

Transportation Task Force

Chair, Ken Hagan
Hillsborough County Commissioner, Chair

Recap of Meeting on December 3, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
County Center

The following Transportation Task Force members were present:

Members

Ken Hagan, Chair
Robert Abberger
Ray Chiamonte
Frank M. Chillura
Randy Coen
Jill Collins
John G. Evon, III
John Fernandes*

Edward F. Giunta, II
Scott Jones
Rick Lott*
Dave Mechanik
Gwen Miller
Louis Miller
Dan Molloy
Ron Pierce

Steve Polzin
Jerome Ryans*
Thomas Scott*
Mark Sharpe
Phil Waller
*Not in attendance
**Late arrival

Welcome

Commissioner Ken Hagan called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone to Phase II of the Transportation Task Force. He thanked task force members for continuing to serve and hoped to build on the successes in Phase I. He recognized new task force member, Scott Jones of Newland Communities.

Commissioner Hagan briefly touched on the following Phase I accomplishments

- All the Task Force recommendations were approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
- Changes to the CIP required a public hearing. That was held on October 17 and list of project were approved.
- He thanked Commissioner Sharpe on a great job in supporting the recommendations at the Board meeting.

Commissioner Mark Sharpe congratulated Commissioner Hagan. He expressed his deep appreciation for all Commissioner Hagan had been able to accomplish with the Task Force.

Review and Approval of Recap

Commissioner Hagan requested that Task Force members review the recap of the June 25, 2007 meeting. Motion to approve by Commissioner Mark Sharpe, seconded by Jill Collins, and passed unanimously.

Phase I – Implementation Update

Mike Merrill, Debt Management Director, explained how the County is working to arrange financing. The County is financially ready to go.

- \$200 million bonds were issued at the end of October. The monies are currently in the hands of Hillsborough County.

Question and Answer session followed

- Phil Waller asked if the bond proceeds were for specific projects that have been identified? – The monies are flexible. The use of financing is driven by spending. There are \$600M available for needs.
- Bob Abberger asked how will debt market affect the bonds with rapidly rising rates? – Bonds were purchased at a prime time. They are currently earning a shade over 4%. Right now the market is extremely uncertain. That will continue for some time.
- Louis Miller commented that this is what the Aviation Authority is experiencing.

PFM Report

Lucia Garsys, Strategic Management Initiatives Officer, provided the following

- The BOCC authorized consultant, Public Financial Management, to program the management report. Highlights of the report include
 - Communicating across department lines is critical.
 - A Contracts Management Team will need to be in place.
 - The report's underlying theme addresses how we can look for different ways of doing business. Other options need to be looked at
 - Land acquisition
 - Permitting
 - Utility relocation
- Implementation is proceeding with two-prong path
 - Prudent and cautious way to hire someone to manage program for the county
 - Design plan to implement recommendations
- The hiring of the GEC process has begun. The scope meeting was well attended.
- We welcome your experience and input during this process.
- Bob Gordon talked more about the hiring of the GEC. They are hopeful to have top firms ranked in March. Negotiating the contract and back to the BOCC in May with selected firm.

Question and Answer session followed

- Phil Waller asked what the process is and what is/is not applicable? – The implementation plan is being developed.
- Bob Abberger expressed that he is a huge proponent of outsourcing and asked how staff is handling outsourcing management? – The Procurement Director teaches Procurement and is a key player in the process. The County's expectations need to be well articulated. The County is looking to Kansas City and South Carolina for lessons learned.

HART and Municipalities

- Inter-local agreements are being structured.
- Managing cash is a priority for Hillsborough County. Paying when invoices become due.
- HART is further along than other municipalities.

Question and Answer session followed

- Steve Polzin congratulated Commissioner Hagan and staff for moving things along in the process fairly quickly. This offers an opportunity to re-heighten awareness of this initiative.
- Lucia Garsys mentioned that the organization is poised itself to work across department lines – Procurement, Public Works, Real Estate, etc.
- Commissioner Hagan echoed the comments and expressed appreciation for staff.

Discussion of Scope for Phase II

- Commissioner Hagan hoped to be deliberate in recommendations not rushed or premature.
- Commissioner Hagan hoped to have representatives from FDOT/TBARTA at the next Task Force meeting.
- Lucia Garsys spoke about the document the Task Force prepared on the first meeting on January 29, 2007.
- Lucia led the Task Force in an exercise to organize initial goals and recommendations. *(Highlights of the discussion are attached.)*

Calendar

- The next meeting is scheduled for the second week in January (Monday, January 7, 2007.)
- Hope to have 2 or 3 presentations from representatives from FDOT/TBARTA, MPO, One Bus, etc.

Public Comment

- Pierre Mathurin spoke about mass transit and bus ridership.
- Vivian Bacca spoke about mass transit

A motion to include a representative from the Port at the next Task Force meeting was made by Commissioner Mark Sharpe, seconded by Bob Abberger, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hagan introduced David Armijo, HART Director. Mr. Armijo told the Task Force that ridership is up by 11% and that the area has so much possibility. Commissioner Hagan thanked David and Ed Crawford.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Staff and Support

Kristina Austin, Strategic Management Initiatives
Ned Baier, Planning and Growth Management
Juan Cabrera, Management and Budget
Lucia Garsys, Strategic Management Initiatives
Bob Gordon, Public Works
Ken Griffin, Assistant County Administrator
Sandra Pinol, Strategic Management Initiatives
Leigh Ann Pyron, Public Works
Rich Reidy, Aide to Commissioner Ken Hagan

Interested Parties

David Williams, MWH
Pierre Mathurin, Hillsborough Advocates for Improved Transit
Vivian Bacca, U-Can
Larry Halstead, Business Journal
Mary Shavaliere, HART
Juliane Iannarelli, AACSB International
Jean Darzback, City of Tampa
David Armijo, HART
Ed Crawford, HART
Rich Shopes, Tampa Tribune