

**MARCH 15, 2006**

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in a JOINT MEETING in the Longboat Key Room at the Civic Center, One Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 2:06 p.m.

**MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

Joe McClash, Chairman  
Amy Stein, First Vice-Chairman  
Donna Hayes, Second Vice-Chairman  
Patricia M. Glass, Third Vice-Chairman  
Ron Getman  
Jane W. von Hahmann

**SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

David Mills, Chairman  
Nora Patterson, Vice-Chairman  
Paul Mercier  
Shannon Staub  
Jon Thaxton

Absent was Manatee Commissioner:  
Gwendolyn Y. Brown

Also present were:

Ernie Padgett, County Administrator  
Tedd Williams, Jr., County Attorney  
Susan G. Romine, Deputy Clerk  
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

James Ley, County Administrator  
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney

**AGENDA**

Agenda of March 15, 2006.

**AUTOMATED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AGREEMENT**

David Rothfuss, Manatee County Deputy County Administrator, and **Jim Ley**, Sarasota County Administrator, stated Sarasota County is reviewing the Automated Traffic Management System Agreement (ATMS) involving Manatee County, Sarasota County, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Discussion: Coordination; Manatee County has a contract on property for a building (Burnett Trust property); expedited construction; other Manatee County departments would co-locate in the building; Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) grant and other grants; etc.

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

Mr. McClash, Manatee County Commission Chairman, noted FDOT advised there will be no new road projects and the fifth-year projects will be removed. Ms. Patterson stated Sarasota County sent a letter to FDOT regarding significant loss of funding.

Discussion: Projects planned for five years have never been removed by FDOT; politics and funding; inadequacy of S.R. 64; citizens should lobby the Legislators; five-cent local option gas tax; impact fees; growth rate; revenue sources; affordable housing; etc.

**UNIVERSITY PARKWAY**

Mr. McClash stated that Manatee County has an adopted Level of Service (LOS) on University Parkway of D and Sarasota County adopted a LOS of C.

Discussion: Staff from both counties working on this problem; lighting and congestion on University Parkway; extending University Parkway to connect with S.R. 70; connecting roads south from University Parkway to Fruitville Road through rights-of-way from Lakewood Ranch; corridor study and report; roadway improvements; Honore Avenue; joint concurrency among the Counties and the Cities; SIPOC DRI; roadway upgrades; LOS standards; intersection improvements; etc.

**Jim Harriott, Clarke Davis**, Sarasota County Transportation Department, and **Carol Clarke**, Manatee County Planning Director, addressed coordinated efforts for University Parkway.

**Motion – Sarasota County**

Motion was made by Ms. Staub, seconded by Ms. Patterson, and carried 5 to 0, to have the Sarasota County Commission endorse a joint concurrency study and cooperative management agreement on the University Parkway corridor, and to bring back an interim report in 90 days.

**Motion – Manatee County**

Motion was made by Mrs. Stein, seconded by Ms. Hayes, and carried 6 to 0, to have the Manatee County Commission endorse a joint concurrency study and cooperative management agreement on the University Parkway corridor, and to bring back an interim report in 90 days.

**Motion – Sarasota County**

Motion was made by Ms. Staub, seconded by Mr. Mercier, and carried 5 to 0, to work with Manatee County staff to bring forward a joint application with FDOT for a lighting project on University Parkway.

**Motion - Manatee County**

Motion was made by Ms. von Hahman, seconded by Ms. Hayes, and carried 6 to 0, to work with Sarasota County staff to bring forward a joint application with FDOT for a lighting project on University Parkway.

**UNIVERSITY PARKWAY EXTENSION TO S.R. 70**

Mr. McClash directed Mr. Rothfuss to discuss with and solicit comments from the City of Sarasota regarding avoiding the wetlands in the extension of University Parkway to S.R. 70. He recommended this item be discussed at a later meeting.

(Depart Mr. Mercier and Mrs. Hayes)

Discussion: Interchange at I-75; conceptual design; portion of roadway in Sarasota County; rights-of-way reservations; wetlands; Lakewood Ranch and Schroeder Manatee Village; aerial maps; limited FDOT funding; concurrency; LOS; City of Sarasota land and wellheads; development in eastern Manatee and Sarasota County; congestion on new connector; Sarasota County land use designations; hurricane evacuations; timing; Metropolitan Planning Organization approved the connector; etc.

(Enter Mr. Mercier during discussion)

Larry Mau, Manatee County Transportation Director, referred to three aerials: 1) University Parkway with an overlay of the Comprehensive Plan roads; 2) rights-of-way; and 3) conceptual options with three connecting points.

**TRANSIT**

Mr. Harriott and Ralf Heseler, Manatee County Transit, addressed bus Route 99 operating between downtown Sarasota and Palmetto, and discussed improvements for the service.

(Enter Mrs. Hayes)

Discussion: Longboat Key trolley service; accessibility to Manatee Community College; coordination between systems; appreciation to staff of both counties; Transportation Task Force; revenues; joint media approach; educate Legislators on use of ad valorem funds; etc.

**REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY**

**Theresa Conner**, Sarasota County Water Resources, used a map and slide presentation to illustrate activities Sarasota County has taken to address regional water system issues. She stated the Counties share four watersheds; Sarasota Bay, Braden River, Dona Bay (Cowpen Slough), and Myakka. She also addressed coordination with the Peace River/Manasota Water Supply Authority. Ms. Conner spoke of adding more pipelines between the counties and connecting the Carlton Water Treatment Plant pipeline to the Manatee County system. She reported on watershed properties acquired by Sarasota County for water storage.

**MYAKKA RIVER STEWARDSHIP**

Ms. Conner stated that the Sarasota County Commission wrote to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requesting a Cumulative Impact Analysis of the Myakka River to determine how land use changes and phosphate mining affect water quantity and quality. The City of North Port uses the Myakka River for its water supply, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) will be implementing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Initiative for the river.

**Lisann Morris**, SWFWMD Engineer, used a slide presentation to review the watershed, and gave an overview, history, and summary of water resource issues and ongoing activities within the Myakka River watershed. The Myakka River Watershed Initiative collected data for management of water resources. Ms. Morris stated the Myakka River flows 66 miles from Manatee County to Charlotte Harbor, 30 percent of which is held in conservation lands. She described the watershed areas as Flatford Swamp, Myakka River State Park, Upper Myakka Lake, Lower Myakka Lake, Cowpen Slough watershed, Blackburn Canal, Deer Prairie Slough tributary, and Big Slough-Myakkahatchee Creek. She reported on the future action of SWFWMD to protect the Myakka River Watershed.

Charlie Hunsicker, Manatee County Conservation Lands Management Director, stated Manatee and Sarasota County staff has worked with SWFWMD and supports the analysis of changes in the Myakka River Watershed. He stated Manatee County is working in the Upper Manatee River Watershed to achieve land conservation.

**LAKWOOD RANCH STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Mr. Ley noted that Manatee County has an Interlocal Agreement with the Lakewood Ranch Stewardship District, and Sarasota County is working toward an Interlocal Agreement.

Discussion: The Villages; Fruitville Road does not connect to the Commerce Center of Lakewood Ranch; aerial maps at the next joint meeting; University Parkway; Lakewood Ranch Boulevard; transportation networking; LOS; next meeting in Lakewood Ranch; use Lakewood Ranch maps; etc.

**COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST**

Mr. Ley stated both Boards are working to encourage affordable housing.

Mr. Mills, Sarasota County Commission Chairman, spoke of land sales in North Port which will yield funds to start the project. The goal is to create Work Force and Affordable Housing.

**Wendy Thomas**, Sarasota County Community Housing, referred to a pamphlet and used a slide presentation to explain Sarasota County's Community Housing Trust. She stated 32 percent of Sarasota County housing stock is affordable to families making the median area income of \$55,900. The Land Trust covers all of Sarasota County, including the cities, and is committed to preserving affordability through ground leasing. She stated their goal is to create 3,000 affordable homes in 10 years and to become self-sustaining in five years, through lease agreement fees.

(Ms. Patterson absent for a portion of the presentation)

Cheri Coryea, Manatee County Community Services Department, referred to an information packet and stated there are ten goals or accomplishments for Manatee County affordable housing. There is no household size restriction but the household income cannot exceed \$70,000. There are 83 proposed units going through the application process, with 30 completed.

Discussion: Work force housing; staff person to assist with affordable projects; transfer of development rights; affordable housing spread throughout the County; Committee made up of developers and builders, etc.

(Depart Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Getman)

**LEGISLATION – TRIP FUNDS**

Discussion regarding pending legislation supported by Sarasota County; gas tax and sales tax; road congestion; TRIP funding; etc.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 4:31 p.m.  
/tb/pat

Minutes Approved: April 25, 2006