

**New North Transportation Alliance  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
DRAFT  
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 8 a.m.**

**Attendance**

Michael Coleman	RS&H	Carolyn Clark	for Suzanne Tate, James
Michael Flick	Hillsborough County Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering	Rick Fallin	A. Haley Veterans Hospital USF Parking and Transportation Services
Les Weakland	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit	Nina Mabileau Christian Wells	City of Tampa USF Office of Sustainability
Barbara Donerly	USF Facilities Planning and Construction	Charles White	Hillsborough County
Thomas Locke	University Mall	Sandi Moody	TBARTA
Lisa Montelione	City of Tampa, Council Member, District 7	Cathy Valdes	Hillsborough County School District
Bob Williams	Florida Hospital Tampa	Eric Weaver	USF Student
Brad Parrish	City of Temple Terrace	Jason Jackman	CUTR Safe Routes to School
Pete Hewitt	Bavarian Village	Jennifer Iley	CUTR
Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association and THAN (Tampa Homeowners An Association of Neighborhoods)	Edward Hillsman Julie Bond Sara Hendricks	CUTR NNTA NNTA

**Welcome/Introductions**

Barbara Donerly, Chair of the NNTA, welcomed attendees, introduced our guests, and asked for round robin self-introductions of NNTA members.

**Approval of November Minutes**

The September meeting minutes were approved.

**New North Area Presentations**

**Michael Coleman, RS&H, Fletcher Avenue Project Development & Environment Study Presentation**

Mr. Coleman gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported that this study is being funded by Hillsborough County, with FDOT serving as the coordinating agency. The study is being conducted to the standards of the Federal Highway Administration National Environmental Policy Act, in order to make the project eligible for federal funding. Project boundaries are from Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to I-75. Stakeholder involvement has included meetings with USF and Florida Hospital Tampa (formerly University Community Hospital). Primary issues identified from public involvement processes are bicycle/pedestrian access and safety and traffic congestion. Mr. Coleman summarized various cross section alternatives for widening Fletcher Avenue an additional lane in each direction to accommodate projected traffic up to design horizon year 2040. The project is divided into two segments. Segment 1 is Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Segment 2 is 46<sup>th</sup> Street to I-75. The possibility to build a pedestrian overpass or tunnel across Fletcher Avenue near Palm Drive was added to the study. NNTA

members had numerous questions about the pros and cons of the tunnel/overpass alternatives. The County has decided to propose as the preferred alternatives, the urban typical cross sections for both Segments 1 and 2 because they are less expensive, require acquisition of less right of way and are least disruptive to environment and property owners. Segment 1 would also include an alignment shift at the Bruce B. Downs Blvd. intersection, as initially proposed by Florida Hospital Tampa. This realignment would potentially save the County \$12 million in right of way costs. The preferred alternative will also include high occupancy vehicle/bus rapid transit lanes and the proposed overpass or tunnel at Palm Drive. A public hearing will be held sometime in the spring.

#### **Michael Flick, Hillsborough County, Fletcher Avenue “Complete Streets” Project Presentation**

Mr. Flick provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Complete Streets project to improve safety of pedestrians and bicyclists along Fletcher Avenue. This is a \$4 million project and the County still lacks \$1.5 million to complete it. Mr. Flick emphasized how walking along Fletcher raises one’s awareness of the many people in wheelchairs and with other problems who must walk along and cross Fletcher. This is a Local Agency Project with FDOT and a top priority of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan for Hillsborough County. The County anticipates 100% design completion by November 21. Project limits are from Nebraska Avenue to 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The project includes milling and resurfacing, new sidewalks, continuous bike lanes from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street westward, ADA compliant ramps, pedestrian refuge islands within raised medians, supplemental traffic control devices at six new midblock crossings, lighting enhancements, posted speed limit reductions, new signage and pavement restriping, and landscaping. The County is continuing to work with business owners to address issues regarding reduced property access due to raised medians. The County also recognizes the need for public education on how and where to cross Fletcher Avenue using the new signals. NNTA members discussed issues regarding use of guard rail in the median and along the sidewalk, landscaping coordination with the Innovation Zone Initiative, provision of easements by property owners, soil erosion, the spacing of bike lane markings, and some public dissatisfaction that the south side sidewalk near USF is not farther from traffic. There will be another public hearing with the Hillsborough MPO sometime after January.

#### **Les Weakland, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), MetroRapid N-S Update**

Mr. Weakland provided a PowerPoint update about the progress of the plans for the HART MetroRapid bus rapid transit service that will serve the Nebraska Avenue and Fletcher Avenue corridors. Mr. Weakland said that HART will coordinate with the County in providing sidewalk connections around the BRT stations. He provided details about the design and operational features of the service that is planned to open March 2013 at a total cost of \$31 million. These features include cross connections with existing local bus service routes, modular station design, transit signal priority, and convenient ticket vending. NNTA members asked questions about revenue generating opportunities with vendors and advertisers, smart phone apps for providing real time information, landscaping coordination with the City of Temple Terrace at 56<sup>th</sup> Street, and the need for park and ride lots and circulator service in the New North area to help people access the transit service.

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

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2012.