

New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)
 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, November 4, 2020
 USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Attendance by video conference or phone:

Raymond Mensah, Chairman	USF Parking & Transportation
Julie Bond	NNTA/CUTR
Marie Bowen	USF Parking & Transportation
Christopher Bowen	RD Management
Chris Cochran	HART
Lynda Crescentini	HART
Lorena Donaldson	HART
Christine Epps	NNTA/CUTR
Ray Gonzalez	USF
David Green	TBARTA
Sara Hendricks	NNTA/CUTR
Chaddy Hanwisai	USF Facilities Management
Rebecca Hessinger	Hillsborough County Economic Development
Arlinda Karuli	Enterprise Rideshare
Katina Kavouklis	Florida Dept of Transportation
Margaret Kubilins	FDOT
Kesha Lindo	TBARTA
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Julian Mackenzie	MOSI
Claire Oblinski	FDOT
Dan Rodriguez	HART
Shayna Rodriguez	James A. Haley VA Hospital
Amber Russo	FDOT
Kenneth Spitz	FDOT
Justin Willits	HART
Phil Winters	NNTA/CUTR
Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association
Rob Zimprich	UACDC

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Mensah, who welcomed members and visitors. The meeting was held by videoconference. Instruction was given on how to participate in the meeting. Each person introduced themselves. The video recording will be posted on the NNTA website.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion by Mr. Zimprich and seconded by Ms. Hanwisai to approve minutes from the NNTA meeting held on September 9, 2020. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Tampa Bay Next and I-275 SafeTRIP Update

**Presenters: Ms. Margaret Kubilins, P.E., SafeTRIP Program Engineer
Ms. Amber Russo, Florida Department of Transportation District Seven
Ms. Claire Oblinski, Florida Department of Transportation District Seven**

Ms. Kubilins stated her focus in the presentation would be to give an update on SafeTRIP and ask for feedback. Ms. Kubilins provided an overview of the Tampa Bay Next reconstruction, focusing specifically on the reconstruction of the I-275/ Westshore exchange.

In Fall 2020, FDOT was awarded \$1.4 billion in funding for the reconstruction project. The challenge will be to perform construction while moving traffic through the area. FDOT will break up the construction project into physical sections, but the program will address all the sections cohesively. FDOT is focused on safety and reliability for commuters and workers.

The SafeTRIP program goals are safety, mobility, reliability, mode-shift, innovation, engagement and real-time information. Shared objectives and strategies for each goal were displayed in the presentation.

Ms. Russo discussed lessons learned from large construction projects in other areas. Some successful strategies included park & ride, implementing discounted transit fares, and early business engagement.

Ms. Kubilins discussed the projected innovations using smart work zone strategies. While the construction will start in a few years, FDOT will begin practicing these technologies now.

Public engagement is starting now and a task force for feedback will be created. Robust public involvement and outreach and engagement with residents and commuters is critical.

Ms. Oblinski discussed the development of the task force and public engagement. Starting at the beginning of 2021, FDOT will focus on engaging with businesses and organizations to get feedback using focus groups and interviews.

FDOT will leverage existing TDM strategies, such as transit, micromobility and bicycle route choices as well as identify new TDM ideas, including new technology, employee work strategies and incentives.

One NNTA member asked if casual carpooling (slugging) or modern slugging, like the Colorado partnership with Waze carpool, would be a possible TDM strategy. The representatives from FDOT appreciated the idea and will look into it further.

One member noted that James A. Haley has many vanpools and has continued their use even during the pandemic, and there is the potential to grow the program further for people who have a long commute. VA employees are enthusiastic to start vanpooling again when they come back to work. Many are still

working from home.

The FDOT representatives indicated they want to set up goals to measure success as well as support ways to limit driving through use of TDM in Tampa Bay area. The schedule and next steps were shown in the presentation.

Sara Hendricks noted that NNTA would be pleased to participate on the task force.

University Area Multimodal Feasibility Study

Presenter: Kenneth Spitz, Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

Mr. Spitz shared an overview of the University Area Multimodal Feasibility Study and short-term safety improvements. He shared the three key corridor needs including safety, transit flexibility and intersection efficiency.

For safety, the needs include lighting, buffer for cyclists, and lower vehicle speeds.

Transit flexibility includes being mindful of possible upgrades in the future, light rail, re-development of the University Mall, and an increase in residents which will mean an increase in traffic.

Intersection efficiency is also required due to future mixed use and increased traffic in this area.

Mr. Spitz shared the short term (5 year), medium term (10 year) and long term (more than 10 years) timeframes for actions for the University Area projects. He indicated that aspects of the projects can be conducted concurrently during these three phases, including construction, planning and obtaining right of way access.

The short-term phase would be during fiscal year 2022-2024 and includes intersection changes, LPI (Leading Pedestrian Interval) signals, lights, crosswalks, reduced curb radii to slow turning cars, giving pedestrians time to cross, and a protected area while crossing.

The medium- and long-term phases include three conceptual designs:

1. Business Access and Transit Lane
2. Frontage Lane
3. Median Transitway

Mr. Spitz explained the three conceptual designs and showed examples.

Mr. Spitz also shared the concept from HART that includes an arterial BRT concept-median guideway.

A PD&E (Project Development & Environment) study is the next step on the schedule.

One NNTA member asked if HART would have the opportunity to review the 3 conceptual designs. Yes, HART has been apprised of the other 3 designs and HART will be notified when PD&E takes place.

Another member asked if the conceptual plans only include Fowler Ave. from Nebraska to Bruce B. Downs. Mr. Spitz indicated that the HART conceptual design included that area, but the other 3 designs include Fowler Ave from I-275 to I-75. The NNTA member noted that MOSI has an RFP out for development of the site and to take that into consideration.

Another NNTA member asked if transit lanes will be a different color for bus lanes. Mr. Spitz indicated they would. They are considering different types of paint treatment.

Another NNTA member asked if 11 feet was wide enough for a bus lane. Mr. Spitz indicated it could be 12-13 feet wide; it is a just concept for now.

Another NNTA member asked if autonomous vehicles would get priority in another lane. Mr. Spitz indicated that has not been determined.

Ms. Hendricks thanked FDOT for addressing the needs on Fowler Avenue, including speed management and pedestrian safety.

Open Discussion

Nina Mabileau, City of Tampa: A consultant is completing the design of Bruce B. Downs from Yukon Street to Fowler Ave. It will be multimodal for pedestrians and bicyclists, with a possible roundabout at Bougainvillea Avenue and 30th Street. The complete street project on 46th St. between Busch Blvd. and Fowler Avenue is being awarded to a contractor. That project will add bike facilities, fill sidewalk gaps, and add landscaping. The estimated cost is \$3.6 million.

Sara Hendricks announced that Mobility Week is from now until Friday, November 6, 2020 and focuses on helping commuters making smart transport choices. The Love To Ride challenge encourages more people to ride their bicycles, and continues until the end of November.

Julie Bond indicated that there is a Mobility Week webinar today where five employers across Florida will speak. Ms. Bond will send a link with more information.

Announcements

There were no further announcements from members.

Adjournment

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

The next NNTA meeting will be held January 13, 2021.