

## Project Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting # 3 Meeting Notes

Attendees: **PAG Members**

Date: November 19, 2014  
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

1. Carole Hinkley, R2CTPO\*
2. Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
3. Steve Cooke, Daytona Beach Intl Airport
4. Carleen Flynn, LYNX\*
5. Rickey Mack, Votran\*
6. Jeff Hopper, Seminole County\*
7. Mike Cash, Sanford\*
8. Pat Northey, Volusia County\*
9. Jon Cheney, Volusia County\*
10. Elizabeth Matej, Daytona Beach\*
11. Blanche Hardy, DeLand\*
12. Chris Bowley, Deltona\*
13. Michael Wright, Lake Helen\*
14. Alison Stettner, Orange City\*
15. Joe Bitar, FDOT\*
16. Libertad Acosta-Anderson, FDOT\*
17. John Booker, FDOT

### Consultant Team

- Alan Danaher, Parsons Brinckerhoff\*
- Ralph Bove, Parsons Brinckerhoff\*
- Adriana Rodriguez, Parsons Brinckerhoff\*
- Ginger Corless, Tindale Oliver\*
- Anoch Whitfield, Tindale Oliver\*
- Jamie Snow, AECOM (Guest)\*

(\*) signifies attendance at Enhanced Transit Seminar

Place: FDOT D5  
Materials Office - Sailfish Room  
1650 North Kepler Road  
DeLand, FL 32724

Project No.: 173970A  
Re: Volusia Transit  
Connector Study  
Project Advisory  
Group Meeting # 3

Prepared by: Anoch P. Whitfield

**NOTE:** These meeting notes are Parsons Brinckerhoff's attempt at capturing the key discussion points, decisions, action/follow up items, and resolutions discussed at the meeting. If you would like to clarify or comment on any point, please notify Alan Danaher by phone (407-587-7835) or email ([danaher@pbworld.com](mailto:danaher@pbworld.com)) within 48 hours of this email distribution. ***If no comments are received within 48 hours, these meeting minutes will be assumed to serve as the official meeting record.***

## Meeting Materials Distributed

The following materials were distributed:

### Meeting handouts:

- Updated Binder covers/spines
- PowerPoint Presentation

## Meeting highlights

### Welcome

Joe Bitar opened the meeting by thanking the PAG members for their attendance. There were no introductions at this PAG meeting because introductions were made at the Enhanced Transit Seminar which preceded this PAG meeting. Joe provided a general overview of what would be covered in this PAG meeting and turned the meeting over to Alan Danaher and Ralph Bove.

## PowerPoint Presentation & Related Discussion

### 1. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING (slide 3)

- Status of FEC/Amtrak study – Libertad Acosta-Anderson read to the PAG an email she received from Jesse Blouin about the specifics of the study. At the request of several PAG members, Libertad will forward Jesse's email to the PAG for their information and record. This has been added to these notes as an action item (see Section 9).
- Information on reverse commute trips on SunRail to the DeBary Station – This has been done and will be presented to the PAG in this meeting (see Update on Travel Patterns discussion).
- Integration of Volusia County traffic data into the study model – This has been done and will be presented to the PAG in this meeting (as part of the Update on Travel Patterns discussion).
- Median width south of St. Johns River Bridge – This still needs to be checked. The study team will provide an update once this effort is completed and the information is available.

### 2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES (slides 4 – 5)

- Ralph Bove provided an overview of the public involvement activities completed to date and those that are upcoming, including:
  - Completed: kick-off meetings with each local government's elected body with the exception of Seminole County
  - Upcoming: In recognition of the holidays in December and to maximize opportunity to reach out to the general public, the study team will be hosting

public outreach events to spread the word about the study. The outreach events will be held at four farmers' markets within Volusia, specifically:

- Orange City Farmers' Market on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>
- DeBary Farmers' Market at Gateway Park on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Daytona Beach Flea & Farmers' Market on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>
- Volusia Farm Bureau Farmers' Market on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

The team provided PAG members with a copy of the public event flyer and asked them to share the December events on their respective community calendars and social media.

- Ongoing Activities: the study team is developing a study website to house and share information on the study and a newsletter to be distributed at the public events. The team will also meet as needed with a community liaison group, including representatives of the visually impaired population.
- There were no questions or discussion on the events.

### 3. UPDATE ON TRAVEL PATTERNS (slides 6 – 29)

- Alan Danaher introduced Jamie Snow, with AECOM, to present data on the updated travel patterns analysis (see slides 7 through 29 for details on analysis).
- There was a significant amount of discussion on the year 2010 data, particularly with regards to the existing person trips and person trip flow patterns (slides 12 and 13). PAG members questioned the validity and accuracy of the person trip data. Their concerns were relative to:
  - Sources of data – as the trips shown in the tables and graphics do not appear to accurately reflect existing conditions (e.g. trips to and from DeLand and DeBary)
  - Validity and calibration of data sources (best available data had not been shared to the local governments for validation)
  - Origins and destinations of trips (particularly in the tables and graphics presented in slides 12 through 19)
  - Regional demand for transit and number of transit stops
- Jamie clarified that the data are not origin and destination trips but rather are production and attraction trips and that the data used in the analysis which came from the 2010 Census were best available data from professionally acceptable sources, and have been cross checked with other surveys, including the American Community Survey.
- Alison Stettner commented that the PAG should discuss the calibration of the data at the TPO prior to their use as part of the study.
- Due to the significant concerns raised by the PAG, a Technical Working Group was created to review and discuss the data in detail. The intent is for the Sub-committee to reach agreement on the data to be used as part of the study. PAG members who volunteered to serve on the Technical Working Group were:
  1. Elizabeth Matej, Daytona Beach
  2. Jon Cheney, Volusia County
  3. Blanche Hardy, DeLand
  4. Lois Bollenback, R2CTPO
  5. Gary Huttman, MetroPlan Orlando
  6. Alison Stettner, Orange City
  7. Mike Cash, Sanford
  8. Bill Wharton, Seminole County (volunteered by Jeff Hopper)

- Recognizing the importance of resolving the data concerns, the PAG and Department agreed to cancel the December PAG meeting and to use that meeting date/time for a meeting of the Technical Working Group to review and “work out the details” of the 2010 travel pattern data and its validity.
- Other comments:
  - Slide 28: PAG noted that Votran’s Route 30 has been combined with Route 31 Express
  - Slide 29: Clarification was made that the trips shown are daily trips

#### **4. GROWTH ASSESSMENT (slides 30 – 37)**

- Jamie provided an overview of the growth assessments for 2010, 2035 and 2040 population and employment.
- A comment was made that the team should consider BEBR growth projections as well.
- There was also discussion regarding the accuracy of the 2010 and 2035 population and employment density maps (see slides 33 and 34) in that pockets of population and employment densities “disappeared” between the two time periods.
- The study team will re-evaluate the accuracy of the map sets.

#### **5. PURPOSE AND NEED (slides 38 – 43)**

- Ralph described the purpose of developing a Purpose and Need (P&N) statement, indicating that it forms the foundation for developing/evaluating alternatives, identifies the problems that the study is to address, and defines the causes with data (baseline data).
- The components of the P&N statement include consistency with adopted plans, transportation capacity, social demands, economic development, modal interrelationships, system continuity and safety (see slide 40).
- The P&N statement guides the goals and objectives of the study, which subsequently provides guidance/direction into the evaluation methodology (slide 41).
- In an effort to obtain the PAG’s input in the P&N statement, the team conducted a brief survey asking PAG members for their input on the top three issues/needs that should be considered during the study and the top three purposes for the study. The results of the survey are as follows:
  - Top 3 Issues/Needs: Systems linkage (31%), Capacity/transportation demand (22%), and Social demands/economic development (21%)
  - Top 3 Purposes of the study: Livability, Economic health, Alleviation of future congestion, and Improved mobility (all tying at 40% of the “votes” received through the survey)
- Detailed information on the survey results are on slides 42 and 43.

#### **6. DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (slides 44 – 50)**

- Ralph provided an overview of the FTA justification criteria for development of the study’s goals and objectives. Such criteria include how the objectives will address mobility improvements, cost-effectiveness, environmental benefits, land use, economic development, and congestion relief (slide 45).

- Below are highlights of the PAG's comments on the goals and objectives:
  - Goal 1: Add safety to Goal 1
    - Objectives:
      - Change all references regarding "transit" to speak to all the modes and to be more inclusive
      - Add "incident management, evacuation, and safety improvements" to objective 3
      - Add an objective relative to using existing systems and plans to leverage federal and state funding
  - Goal 2: Revise goal to include language relative to leveraging limited resources for the greatest public benefit
  - Goals 3 and 4: Add "cultural resources" to the goal and a fourth objective relative to the promotion of ecotourism and cultural resources
  - Goal 5: Consider coordination with the airports (for purposes of transit, mobility/connectivity, and economic competitiveness) and the interface of rail to the airport (including leveraging of resources)
- The Team asked the PAG to further review the goals and objectives subsequent to the meeting and to provide any further input via email.

## 7. ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (slides 51 – 55)

- Alan provided an overview of the mode alternatives that will be considered during the study (see slide 52).
- There was no discussion of the modes considered except that a suggestion was made to remove the automated people mover from the list of modes to be evaluated as it may not be applicable to the study area.
- No further discussion and comments

## 8. NEXT STEPS (slide 56 – 60)

- December public outreach events (four Farmers Markets: Orange City, DeBary, Daytona Beach, and Volusia Farm Bureau)
- First Technical Working Group meeting; December 17<sup>th</sup> at the FDOT District 5 Materials Office (Sailfish Room)
- Launch of project website
- Development of specific evaluation measures
- Initiate mode and corridor screening

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Technical Working Group Meeting #1**  
**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
FDOT District 5 Materials Office  
Sailfish Room  
1650 North Kepler Road, DeLand, FL 32724

## **PAG Meeting # 4:**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2015**, 1:30PM - 3:30 PM  
FDOT District 5 Materials Office  
Sailfish Room  
1650 North Kepler Road  
DeLand, FL 32724

## **9. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS**

1. Send Jesse Blouin email regarding FEC/Amtrak Status to PAG; *Responsible Party: Libertad Acosta-Anderson, FDOT, to PAG Members*
2. Cancel December PAG #4 and schedule Technical Working Group meeting for December 17<sup>th</sup>; *Responsible Party: Tindale Oliver (item completed)*
3. Continue working on getting information on the median width south of the St. Johns River Bridge. *Responsible party Parsons Brinckerhoff*

cc: Attendees  
Other Invitees Unable to Attend  
Parsons Brinckerhoff File #173970A