Commissioner, Hillsborough County
Barbara Donerly	USF Facilities Planning and Construction, USF Sustainability Steering Committee
Tom Locke	University Mall and University Area Community Development Corporation
Bob Williams	University Community Hospital
Bob Lippian	James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
Sebrina Posey	James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association and THAN (Tampa Homeowners An Association of Neighborhoods)
Chas Marino	Citizens for West Meadows
Cathy Valdes	School District of Hillsborough County
Lorraine Duffy-Suarez	School District of Hillsborough County
Katina Kavouklis	Florida Department of Transportation
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Charles White	Hillsborough County
Christian Wells	USF Office of Sustainability
Trent Green	USF School of Architecture and Community Design
Rick Fallin	USF Parking and Transportation Services
Phil Winters	CUTR
Ed Hillsman	CUTR
Julie Bond	NNTA
Sara Hendricks	NNTA

Welcome

Barbara Donerly called the meeting to order, and asked everyone to provide a brief self-introduction. The January 2011 minutes had been previously sent electronically to Board members.

Updates about ongoing transportation activities and studies were provided by representatives of USF, the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. The USF Campus Master Plan Update may

be at a point of completion to provide a presentation about it in the fall. County staff will also provide a presentation in the future about tying the proposed multimodal district area, on the north side of the USF campus, within one of nine planning districts of the County. Alternative design scenarios of the County PD&E Study for the ultimate widening of Fletcher Avenue are soon to be released for public comment.

Presentations and Discussion

Presentation: Rick Fallin, USF Bull Runner Shuttle

Rick Fallin gave a presentation about the future expansion of the USF Bull Runner Transit service. First he presented information on the new GPS capability. Real time bus locations are available in several different formats, including smart phones and PC. An electronic map shows bus patrons where the buses are and their estimated arrival times, and patrons can text that information on their mobile phones. The GPS system eliminates uncertainty. Knowing exactly when the bus will arrive enables people to use their time more efficiently.

Tom Locke reported that University Mall is working on installing a monitor at the Bull Runner bus stop serving the University entrance to the Mall that can be remotely accessed and updated by USF so that students who are waiting for the bus can look up and see where it is. Then another monitor will be placed in the Mall WiFi Center so that the students can glance up and see when the buses are coming. Tom Locke reported a previous WUSF story about businesses with real time monitors enjoying benefits of patrons waiting and spending money in their establishments while it enabled people to use public transit. In inclement weather it makes a big difference whether people use public transportation because they know they can stay dry and comfortable.

USF negotiated terms of City of Tampa concurrency money to be used to expand Bull Runner Transit to the south. The route travels off campus from McKinley Drive to Bougainvillea to 50th Street. The route is bi-directional. HART also stops on 50th street. USF will share bus stops with HART.

The Bull Runner Transit fleet has used 100% bio-diesel since 2002 and this alternative fuel source is working well. The fuel blend ratio used to be 100% FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester) or B100. Now it is 20% FAME or B20. USF is consistently supplied with B20. PATS has recently made contact with someone in the Engineering Department who can build bio-diesel plants and potentially supply bio-diesel. Rick said that PATS will pursue this. PATS doubts that the campus generates enough waste oil to supply Bull Runner with all the fuel it needs. Tom Locke said that the University Mall would give Bull Runner its waste oil to support the campus.

There are many other businesses surrounding the campus that could potentially donate their used oil.

Presentation: Julie Bond, NNTA Accomplishments in 2010

Julie Bond gave the NNTA Board a presentation about the accomplishments of NNTA in 2010. This presentation is on the NNTA website. NNTA activities can be divided into five main categories: employer and community outreach; traffic congestion relief; events, marketing and promotion; transportation planning; and safety. There also was discussion about future plans to expand membership and reach of Zimride, WeCar and bicycle safety presentations. Ms. Bond also introduced Katina Kavouklis, the new FDOT representative.

Dialogue with Guest Speaker: Hillsborough Commissioner Mark Sharpe

Hillsborough Commissioner Mark Sharpe met with the NNTA Board. He said that he is impressed by the representativeness of NNTA and longevity of the NNTA organization.

Sharpe has been committed to economic development in bringing business to Hillsborough County and recognizes that a strong multimodal transportation system is necessary to attract business, including public transportation and walking and bicycling facilities. Commissioner Sharpe gave the example of striving to attract Moffitt's new medical research center.

Commissioner Sharpe said that it is important that NNTA continue the work of communicating the need for better public transportation, the role of government in providing transportation services, and that transportation facilities do not pay for themselves. Nina Mabileau suggested the City of Tampa closed circuit TV and Tom Locke proposed the Tampa Bay Community Network as two entities that are looking for programming. Stories about transportation and NNTA may be of interest to these stations.

Bob Williams gave examples of how other countries successfully link high speed rail with local transportation.

Lorraine Duffy-Suarez spoke about the diversity of an NNTA membership that works together to resolve issues and come up with a plan of action. NNTA has a product to offer. This model is not a government but a partnership. Commissioner Sharpe said, "The public right now does not trust government. We must figure out a new model. How long have we [the County] been trying to get all these people to the table and here you all are. This is fantastic what you've got. And maybe this goes out to other areas."

Commissioner Sharpe also suggested that NNTA invite Will Weatherford, future Speaker of the FL House, to see what NNTA is doing. Referring to the state legislature in 2012, he said, “The next group coming in--bring them here.”

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2011. Sara Hendricks is now preparing the agenda and asked the Board to provide her with issues of concern or ideas for speakers and topics of interest.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.