

New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)
 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
DRAFT
 Wednesday, March 10, 2021
 USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Attendance by video conference or phone:

Amir Anisi	City of Temple Terrace
Julie Bond	NNTA/Center for Urban Transportation Research
Kenneth Boden	Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
Marie Bowen	USF Parking & Transportation Services
Tia Boyd	Center for Urban Transportation Research
Alicia Burden	James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
Chris Cochran	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
Sarah Combs	University Area Community Development Corporation
Lynda Crescentini	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
Christine Epps	NNTA/Center for Urban Transportation Research
Ray Gonzalez	USF Facilities Management
Sara Hendricks	NNTA/Center for Urban Transportation Research
Chaddy Hanwisai	USF Facilities Management
Rebecca Hessinger	Hillsborough County Economic Development
Arlinda Karuli	Commute with Enterprise
Chris Leffert	Florida Department of Transportation
Kesha Lindo	Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Justin Willits	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
Phil Winters	NNTA/Center for Urban Transportation Research
Rob Zimprich	University Area Community Development Corporation

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Co-Director Sara Hendricks, 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 and second to approve minutes from the NNTA meeting held on January 13, 2021. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Presentation: Transportation Equity Toolkit

Presenter: Ms. Tia Boyd, Research Associate, Planning and Corridor Management, USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Ms. Boyd provided a description of the needs of the local area in terms of equity of transportation infrastructure and services. The Transportation Equity Toolkit includes resources and tools for decision-making to assess transportation needs of traditionally underserved communities.

Two tools were developed. The tools focus on people who have traditionally been underserved including people who are low income, elderly, disabled, minority, young, zero vehicle, or limited English. The needs assessment includes identifying community needs through a survey-based audit. The needs assessment is conducted by staff, community organizers and community members and includes 4 steps: develop a community profile, involve community, use audit tool, prioritize needs. Similar tools are the AARP walk audit and the bike or transit audit.

Also, an inventory map was developed with mobility needs including travel patterns and modes, current projects and services, and high crash areas. Targeted field studies were postponed last year because of COVID, but other studies and Google Earth were used to develop an inventory map.

Such an inventory map is helpful to get projects funded. In fact, sidewalks and cross walks now being built were supported by the information shared from an inventory map.

The project seeks to involve community, not just as a sounding board, but empower them to get involved.

Ms. Boyd described the audit tool criteria, including community characteristics, access to opportunity, environment, safety, active transportation, public transportation, investments and business. She described the steps of how to plan for its use and who is involved, for example, the auditor would go with a community member to review existing transit modes for first-hand knowledge.

Ms. Boyd described how these tools help project prioritization and consider how projects advance the needs of a community. The tools were developed for use by MPOs and local transportation agencies.

Ms. Boyd gave a description of how to use the tool to conduct the prioritization process. The tool uses a weighted and non-weighted system to show the level of impact to community members. She also described the tool's scoring system and how to input evaluation results into a scorecard that ranks projects.

At the end of Ms. Boyd's presentation, committee members were offered the opportunity to ask questions.

One member asked if this tool could be used by a community planning department. Ms. Boyd answered yes, and that the audit tool will be provided online. Scorecard will be provided as automated or an Excel-based spreadsheet tool that could be modified, along with instructions. Basic method and more advanced methods are described in the instructions.

One member asked if researchers discovered any particularly effective ways to engage the community in the USF area for the needs assessment. Ms. Boyd answered that due to COVID, they were not able to do field work. Previous projects indicated need for flexible times and daycare to enable community members to participate in meetings. It depends on the needs of the community. Sarah Combs added that some community engagement was conducted in "The Moat," where they asked the community

what kind of housing they wanted in the area. They also received feedback at the park, using large display boards and asked residents to vote by putting a sticker on the board. These efforts are time intensive.

Another member asked where most recent sidewalks were constructed. Sarah Combs answered that sidewalks are being added at 19th Street, 140th Street and by Uptown Sky to create connectivity to elementary schools and fill certain gaps in connectivity in sidewalks.

NNTA member round robin updates on activities and announcements

Chris Cochran, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), shared that HART was engaged in a grant that was awarded to study transit-oriented development (TOD) opportunities along an identified bus rapid transit service corridor from downtown Tampa, entering the New North service area from Nebraska Avenue, then running east along Fowler Avenue, then north on Bruce B. Downs Blvd. The service is envisioned to terminate at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and may go to AdventHealth Tampa and the University Area Community. The context and market assessments are finished with plan development and recommendations as next steps. Mr. Cochran provided the link <https://goharttod.org/> to share the information with members. He indicated that the goal is to finish by end of year. The briefing book is available online for the public.

Nina Mabileau, City of Tampa, shared the status of several projects by the City of Tampa. The 46th Street complete streets reconstruction is now underway. The 30th Street complete streets study is looking at changes to the design and will need to be reviewed due to budget constraints.

The City of Tampa Mobility and City Planning Departments have embarked upon the update of the transportation element of their comprehensive plan. This effort has been branded as MOVES that represents City guiding principles: **M**obility for all, **O**ppportunity, **V**ision, **E**quity, and public **S**afety. There will be one-hour Listen First virtual meetings that are opportunities for community members in the New North service area to provide feedback for strategic planning. These are for communities within the Tampa City limits. To RSVP, go to <https://www.tpamoves.org/listen-first-meetings>

- Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at noon for University Square, Terrace Park, and USF (City Area 7)
- Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:00 pm, Citywide, presented in Spanish
- Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:00 pm for the New Tampa area (City Area 8)

October 1 is the start of the budget cycle and without the money from the surtax, the budget will need to be revised.

TECO is installing LED lights, but got a bad batch of lights. If anyone observes the light is blue or purple, please report it to TECO for replacement.

Rebecca Hessinger, Tampa Innovation Alliance, noted that the strategic action plan for the innovation district is now going to high-level county administrators for funding. The Innovation Alliance is looking at other partner projects, especially at USF to be able to leverage existing projects like changes to Fowler Avenue by FDOT and Bus Rapid Transit by HART.

One member asked if the Innovation Alliance would consider incorporating commuter assistance benefits programs into their strategic plan. Ms. Hessinger indicated that they are looking community and commercial aspects of the redevelopment plan and there are opportunities to include commuter assistance benefits programs.

Ray Gonzalez, USF Facilities Management, announced that USF received the Silver Level Award from the national League of American Bicyclists, as a Bicycle Friendly University. USF also received its first electric bus that will join Bull Runner fleet. The Student Green Energy Fee funded 50% of the electric bus.

Marie Bowen, USF Parking & Transportation Services, announced that USF was recognized as a 2021 Best University for Commuters for offering commuter benefits such as Zipcar and providing the discounted HART UPass to students, staff, and faculty.

Julie Bond, Center for Urban Transportation Research, announced the Love to Ride Bicycle Campaign. The USF team is leading! The campaign continues throughout the month of March. There are over 1,400 participants and lots of encouragement and prizes. Love to Ride for March is at <https://www.lovetoride.net/tampabay>. Thereafter, we will continue to invite participants and plan for Bike Month in May, using the Love To Ride platform.

See the news feature at <https://www.fox13news.com/news/tampa-bay-bike-challenge-encourages-more-riders-with-friendly-competition-prizes>.

Ken Boden, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority, announced their plan for a Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) recognition event and will use this opportunity to invite Tampa businesses to be part of BWC. For more information, he may be reached at:

Ken Boden
Manager of Commuter Services for TBARTA
303-520-8450
kenneth.boden@tbarta.com

Mr. Boden also invited members to participate in a Telework Webinar at 11:00 AM Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UpRzMF5MQN6G-hlaOMZ1TA

Arlinda Karuli, Commute with Enterprise, highlighted their partnership with TBARTA for vanpooling. She indicated there was a pause in vanpooling during COVID, but there has not been that much of a change because many participants are federal/essential workers. They have seen growth in the program with a shift in focus more to private business and blue-collar manufacturing. She noted that vanpooling is a great tool to recruit employees. Commute with Enterprise offers a Complete Clean Starter Kit with each van. They have not had any COVID cases where they have had to suspend use of a van. TBARTA provides a \$400 subsidy for each vanpool.

TBARTA also offers the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH), up to 6 free taxi rides per year, valued at up to \$100 per ride. GRH provides assistance to get home for unexpected events at job or illness for those using vanpool, carpool, transit, or bicycle to commute to work. Participants record their trips on the Commute Tampa Bay app <https://www.tbarta.com/en/commute-tampa-bay/commute-tampa-bay/> to be eligible for discounts and the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) service. The app also can be used to request reimbursement for a guaranteed ride taken using a TNC or taxi to get home.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next NNTA meeting will be held May 12, 2021.