**TPO** OCALA MARION
TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING
ORGANIZATION

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
3:30 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Ji Li
Bob Titterington *(arrived at 3:33p)*
Kenneth Odom
Noel Cooper
Loretta Shaffer *(arrived at 3:34p)*
Eric Smith *(Mr. Steven Neal attended as an alternate)*
Elton Holland *(Mr. Chris Ziegler attended as an alternate)*
Anna Taylor

**Members Not Present:**

Dave Herlihy
Mickey Thomason

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes
Shakayla Irby
Rakinya Hinson, FDOT
Yessenia Encarnacion, FDOT
Jack MacKenzie, FDOT
Jason Learned, FDOT
Alice Giuliani, FDOT
Jim Wood, Kimley-Horn

## Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 3:32pm and Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll.  A quorum was present.

## Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Irby stated the meeting had been published online to the TPO's website, as well as the City of Ocala, Belleview, Marion County, and Dunnellon's websites on
April 4, 2023. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

## Item 3. Consent Agenda

*Mr. Neal made a motion to approve the consent agenda.  Mr. Titterington seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

## 4a. Functional Classification Review Process

 Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census is completed, updated population numbers determine changes in Urban Boundaries, which are preliminarily adjusted by the Census Bureau. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) can determine if further refinements should be made for reasons such as consistency with the approach to transportation planning. The Functional Classification of public roadways had been updated during the same timeframe as Urban Boundary updates for efficiency. During the August 9, 2022 TAC/CAC meetings, the FDOT District Five presented an overview presentation regarding Functional Classification and Urban Boundary updates. District Five recently developed a web-based application to receive input regarding proposed Functional Classifications and was ready to coordinate the Functional Classification Review Process with the TPO and local agencies.

Ms. Alice Giuliani, with FDOT began the presentation to the committee and summarize the Functional Classification process to date and discussed the schedule to complete the Review Process by early Summer.

The TPO Board would ultimately need to approve the updated Functional Classification map, so it would be critical that local agencies were fully engaged in the review. The Urban Boundary Review Process would take place after approval of the Functional Classification Map and was expected to begin in late Summer.

Mr. Jason Learned, with FDOT talked to the committee about the new dashboard that showed all the data and changes to the Functional Classification and gave a visual walkthrough of the dashboard and how it operated.

Ms. Hinson inquired about access classification updates and asked when that would happen.

Mr. Learned said that access classification was something separate and was a traffic operations exercise done on state roads only.  He was not sure about a set cycle on access classifications.

Chairman Odom inquired about the City of Ocala 44th Avenue project and said that by the time Federal Highway gave approval the road would have been completed.

Chairman Odom said there were three sets of segments for the continuation of corridors that needed to be identified and that he would send all the information to include to Mr. Learned.

Ms. Giuliani said the TPO and Local Agencies should conduct a review and provided comments; FDOT would be available to provide technical assistance through May 26.  FDOT would present the Final Marion County Functional Classification Map to the Ocala Marion TPO Committees on June 13 and the TPO Board for approval on June 27.

Chairman Odom identified Chris Ziegler, Noel Cooper, Eric Schwartz and himself as the Leads for the Functional Classification Review.

Mr. Woods said that he would send out email notifications to all contacts including links to both the dashboard and the application.

Chairman Odom said he would send the email contacts to Mr. Woods for everyone that needed to be included in the distribution list.

## Item 4a. Draft 2023 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Balmes presented the Draft 2023 LOPP.  On an annual basis, per State Statute, the TPO worked in collaboration with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala, Marion County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop and submit a 2023 List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The process was undertaken to identify the highest priority projects to receive consideration for federal and state funding through the FDOT Work Program over the next five years.

The LOPP process serves as the key connection between projects identified in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Therefore, for a project to receive federal and state funding, the project would have to be in the LRTP Cost Feasible or Needs Plan and Boxed Funds Lists.

The initial draft 2023 LOPP project lists were provided for the committee to review.

The lists reflected the format and revised procedures adopted by the TPO Board in 2022.

Based upon submissions by local partners along with follow up discussions, the following provided a breakdown of the individual lists and total number of projects.

- Top 20 Priorities – 20 of 81 total projects
- Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) – 15 projects
- Non-SIS Capacity – 39 projects
- Safety and Operations – 12 projects
- Trails – 10 projects
- Bicycle/Pedestrian – 6 projects

- Planning Studies – 15 projects

Mr. Balmes mentioned that CAC members had two key comments:
1. In addition to the Top 20, identify what other lists projects were included in.
2. Review how long projects had been on the LOPP.

Mr. Balmes opened the discussion up for comments by committee members.

The committee engaged in discussion about the project rankings.

Mr. Odom moved to revise the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) list: move project #4 SR 40 from End of four lanes to CR 314 to #3 on the ranking and move project #3 US 27/I-75 Interchange Operations, NW 44th to NW 35th to #4 on the ranking.

Mr. Balmes mentioned the SUN Trail Senate Bill 106 had been placed on Governor DeSantis' desk, it had been passed by Senate. Would be $50 Million a year packaged over four years for $200 Million for SUN Trail funding.

Mr. Odom said with SUN Trail funding it would be a great time to get the last connection in the Baseline Trailhead to Silver Springs.
Mr. Balmes urged the committee to continue to review the LOPP and come back at the May meeting with input on the rankings.

Ms. Shaffer mentioned the 2023 Planning Study Priorities list and inquired about changes with CR 484 associated to the other lists.

Mr. Balmes said that the first step was to get a PER or PD&E and establish the path of the project.

Ms. Shaffer said it had been discussed about a north south artery to relieve congestion.

Mr. Odom said the issue would be the widening of I-75 because the entire interchange would need to be replaced. The only way the project could possibly be a priority would be through a planning study when lanes are added to I-75 especially with the closeness of Marion Oaks and the Villages.

## Item 5a. Congestion Management Process (CMP), State of the System Update

Mr. Balmes presented and said that in November 2021, the TPO Board adopted a revised Congestion Management Plan (CMP). One major element of the CMP was a State of the System. The element contained information related to level of service and congestion for the major federal-aid roadways in Marion County.

The TPO planned to conduct an update to the State of the System element, including level of service information, a comprehensive database table and associated map series. The update had been requested by local government partner agencies in support of ongoing traffic study and impact analysis work performed in the community. The project also involved the development of

context classifications for the non-state roadways in Marion County based on the release of the new Quality/Level of Service Handbook in January 2023.

Noel Cooper, City of Ocala and Chris Zeigler, Marion County requested context classification for this update should only apply to the state roads at this time. They would be interested to learn about the differences between the current LOS standards with the new Context Classification on roadways.

The project was anticipated to begin in early May and be completed by August 31, 2023 and would include the following tasks:

Task 1: Project Management and Agency Coordination
Task 2: Preliminary Context Classification and Service Volume Update
Task 3: CMP Database and Congestion Map Series

Mr. Ziegler said the CMP was supposed to be consistent with the local agencies Comprehensive Plans. The County and City would need a chance to look at the new level of service tables.

The committee decided on proceeding with a regular update of the State of the System element and receiving information on the Comprehensive database table to compare and contrast the FDOT Context Classification with the existing level of service standards.

Mr. Balmes mentioned there was no meeting scheduled in August and asked if the committee would be willing to meet so that the deliverables could be presented.

Committee members gave consensus to add the August meeting to the schedule.

## 5b. TPO Safety Tools Project

Mr. Balmes said that as part of the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan, the TPO identified the development of a safety dashboard and annual crash reporting, as a future resource to the public and partnering governments. The concept was shared with the TPO Board and Committees in January, as part of a presentation related to upcoming 2023 planning activities.

The purpose of the project involved the development of an online, interactive safety dashboard mapping tool and annual safety report. Both resources would be developed in a format that would be public-friendly for ease of use and navigation. Part of the project was tied to the TPO's past work involving an annual Trends and Conditions report. The timeframe of the project development would be from May to August 2023, with a formal release of both the online dashboard and annual report in late August.

Mr. Balmes provided the committee with some examples of neighboring TPO/MPO peers who had developed similar tools and reports.

**Lake~Sumter MPO**
https://lsmpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/54e870a958ad4aee84a3d860ffff0f48

**MetroPlan Orlando**
https://metroplanorlando.org/maps-tools/crashdata/

**SpaceCoast TPO**

https://sctpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/c15a9dae1fb945adb9e28a71d0b89b98

Mr. Ziegler said the Safety Tool appeared to be a duplication of the Signal 4 Database.

Mr. Balmes said that Signal 4 had been more oriented toward professionals, however the TPO Safety Tool would be more public friendly and easier to retrieve information. It would also allow information on individual crashes like what you would receive in a crash report.

**Item 6. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Hinson introduced new FDOT liaison, Yessenia Encarnacion and Professional Engineer (PE) Trainee, Jack MacKenzie.

The construction report was also provided to the committee.

Ms. Hinson mentioned that April was Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Work Zone Safety Awareness Week would begin on April 17, 2023.

Ms. Hinson also shared an Immediate Release that came out on April 7, 2023: The Governor awarded $4 Million for the new I-75 Interchange in Ocala and announced the third Buc-ee's location in Florida.

**Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Balmes gave the following comments:

- There would be a joint TAC and CAC meeting at 1:00pm in May.
- The TPO would be providing the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in May.
- There had been a notice of funding opportunity through July 10 for Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant.
- The TPO would be keeping an eye on Senate Bill 106 for the Governors Signature and follow-up meetings to come depending on the sign-off of the bill.

**Item 8. Comments by TAC Members**

Mr. Neal said the City of Ocala would be asking to add to the Long Range Plan a Training Facility on the SunTran property for electric trainings for the Region with CNG. Also, the SunTran had submitted a grant for $16.7 million for electrification vehicles, 5 electric buses, and 26 electric small vehicles to help support with the Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Mr. Neal also gave thanks to Mr. Li for all his hard work with the grant application.

Mr. Cooper said the City of Ocala was looking to expand the current golf cart friendly roads to include downtown pending City approval at the next council meeting.

Mr. Cooper also said the City of Ocala began construction of a east bound left turn lane on SR 40

at NE 1ˢᵗ Avenue downtown.

Mr. Titterington said that two midblock crossings had been constructed under the US 441 resurfacing project and lights would not be put at the crossings due to the speed limit of the road. Mr. Titterington said the local FDOT would be conducting a midblock study to see if lights at the crossings were warranted. Belleview had concerns about the lighting at the crossings and concerns about the midblock crossings being a safety hazard.

Ms. Shaffer said the bid had been rewarded with an RFP to accompany for gateway and pillars on the north and southern entry points into the county. For the entry points south going north on I-75 there had been some discussions with key bridge construction builders. Also working with FDOT on the northern diamond near Buc-ee's so that there would be a beautiful esthetic entry point as well.

Mr. Ziegler said the County was planning on submitting a Safe Streets and Roads For All grant for CR 42.

**Item 9. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 10. Adjournment**

Chairman Odom adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm.


Respectfully Submitted By:


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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant