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David P. Healey, AICP
Executive Director

February 18, 2010

Ronnie E. Duncan, Chairman
Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Chairman Duncan:

It is our understanding that the Charter Review Commission has identified the Pinellas Planning Council as one of the subjects that it intends to examine.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our availability and willingness to share with the Commission the role and function of the Council, as well as the steps that have been initiated by the Council to examine alternative planning models for the County.

We welcome the interest of the Commission in discussing “the authority, duties and structure of the Pinellas Planning Council.” We need to point out, however, that the Council has itself proposed a reexamination of these very factors and requested the participation of the County Commission and the MPO in this discussion, which has led County Administrator Bob LaSala to propose a two-step process that may be summarized as follows:

1. Establishment of a cross-cutting team representing the PPC, MPO, and others, to identify policy steps to arrive at an updated future land use plan that integrates transportation, in particular transit, and land use; and
2. Based on those policy steps, to identify the appropriate vehicle or vehicles best suited to achieve the identified policy.

The Council has acknowledged its willingness and desire to pursue this process, and we thought it important that the Charter Review Commission be aware of this relative to any consideration of the Council by the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia S. Gerard', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Patricia S. Gerard
Chairman, Pinellas Planning Council

cc: Members, Pinellas Planning Council
Members, Board of County Commissioners
Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator