



South Tampa Bay Area Transportation Partnerships

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

8:30 a.m.

MPO Conference Room
7632 15th Street East
Sarasota, Florida 34243

SUMMARY

Call to Order

Neil Spirtas called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

The following were in attendance: Neil Spirtas (Manatee Chamber); David Sessions (Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc); Jim Paulmann (Wilson Miller); Larry Mau (Cardno TBE); Mike Guy, (STARTUPS); Bob Clifford (TBARTA); Harry Mendenhall (Manatee County Public Works); Tony Rodriguez (Manatee County Public Works); Michael Howe (Sarasota/Manatee MPO); Manon Lavoie (FDOT); Jeff Orenstein (Living Out East – Media); Jack Rynerson (Manatee Chamber Transportation Committee).

Neil Spirtas turned the gavel over to STARTUPS President, David Sessions

2. Approval of Meeting Summary November 18, 2009 (agenda attachment)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 18, 2009 Meeting Summary. Motion passed unanimously.

3. STARTUPS 2009 Annual Report (agenda attachment)

Mike Guy highlighted many of STARTUPS' 2009 accomplishments.

4. Election of Officers for 2010

The Executive Committee recommended the following slate of Officers

- President – David Sessions
- Vice President – Fred Derr
- Secretary – Jim Paulmann
- Treasurer/Manatee Chamber Member – Neil Spirtas
- Sarasota Chamber Member – Del Borgsdorf

A motion was made by Jim Paulmann and seconded by Neil Spirtas to elect the slate of Officers as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Presentation**

- Bob Clifford, TBARTA Executive Director gave an excellent overview of the current status of TBARTA, its master plan and how the high-speed rail project, SUN Rail, Sarasota's BRT extending into Manatee County all tie together.
- Bob Clifford also advised STARTUPS on what can be anticipated during the upcoming Legislative Session to secure continuing operating funds for TBARTA and what STARTUPS can do to support this funding. When we talk to members of the Legislature, we need to emphasize the need for continued funding of TBARTA.

Michael Howe advised that the Sarasota and Manatee County Administrators have put the merger of SCAT and MCAT on hold.

Discussion ensued regarding mobility fees and it was noted that there is uncertainty regarding a resolution this year.

Discussion ensued regarding Amendment 4 and TBARTA's position on this. Mr. Clifford stated that he feels that TBARTA's current work is the answer and is concerned that if Amendment 4 passes everything in Florida will come to a stand still.

6. **Discuss and Develop a List of Key Projects for STARTUPS to Support**

The group developed the following list projects that STARTUPS will support and push for funding through the possibility of round two of Federal stimulus funding and/or other funding sources.

- US41 from SR681 to Oscar Scherer State Park
- SR64 from Carlton Arms to I-75
- SR 681 at I-75 Interchange
- Fruitville Road west I-75
- Extension of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard
- River Road
- Prot Manatee Connector
- I-75 Interchanges

7. **5. State of STARTUPS Discussion**

- Current Financial Status:
At the current membership levels, if STARTUPS does not garner new members and the existing members do not renew, STARTUPS has enough operating revenues to continue in operation for about 1 ½ years.
- Proposed Changes:
 - Membership Dues Structure and Funding Levels:
Recommendation to change the membership levels from the current 3 year pledge - 6 level structure (\$25,000-Diamond; \$21,000-Platinum; \$15,000-Gold; \$7,500-Silver; \$3,000-Bronze; \$300-Associate) to a simplified 3 level annual membership structure with no pledge commitment required (\$3,000; \$1,500; \$500.) The purpose of this change is to encourage those founding "high level" donors who have not renewed membership to rejoin STARTUPS at one of the new levels and garner new members.
 - Synchronize the Billing and Invoicing Cycle:
The current billing cycle is based annually on the date that the member joined. The new billing cycle will be based upon either a fiscal year or calendar year. New member's dues will be prorated based on the date of joining so that all members are billed equally on the same billing cycle.
 - Accept the Manatee Chamber's Offer to Handle Billing.
Mike Guy currently monitors the billing cycle for members and prepares and mails member invoices. The Manatee Chamber currently provides in kind services (rather than paying annual dues) to STARTUPS. Among other things the Manatee Chamber

deposits member's payments into the checking account, balances and monitors the bank account balance and, pays all bills for STARTUPS (This also requires handling all federal income tax matters.) The Manatee Chamber also handles all matters associated with the submittal requirements for maintaining STARTUPS as a non-profit corporation.

In addition to the in kind services that the Manatee Chamber currently provides, it has offered to take over the responsibility of monitoring the billing for members and preparing and mailing member invoices.

A motion was made by Larry Mau and seconded by Neil Spirtas to accept the recommended changes. Motion passed unanimously.

8. FDOT Update

Manon Lavoie gave a brief update of the work program status.

9. Local Government/Agency Update

Harry Mendenhall introduced Tony Rodriguez who is slated to replace Harry upon his retirement. Harry also gave a brief update on activities in Manatee County

10. New Business – Next Meeting Date and Location

There was no new business to bring forward.

Next meeting date and location. The next meeting will be held in May 2010. Due to member conflicts, the actual date and location will be determined after polling the members.