



Tri-Rail Coastal Link Study (f/k/a SFECC Study) Project Steering Committee Meeting Summary

To: Project Record

FROM: Aviva Baer

DATE: July 9, 2013

REFERENCE: SFECC Corridor Management Oversight Consultant
FM #417031-3-32-01, Contract No. C8Z90

SUBJECT: Tri-Rail Coastal Link Study Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Meeting
FDOT District Four
Executive Conference Room
3400 W. Commercial Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Attendees

FDOT District Four	Amie Goddeau	amie.goddeau@dot.state.fl.us
FDOT District Four	Larry Merritt	larry.merritt@dot.state.fl.us
FDOT District Four	Gus Schmidt	gus.schmidt@dot.state.fl.us
Miami-Dade MPO	Wilson Fernandez (phone/online)	wilson@miamidade.gov
Miami-Dade MPO	Elizabeth Rockwell (phone/online)	erock@miamidade.gov
Miami-Dade MPO	Irma San Roman (phone/online)	irma@miamidade.gov
Broward MPO	James Cromar (phone/online)	cromarj@browardmpo.org
Broward MPO	Paul Flavien (phone/online)	flavienp@browardmpo.org
Broward MPO	Greg Stuart	stuartg@browardmpo.org
Palm Beach MPO	Angela Morlok	amorlok@palmbeachmpo.org
SFRTA	Bill Cross	crossw@sfrta.fl.org
SFRTA	Joe Quinty	quintyj@sfrta.fl.gov
SFRTA	Lynda Westin	westinl@sfrta.fl.gov
SFRPC	Jim Murley	jmurley@sfrpc.com
TCRPC	Kim DeLaney	kdelaney@tcrpc.org
Broward County Transit	John Ramos	jramos@broward.org
Broward County Transit	Jonathan Roberson (phone/online)	jroberson@broward.org
Palm Tran	Fred Stubbs	fstubbs@pbcgov.org

RS&H	Jaime Lopez	jaime.lopez@rsandh.com
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Clary Consulting	Gene Branagan	gbranagan@claryconsulting.com
Communikatz	Aviva Baer	abaer@communikatz.com
Communikatz	Ric Katz	rkatz@communikatz.com
Corradino Group	Howard Newman	hnewman@corradino.com
Ernst & Young	Nick Serianni	nickserianni@ey.com
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Hanson Inc.	Jeff Bowen	jbowen@hanson-inc.com
HDR Engineering	Joshua Salazar	joshua.salazar@hdrinc.com
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LAN	James Kanter	jmkanter@lan-inc.com
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Stantec	Ken Huntington	ken.huntington@stantec.com
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The Merchant Strategy	Laura South	laura@themerchantstrategy.com
URS Corporation	Julio Boucle	julio.boucle@urs.com
New College of Florida	Ryan Feller	ryan.feller12@ncf.edu

Action Items / Follow-up required:

- Provide Bill Cross with a bulleted list of the 25 station alternatives in the Station Planning Refinement Report.
- PSC meeting calendar to note revision date and MPO Board meetings when project update dates are determined. Mark Walbrun to produce material to show MPOs how building 100 feet of stub track at crossings to mark the place of a future third track has been done elsewhere when implementing safety measures / quiet zones at grade crossings. Recent example is the Seattle Sounder.
- Keep Quiet Zone issue on future PSC meeting agendas.

Amie Goddeau opened the meeting and asked for self-introductions. Regarding the Letter of Response (LOR) for the study's PD&E (NEPA) work, she said all four teams which responded were shortlisted and the orals will be August 19. The orals will not be open to the public, but if agency representatives want to attend they will need to sign conflict of interest forms.

She said that FDOT has been told that the All Aboard Florida (AAF) agreement (MOU) with FECR had been developed although discussions were very broad. She said attorneys for FDOT and Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) would meet at the end of the month.

Goddeau offered congratulations to Kim DeLaney on getting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all parties.

Dave Schmitt reported on the Operations Working Group. He said the MOU between AAF and the FEC Railway should be signed on Thursday, July 11.

Sunserea Dalton reported on the Stations Working Group. She said the focus was on the three AAF stations to assure co-location of TRCL stations. She said a concept was being developed to allow for co-location and the outstanding issue was the operations simulation. Dalton said TRCL is looking at the same station locations as in the AAF EA/FONSI.

Jaime Lopez reported on the Structures Working Group on behalf of Mike Melendez. Various meetings and teleconferences have been held with AAF and their consultant team. He said the team asked for existing bridge information from AAF and is exploring alternatives at New River crossing. Further evaluation of the bridges will depend on the new AAF / FECR schedule yet to be received. Goddeau said the revised scope for PD&E / NEPA will include the New River crossing as an Optional Service. She said right now AAF is doing outreach to the marine community, which has an active stakeholder group.

Mark Walbrun reported on the Vehicle Maintenance Facilities Working Group. He said they are getting ready to have a charrette with AAF to work out issues to potentially

accommodate the AAF service in the Hialeah Yard. Joe Quinty said SFRTA is working with AAF to learn their requirements.

Lopez reminded the group of FDOT's request for formal agency appointments to the subcommittees and the PSC. He said that FDOT has concurred with request to rotate PSC meeting venues amongst the three counties. The next meeting on 9/10 is scheduled for Miami-Dade County.

Lopez reviewed the PSC meeting calendar noting the recent changes to PI/O meetings requested by TCRPC and stating that all the meeting dates are posted on the project website as well. Delaney requested that RPC maintain the meeting calendar in PD.

Dalton gave the Technical Subcommittee Report. She said the Station Planning Refinement Report was redistributed and received concurrence from the Broward and Miami-Dade MPOs. Palm Beach County has not provided comments yet. She said a joint cover letter is being drafted by SFRTA and FDOT with the purpose of distributing the three station planning documents for review – Station Refinement Report, ULI (TOD) Workbook and the Station Market and Economic Analysis. She said Lantana is currently an infill station but may want its location to be evaluated in PD per recent meeting.

Bill Cross asked for a bulleted list of the 25 station alternatives in the Station Planning Refinement Report.

Wilson Fernandez asked if there were any guidelines for station spacing. Dalton said that is one of the evaluation criteria but there is no formal policy stating that if they are close, they can't be evaluated in PD. Fernandez said he would like station spacing to be standardized. He is concerned about expectations for future infill stations. Schmitt said spacing isn't tied to mode, but to purpose and need. He said this service would function as regional rail.

Dalton said the intent is to implement a typical commuter rail system without closely spaced stations. She said in PD there will be countywide station planning meetings. Cross said SFRTA already has a policy for infill stations to maintain speeds and headway times.

Fernandez asked if the 27 infill stations would move forward into PD. Goddeau said the thinking is there is no need to look at them now, but to inform the municipalities that they may be considered for stations sometime in the future. She said some infill stations are generally in cities where there are two possibilities for locations and the cities have already expressed their preferences.

Dalton said the Class of Action memo for the Environmental Assessment will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by FDOT. FDOT will coordinate with Region 4. She said the only station planning meetings now are at the request of a municipality until the PD phase starts.

Goddeau said infrastructure components will be discussed at future meetings with FECl to make sure they don't use areas for possible future TRCL stations.

Goddeau distributed the Quiet Zone handout and discussed next steps. She said FECl may need to put 100 feet of rail in place at crossings to mark the future third track. This would assure correct placement of signals at crossings and eliminate the need for them to be reinstalled at a later time. She said that would also eliminate the need to repave the street. Walbrun said he would produce something to show the MPOs how this had been done in Seattle (Sounder).

Goddeau said FDOT may not be able to pay for a third track/safety improvements so the cost may fall on the three MPOs. Greg Stuart asked if such a cost could be allocated over time so it doesn't need to be paid all up front.

DeLaney said grade crossings are the responsibility of local governments, but Goddeau said she thinks FECl may be required to upgrade them. She said these are issues that need to be addressed. Walbrun said normally when capacity is added the cost is borne by the railroad. Stuart asked if the consultants could look at the agreements with the municipalities and Goddeau said this occurs during the diagnostic review of the grade crossings. DeLaney said there is no clear-cut answer.

A discussion followed regarding funding sources. Stuart said the three MPOs need to look at available sources.

A question was raised regarding Environmental Justice (EJ). Jim Murley said it's in NEPA requirements and Dalton said an EJ analysis will be done in PD.

Fernandez asked the approximate cost for upgrading a crossing to Quiet Zone standards. Dalton said about \$450,000, but it could be less depending on what is already in place. Goddeau said the quiet zone (QZ) issue will continue to be put on future agendas as FDOT works with the MPOs and AAF to determine what is needed.

Gene Branagan gave the Finance Subcommittee Report. Goddeau said the team is intent on getting FECl to commit to some future joint development opportunities.

DeLaney gave the Outreach Subcommittee Report. She said joint letterhead for SFRTA and FDOT is being developed and suggested its use for the cover letter on the station report and the update to the municipalities regarding the project. A style guide will also be developed.

Regarding the website, Paul Flavien asked why there were two websites. DeLaney said FDOT will maintain the NEPA-compliant website during the PD phase because of federal NEPA requirements.. She said the SFRTA website can go beyond that and advocate more. She said a future model is the SunRail website, which now houses the documents developed during the project's NEPA phase.

Discussion ensued regarding the draft System Map produced by SFRTA. It will need to be reviewed as stations are inconsistent with other documents and the service plan is

not yet determined. Project maps will be prepared by the FDOT team during the PD phase to show the NEPA alternatives, as is typically done.

Dalton discussed the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Cost Update. Cross said SFRTA has concerns over the current operating plan. Dalton said the cost range was approved by the PSC based on the scenarios previously discussed and presented. Cross said the SFRTA board and chair don't want to run minimum service. Goddeau said this, too, will be worked out in PD as O&M cost is a driving factor in determining the operations plan .

Cross said he wanted to make sure the figures used were placeholders. DeLaney opined that there needs to be agreement before the project goes before the MPOs. Cross said the numbers need to be refined during PD because he has a problem with the current figures. Stuart said there may need to be some flexibility in the figures. Dalton said the issue is to build a model for O&M costs which can accommodate and estimate a number of build alternatives as the project is further developed.

Quinty said this is a good allocation model for moving forward into PD. Much effort and coordination with SFRTA has gone into developing it.

Dalton discussed the TIGER Grant application submitted by FDOT on June 3rd. The Northwood and IRIS NE Connections will be cleared environmentally as individual Cat Ex. Goddeau said FDOT is pursuing advance r/w acquisition for the Pompano connection for 2014 environmental clearance.

Lopez reviewed the preliminary PD schedule. He noted that October target date for MPO Board updates depends on receiving timely the new schedules from AAF/FECI for evaluation and updates to costs. Goddeau noted that FDOT will piggyback onto a CBT meeting with FTA Region 4 to confirm the TRCL EA class of action per the FTA teleconference last February.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.