

New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)
 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - FINAL
 Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 8:00-9:30 a.m.
 USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Attendance

Julie Bond	NNTA/CUTR
Lynda Crescentini	HART
Sylvia Dixon	Citizen
Christine Epps	NNTA/CUTR
Chaddy Hanwisai	USF Facilities Management
Sara Hendricks	NNTA/CUTR
Rebecca Hessinger	Hillsborough County Economic Development
Arlinda Karuli	Enterprise Rideshare
Katina Kavouklis	Florida Department of Transportation
Karen Kress	Tampa Downtown Partnership
Dayna Lazarus	USF/CUTR
John Lyons	Hillsborough County Public Works
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Greg Pauley	City of Temple Terrace
Rich Piccininni	USF Facilities Planning
Fred Zerla	University Square Civic Association and THAN
Rob Zimprich	UACDC

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 a.m. by NNTA Co-Director, Sara Hendricks, who welcomed members and visitors.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion that was seconded to approve minutes from the NNTA meeting held on March 13, 2019.

East Fowler Avenue Land Use Study

Presenter: Pedro Parra, Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission

Mr. Parra gave a presentation about the East Fowler Avenue Land Use Study. The study and recommendations will be submitted to all three affected municipalities, including Tampa, Temple Terrace and Unincorporated Hillsborough County. This study was requested by Tampa Innovation Partnership (!p) and includes the East Fowler Ave. corridor between Nebraska Avenue near I-275 to just beyond I-75 to the Tampa Bypass Canal. The purpose of the study was to engage all three local governments and provide information about land use and development patterns and future land use options.

The study focused on a defined buffer of land along both the north and south sides of Fowler Avenue. The study looked at other mixed-used corridors around the country for comparison and found that this area is mainly suburban and would need to change to mixed-use with land parcels and roadway changes to be a mixed-use corridor. A database was also developed of land parcels and parking. Mr. Parra showed a map of the current land use and proposed land use and zoning.

Long range land use recommendations included:

1. Recognize the corridor as “special study areas” in each jurisdictions’ comprehensive plan
2. Assess urban level mixed use category updates for the area between I-275 and the USF - Research Park just past 30th Street
3. Initiate future land use designation changes along the corridor for consistency among the affected jurisdictions.

It was also noted that Fowler Avenue from Fletcher Avenue to Nebraska Avenue would support the highest intensity development.

The report is available online at http://www.planhillsborough.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/East_Fowler_Study_DRAFT.pdf

Board members asked that since Fowler Avenue was designed as a state road to move a large amount of regional traffic, how that would be impacted as Fowler transforms. Mr. Parra stated that there is a multimodal transit study currently being conducted as well as a regional transit study that would address those concerns. Since the recommendation is a mixed use component, we would expect a change in traffic use. Another member indicated that there are currently three studies on Fowler including addressing the balance of transportation capacity to serve both heavy freight and traffic generated by mixed-use land development.

One member indicated that HART discussed transit along Fowler at a meeting yesterday.

Mr. Parra also indicated that there is interest in the Westshore business area. He indicated that he would expect there would be a circulator service around the Fowler/USF area within a year.

Hillsborough County Project Updates

Presenter: John Lyons, Hillsborough County Public Works

Mr. Lyons discussed the different projects and their progress. The University Area Transportation project improvements will be aggregated so that several projects in the area will be completed instead of one at a time.

Mr. Lyons indicated that several projects have been completed including the improvements to Bruce B. Downs Blvd. and the pedestrian enhancements with crosswalks on 42nd Street.

Other upcoming projects include:

- Adding sidewalks and street lights to Bruce B. Downs north of Fletcher

- Increasing E. 131st Avenue from two lanes to three lanes
- Adding sidewalks and safety lighting for pedestrians and bicyclists on 56th street
- Adding a traffic signal at Bruce B. Downs and Richard Silver Way (near the VA hospital) and considering a complete street treatment in this area
- Add a traffic signal at Bruce B. Downs Blvd. and Campus Hill Dr.
- Add ADA accessibility compliance features and school crossings at Mort Elementary
- Future changes may include improving the bicycle and pedestrian corridor along Bearss Avenue and/or extend 46th Street all the way to Bruce B. Downs Blvd. near Skipper Rd.

Mr. Lyons indicated that now that the surtax bill was passed, safety and traffic congestion projects will get more funding.

One board member asked if the County has a list of all the sidewalk gaps. Mr. Lyons indicated that they do.

A member asked if they intend to extend 37th Street to Fletcher. Mr. Lyons replied no.

Another member stated that traffic volume and pedestrian and bicyclist safety on 46th and 42nd Streets are a concern. Mr. Lyons indicated that there will be a study and community engagement to determine any enhancements.

One member stated that the speed limit on 56th Street between Fowler Ave. and Fletcher Ave. was just reduced to 40 mph and crosswalks have been added and there should be an information campaign to share that the nature of that road has changed and motorists should slow down.

Find more details online at Hillsborough County Capital Improvement website
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/county-capital-improvement-projects>

Tampa Bay Commuter Assistance Program Regional Development Plan

Presenters: Sara Hendricks and Dayna Lazarus, CUTR

Ms. Hendricks gave a presentation about recent research on the development of a regional transportation demand management (TDM) plan for the Tampa Bay area. This research includes stakeholder outreach to transportation professionals of local and regional governments, TBARTA, and the transportation management organizations that serve the major activity centers. TDM strategies seek to optimize the functioning of the existing system by altering the travel choices made by travelers according to time of day, trip frequency, travel mode, and other strategies. Vanpooling is a cost effective but underutilized option for people who commute long distances.

Trends show a continued growth of population in the region and as the transportation infrastructure expands, cost of maintenance will expand too. Maximizing use of the existing system and save money.

However, implementing TDM policies and strategies rely more heavily upon ongoing public private partnerships. Combining TDM strategies, such as vanpooling with preferential parking incentives for vanpoolers, can improve mobility alternatives for commuters while reducing traffic congestion. Marketing mobility options is important to let commuters know their options.

Ms. Lazarus shared that she recently attended the Jacksonville Transportation, Planning & Development conference. The goal of the conference was to get stakeholder feedback on issues relating to safety, equity, technology, emergency evacuation, disaster response and sea level rise. Participants looked at natural assets that need protection. There was an interactive poll to determine the top concerns for transportation and mobility improvements. Top concerns included access to jobs, schools, and amenities. The least concern was congestion. By shifting focus away from just moving vehicles and more toward transporting passengers, then the transportation service capacity advantages of high occupancy vehicle travel (carpool, vanpool, bus, fixed rail) become more apparent.

Updates and Announcements

Upcoming: Bike Walk Tampa Bay Summit on June 21, 2019.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

The next NNTA meeting will be held Wednesday, September 11, 2019.