

Board of County Commissioners

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Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator  
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Comptroller

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
315 Court Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Assembly Room  
Clearwater, Florida 33756  
www.pinellascounty.org

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Work Session

September 15, 2015

9:30 A.M.

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## AGENDA

1. Transportation Policies and Project Priorities Discussion and Next Steps

Order of items is subject to change. All times are approximate. Break may be taken.

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### *Citizen's Comments Will Follow Presentation(s)*

*Any person wishing to speak regarding an agenda topic must complete a comment card and give to the agenda staff at the staff table. The Chairman will call the speakers, one by one, to the podium to be heard. Each speaker may speak up to three minutes. Persons who have been authorized to represent a group of four or more individuals, who are present, should complete a comment card and may speak up to 10 minutes.*

9.15.15 #1

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:**  Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Transportation Policies and Project Priorities Discussion & Next Steps

**DISTRIBUTION:** Jake Stowers, Assistant County Administrator  
Pick Talley, Assistant County Administrator  
Gordon Beardslee, Planning Director  
Elizabeth Freeman, Long Range Planning Division Manager  
Scott Swearingen, Principal Planner  
Tom Washburn, Traffic Engineering Section Manager  
Ken Jacobs, Traffic Engineering Division Manager  
Brent Hall, Senior Department Administrative Manager with Engineering and Technical Support  
Jackie Trainer, Budget Manager, CIP, Office of Management and Budget  
Whit Blanton, Executive Director, Pinellas MPO/PPC

**DATE:** September 15, 2015

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In September of 2014, the Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) presented the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Pinellas County to the MPO Board for consideration. At that meeting, some concerns were expressed by the County Commissioners on the MPO Board that certain County road projects repeatedly did not rank well using the existing criteria for making funding decisions, and it was suggested that some overall review of the existing criteria might be necessary in order to better support future transportation needs.

Soon after, a County workgroup comprised of Planning, Public Works, and the Office of Management and Budget, with assistance from MPO staff, was convened to reassess and revise the criteria used to determine roadway priorities and transportation needs. In March of 2015, a revised set of roadway project ranking criteria and weights were presented to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) at a work session for review and approval. At that meeting, the Board endorsed the proposed ranking criteria and directed staff to apply them to the list of future roadway projects, which would "re-shuffle" the LRTP list of collector and arterial county road construction projects. Additionally, the Board asked staff to look at the existing Penny list to see what impact using the new criteria might have on any outstanding projects.

Memo to the Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Board of County Commissioners  
September 15, 2015

This information will be presented to the Board at the September 15 Work Session. Staff will also show the relationship of project priorities to the County's Strategic Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to re-prioritization of arterial and collector projects, staff will include a discussion on some next steps proposed for the County's transportation program, in recognition that the road network is largely built out. The primary transportation needs of the County are increasingly moving toward roadway *resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation* projects, also known as a 3R program. Staff will provide a description of the program along with examples of the types of projects that would typically occur under a 3R program. Staff will also introduce a couple of broad initiatives on the horizon that may influence future transportation project priorities, such as better integrating future land use and transportation policies and establishing guidelines and standards to implement complete streets projects.

*Attachment: BCC Work Session MS PowerPoint presentation*



# Doing Things!

**Transportation Planning and Project Priorities**

**Board of County Commissioners Workshop**

**September 15, 2015**





# Workshop Agenda

## § Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

- Comprehensive Plan
- Penny for Pinellas
- Current Conditions
- County Strategic Plan

## § Transportation Project Priorities

- Construction Projects
- Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (3R) Program
- Bridges

## § Transportation Policies to Direct Future Project Priorities

- An Integrated Approach to Planning
- Mobility Planning
- Initiatives in Progress and On the Horizon



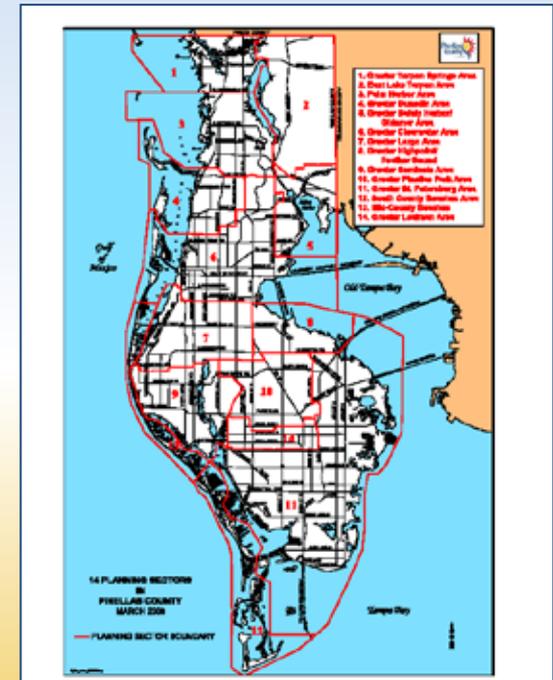
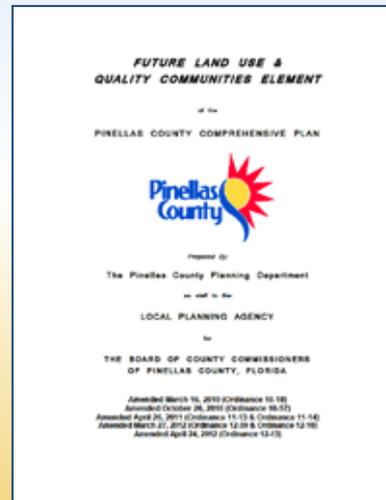
# Background

- § **December 2014** – Pinellas MPO approved 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
- § **October 2014 to February 2015** – County workgroup convened to re-assess road priorities and transportation needs
- § **March 2015** – BCC reviewed and approved ranking criteria for road construction projects
- § **Planning Ahead** – Emphasis on mobility, livability and a multimodal environment requires innovative plans and policies

# Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

## § Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan

- Existing policies throughout the Plan helped determine project priority ranking criteria and weights
  - Crash reduction, economic development, creating livable streets, accessibility to transit, network of trails, etc.





# Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

## § Penny For Pinellas

- Supports projects that implement policies and achieve objectives within the Comprehensive Plan
- Some project examples since 1990 include:
  - Keystone Road (roadway construction)
  - Bayside Bridge / CR 611
  - Belleair Causeway / Bridge
  - 49<sup>th</sup> Street at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (intersection improvements)
  - Bryan Dairy Road (roadway construction)
  - Gateway Express (construction to begin in 2016)
  - Belcher Road – *parallel relief* (roadway construction)
  - Gulf Boulevard (enhancements and beautification)
  - Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail

# Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

- § Limited opportunities for new road and widening projects
- § Limited resources – invest strategically
- § Mobility emphasis – connecting people and places (i.e. livability)





# Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

## § Pinellas County's Strategic Plan

- Goals and Strategies – *direct*

**Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare**

2.5 Enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety

**Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality**

4.4 Invest in infrastructure to meet current and future needs

4.5 Provide safe and effective transportation systems to support the efficient flow of motorists, commerce, and regional connectivity

**Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers**

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources



# Influences on Transportation Project Priorities

## § Pinellas County's Strategic Plan

- Goals and Strategies – *indirect*

### Practice Superior Environmental Stewardship

- 3.3 Protect and improve the quality of our water, air, and other natural resources

### Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

- 4.3 Catalyze redevelopment through planning and regulatory programs

### Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

- 5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

# Transportation Project Priorities

## Construction Projects – County Arterials and Collectors

- Completed – since 1990
- Scheduled – in Capital Improvement Program
- Planned – beyond Capital Improvement Program



# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Review of Road Construction Ranking Criteria and Weights

- Alleviates Congestion (22%)
- Supports Economic Development (16%)
- Crash History (9%)
- Provides Sidewalks (9%)
- Bicycle/Trail Accommodations (9%)
- Status of Project (9%)
- At-Risk/Low-Income Communities (6%)
- Access to Public Facilities (3%)
- Implements Comprehensive Plan (3%)
- Previously in CIP or Penny Commitment (3%)
- Transit Service (3%)
- Hurricane Evacuation Route (3%)
- Corridor Included in Planned Trail Network (3%)



*Note: Figures are rounded and do not total 100%*



# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Arterial Road Construction – Project Rankings

Rank	Facility	From	To	Improvement
1	Starkey Rd	E Bay Dr	Ulmerton Rd	RCST, add lanes
2	62nd Ave N	34th St	49th St	RCST, add lanes
3	Starkey Rd	Ulmerton Rd	Bryan Dairy Rd	RCST, Enhance
4	Forest Lakes Blvd	SR 580	SR 584	RCST, add lanes
5	Starkey Rd/Park St	Bryan Dairy Rd	Flame Vine Ave	RCST, add lanes
6	102nd Ave	137th St	125th St	RCST, Enhance
6	102nd Ave	125th St	113th St	RCST, Enhance
6	Belleair Rd	US Hwy 19	Keene Rd	RCST, Enhance
7	22nd Ave S	58th St S	34th St S	RCST, Enhance
7	Belcher Rd	NE Coachman Rd	Druid Rd	RCST, Enhance
8	62nd Ave N	49th St	68th St	RCST, add center turn lane
8	Belcher Rd	38th Ave N	54th Ave N	RCST, add center turn lane
9	Indian Rocks Rd	Walsingham Rd	W Bay Dr	RCST, Enhance
10	Starkey Rd/Park St	54th Ave N	84th Ln	RCST, Enhance
10	Sunset Pt Rd	Alt. US Hwy 19	Keene Rd	RCST, Enhance
11	102nd Ave	113th St	Seminole Bd	RCST, Enhance

Notes

- 1) RCST = Reconstruction
- 2) Enhance = upgraded to urban standards, including curb/gutter
- 3) All improvements include installation of bike lanes and sidewalks





# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Collector Road Construction – Project Rankings

Rank	Facility	From	To	Improvement
1	28th St	38th Ave N	54th Ave N	RCST, Enhance
2	126th Ave	34th St	US Hwy 19	New CST/RCST
3	Highland Ave	Belleair Rd	E Bay Dr	RCST, Enhance
4	142nd Ave	66th St	Belcher Rd	RCST, Enhance
4	16th Ave SE/ Donegan Rd	Lake Ave	Seminole Bd	New CST/RCST
4	46th Ave N	49th St	38th St	RCST, Enhance
5	Haines Rd	51st Ave N	I-275	RCST, Enhance
6	142nd Ave/ Donegan Rd	Belcher Rd	Lake Ave	New CST/RCST
6	Nursery Rd	Highland Ave	Belcher Rd	RCST, Enhance
6	102nd Ave	Dr MLK Jr St	28th St	New CST/RCST
6	35th St	46th Ave N	40th Ave N	RCST, Enhance
6	40th St	40th Ave N	Lown St	RCST, Enhance
7	37th St	46th Ave N	54th Ave N	RCST, Enhance
8	Nursery Rd	Belcher Rd	US Hwy 19	RCST, Enhance
9	28th St	Haines Rd	62nd Ave N	RCST, Enhance

Notes

- 1) CST = Construction; RCST = Reconstruction
- 2) Enhance = upgraded to urban standards, including curb/gutter
- 3) All improvements include installation of bike lanes and sidewalks

# Transportation Project Priorities

## Collector Roads



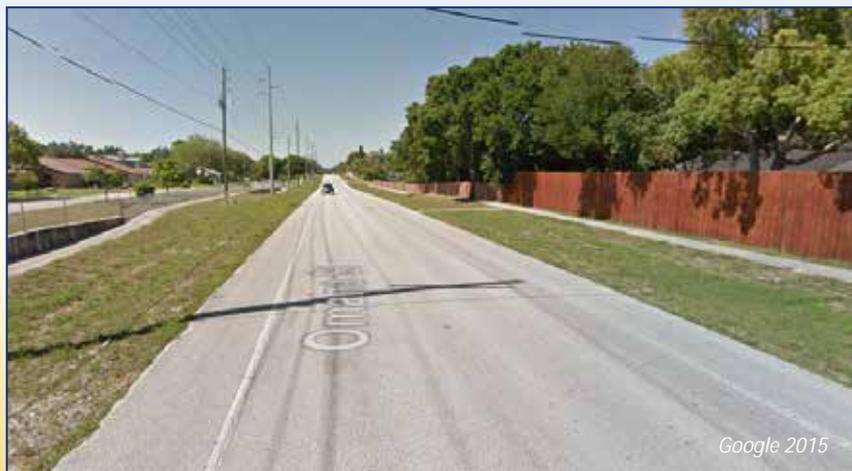
# Transportation Project Priorities



Keystone Road – *before improvements*



Keystone Road – *after improvements*



County Road 1 – *before improvements*



County Road 1 – *after improvements*

# Transportation Project Priorities

## § 3R Project-Based Program

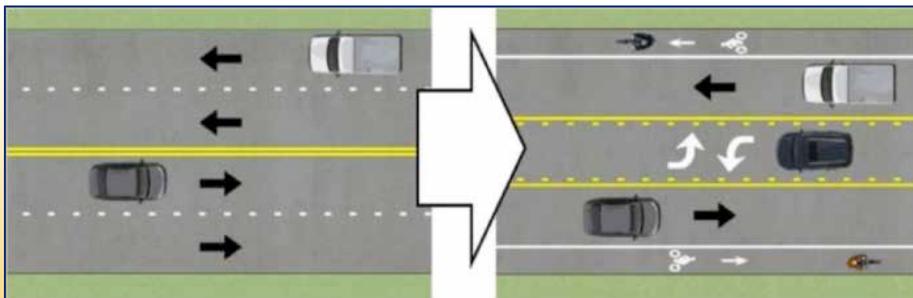
- Transportation needs are changing from new road building and widening to **resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation** (3R)
- 3R program is a well-established method used throughout the State and appropriate in a mostly built-out county
- Provides an opportunity to revisit roadway design, function, and surrounding land use context (e.g. complete streets)
- Provides an opportunity to address stormwater needs, drainage issues, and water quality improvements



# Transportation Project Priorities

## § 3R Project-Based Program

- Less expensive program than construction – can accomplish more throughout the entire County!
- First priority is to keep the roads operating safely and efficiently
- Resurfacing projects are typically tied to a schedule (preventative maintenance and ongoing repairs)
- Project priorities must be flexible (e.g., need ability to respond to complaints, take advantage of opportunities, etc.)



# Transportation Project Priorities

## § 3R-Type Project Examples



Upgraded urban cross section and drainage



Enhanced crosswalks and bike lanes



Resurfaced and restriped



Added bike and High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, bus bay, and Low Impact Development landscaping

# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Pinellas County Project Example



Gulf Boulevard – *without improvements*



Gulf Boulevard – *with improvements*

# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Bridges

- 140 County-maintained bridges – *overall good condition*
  - Average age: 29 years
  - Average sufficiency rating: 87
    - Bridges rated 80 and above require only regular maintenance
  - Average health rating: 90
    - A bridge rating of 85 means bridge is safe, but some repairs needed
- Future inevitable 'lifespan' issues will require increased funding for bridges over time





# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Next Steps...

- Laying the ground work for the next Penny For Pinellas
- Utilize modified construction project rankings criteria and weights and update the Comprehensive Plan and CIP
- Include revised construction project priorities in an amended/updated Long Range Transportation Plan (Pinellas MPO)



# Transportation Project Priorities

## § Next Steps...

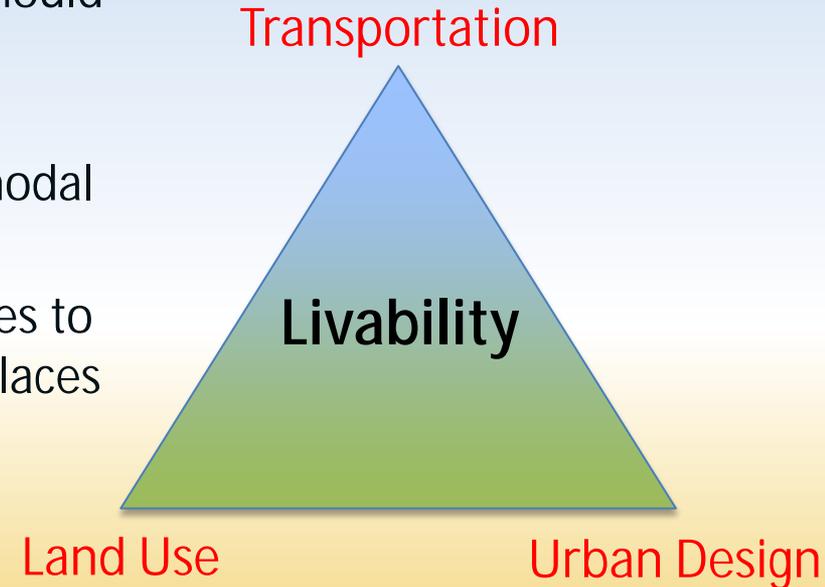
- Begin development of a 3R program approach to future transportation improvements
- Incorporate additional criteria into the process of prioritizing 3R-type projects that consider community context and mobility needs for walking, bicycling and transit access



# Transportation Policies to Direct Future Project Priorities

## § An Integrated Approach to Planning

- Better integrate the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) and Transportation Element (TE) in the Comprehensive Plan
  - Transportation planning decisions should consider land use and urban design characteristics and vice versa
  - Plan for Activity Centers and Multimodal Corridors
  - Need overlapping, supportive policies to improve mobility and create great places to live, work and play



# Transportation Policies to Direct Future Project Priorities

## § An Integrated Approach to Planning

- Coordinate with local governments to create context-sensitive solutions to transportation issues
- Utilize transportation to support economic development
- Coordinate with countywide planning programs of the MPO / PPC



# Transportation Policies to Direct Future Project Priorities

## § It's All About Mobility

- Focus on *multimodal* transportation and *complete streets*
  - Appropriate mixes of automobile, bicycle, walk, transit, freight
  - Provide more viable mode choice options
  - Increase mode share equality
  - Increase *connectivity* and *accessibility*
  - Better connect *generators* to *attractors* – people travel because they need to get somewhere!





# Transportation Policies to Direct Future Project Priorities

## § Doing Things to Serve the Public

- Initiatives currently in progress
  - Updates to the FLUE, TE, and Capital Improvements Element
  - Full Land Development Code update
  - Mobility Management System adoption
- Initiatives on the horizon
  - Major updates to (and integration of) the FLUE and TE
  - Complete Streets guidelines and standards
  - RESTORE Act proposal to conduct a countywide sea level rise vulnerability assessment of our critical infrastructure



# Thank you!