

Mayor Castor's Advisory Teams
Transportation Advisory Team – Final Meeting
Chair Dr. Robert L. Bertini
Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.
Tampa Police Headquarters – 5th Floor Conference Room
411 N. Franklin Street
Tampa, Florida 33602

Advisory Members present: Chair Dr. Robert Bertini, Joe Waggoner, Mark Sharpe, Gary Sasso, Cesar Hernandez, Cassandra Borchers, Honorable Cindy Stuart, Clarence Eng, Darrell Enger, Christina Barker, Ben Limmer, Ron Weaver, Justin Willet, Steve Simon, Bob O'Malley, and Bill Oliver.

Transition Team and Staff present: Director of Strategic Initiatives Marley Wilkes, Co-Chair Honorable Harry Cohen, Director of Transportation and Stormwater Services Jean Duncan, Assistant City Attorney III Marcella Hamilton, Engineer IV Danni Jorgenson, Transportation Professional Engineer Milton Martinez, Government Affairs Liaison Ian Whitney, Transportation Project Coordinator Stephen Benson, Smart Mobility Manager Vik Bhide, and City Clerk Support Technician Karencia Ciagala.

Chair Dr. Robert Bertini advised those from the public in attendance that public comments are welcome.

Director of Transportation and Stormwater Services Jean Duncan stated she has taken team members suggestions from previous meetings and compiled recommended action items for this team to review, finalize, and then present to the mayor. While today's meeting may be our last, it does not mean this will be our last interaction.

Team Discussion

Focus on Elevating Mobility Planning on Key Corridors

(Transportation's Recommendations to the Mayor)

Director Duncan suggested team member's review the handout and have an open discussion and comment as to whether they agree or want to change any of the recommendations.

Cassandra Borchers stated that the good conversations this team has had are reflected in the recommendations as noted. **Chair Bertini** stated that the plan should remain stronger even after the team dissolves. Agreeing strongly with retaining/developing employees.

Joe Waggoner and **Christina Barker** spoke about starting now, getting tasks done, and how to measure success of these program or plans once they begin. This needs to be an action structure, action-oriented and prioritized.

Ben Limmer wants everyone working with key players, such as Hart, as well as others, need multi-mobility hubs such as the downtown core, focusing from downtown to the airport and reverse and West Shore. Without being too overly specific in the plan should help with obtaining federal

funding. The group suggested using a map or other visuals to better depict the suggested key nodes/connections.

Joe Waggoner queried if the City had current funding, and requested more specific timelines. **Director Duncan** responded that this plan/program is to take us to the next level, as a blue print to generate in the 2020 budget plan.

Milton Martinez clarified that some items are long-term projects with the streetcars. Transportation Department staff is working with Hart now, as well as beyond, to develop and design to Palm Avenue. The next phase of coordination and defining plans includes advancing the West Shore area.

Director Duncan explained that transit priorities are in two parts: a) Intersections, greenways and corridors, and b) streetlights and sidewalks to promote visionZero.

Ms. Barker added that as this team is advisory and would want to ensure sufficient flexibility by the Mayor to adjust plans accordingly.

Chair Bertini wants to strengthen the language making it action oriented with tangible results. Guidance from the team to staff is that there should be a sense of urgency, specification, and to strengthen the verbiage used.

Mr. Waggoner stated he is satisfied, and that this should be about doing and not planning. Need to specifically mention having public/private partnerships.

Focus on Trails and Greenways

Chair Bertini wants accountability for the future and discussion continued as to using metrics, and possibly the population within a quarter of a mile of the trails.

Director Duncan reminded members that Mayor Castor has stated more than once that Greenways leverage dollars into recreational/safe options.

Vision Zero

Mayor Castor has been a vocal advocate for Vision Zero. This action plan needs to champion within all City of Tampa departments for safety and preservation of human life. **Gena Torres** stated she would like performance measures, within a minimum distance of a quarter of a mile of the trails.

Focus on Urban Parking & Mobility

Cesar Hernandez wants the proposed plan to be open but sensitive to technology and innovation. Including “Smart” parking with technology and mobility hubs, or at the least to reference beyond more than just motor vehicles (scooters, bikes, etc...).

Smart Mobility Manager Vik Bhide clarified that the term “urban” is a service and the “smart” term would be marketing for better service. **Chair Bertini** said this could be woven into the proposal for clarification.

Focus on Neighborhood Engagement

Director Duncan stated that currently the City of Tampa holds public meetings/presentations but often they have no substantive framework and are more public relations. The mayor wants a more meaningful engagement with the community and partners. The public generally appreciates knowing steps are required and what to expect.

Cassandra Borchers stated that *“to create a genuinely engaging community, we need to learn about our city neighbors, to communicate to them and for them to want to be involved. This will more likely result in them having a sense of ownership, becoming neighborhood champions.”*

Director Duncan shared information about a grant that the USF Transportation Center obtained to create a community academy working with the city as a co-sponsor, based on Portland, Oregon’s project. The city wants to do creative things, and they welcome any ideas. Dr. Bertini brought some students to meet with city engineers, and they were able to have hands-on training with signal timing. This is similar to the mayor’s mentoring philosophy and bringing the community closer to understanding what the city can do and how the city works.

Public Comments

Michael Echevarria of Positive Impact Force stated that the mayor is all in. She created this development planning strategy, a process to engage the public, and should perhaps continue every ten years. John Bennett is working to engage neighborhoods and communities now.

Student Sean Bexaidan stated that transportation and economic development should work together with trails/ shared ridership/ and shared costs.

Need to use webinars and social media to keep the public engaged. This report should be valuable to city staff, and they should be able to reflect back on what this team has accomplished and continue forward.

Ms. Wilkes advised the team that it is likely this team, and other advisory teams may meet again after the first of the year. When the mayor decides to announce her final recommendations, she will want to share with team members, and the information will continue to be up-loaded to the Advisory Team webpage. (**Tampagov.net/t3**).

Chair Bertini thanked everyone for caring, for his or her positive energy, and his or her concern for the public. He told the public in attendance that he appreciated the community involvement and it will be incredible to see in action great things for now and the future of the City of Tampa.