



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ocala Citizens Service Center
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34478

April 14, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Mike Daniels, Vice-chairman
Eddie Esch
Gennie Garcia
Dave Herlihy
Winston Schuler
Kellie Smith
Kevin Smith
Brian Snyder
Mickey Thomason

Members Not Present:

Sue Farnsworth

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Mike McCammon, FDOT
Wendy Patterson, Marion County Engineering

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Vice-chairman Mike Daniels. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof Of Publication

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website and Facebook page and on the city of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

Item 3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Slay advised that with the departure of the chairman, Mr. Ciambella, the vice-chairman, Mr. Daniels, would become the new acting chairman. The committee needed to elect a new vice-chairman.

Mr. Schuler nominated Mr. Esch for vice-chairman and Mr. Herlihy seconded. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Item 3a. Review and Approval of Local Off-system Priorities

Mr. Odom presented the Local Off-system Priorities list. Two projects from the previous list – SW 80th Avenue resurfacing and SR 40 storm water mitigation – had been fully funded. Mr. Odom reported that staff had run into an issue with the line of sight project on US 441 at NW 100th Street. The County had wanted to cut down the rise on US 441, but FDOT did not agree with that proposal. Discussions had taken place regarding correcting the line of sight on NW 100th Street instead.

Mr. Herlihy asked about the drainage retention area expansion, the twelfth priority on the list. Mr. Odom stated that the retention area was on NE 14th Street and the project would work on a connection between that retention area and a retention area to the south. These were retention ponds maintained by the city of Ocala.

Mr. Smith asked about the sidewalk repairs listed as “various locations,” and Mr. Odom said that in the past sidewalk projects had been submitted individually. Now smaller sidewalk projects were being combined into a single project. Discussion ensued regarding Saddlewood Elementary School’s place on the list of county sidewalk locations; the committee determined that it would leave the school list as it was.

Mr. McCammon asked about SW 44th Avenue, and Mr. Slay advised that there were issues regarding a piece of property that were being worked out between the bank and the developer. Mr. Slay said that there was progress.

Mr. Esch made a motion to approve the local off-system priorities as presented. Mr. Herlihy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3b. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Odom presented six amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program. Three were rail projects related to additional railway traffic. There was one amendment for audible pavement markings on US 441 and two amendments related to paved trail projects.

Mr. Esch mentioned the noise associated with audible pavement markings, and Mr. McCammon said that though FDOT had received noise complaints over the years, the markers helped with lane departure crashes.

Mr. Esch made a motion to approved the TIP amendments as presented. Mr. Schuler seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4a. Scope Development of Candidate Projects

Mr. Amir Asgarinik from FDOT provided a presentation on scope development for candidate projects. Mr. Asgarinik advised that FDOT had a team that developed scopes and worked out funding to prepare projects to enter the design phase. The TPO's liaison would then keep TPO informed regarding when a project was ready to be entered into the FDOT Work Program. Mr. Asgarinik advised that comments could be submitted and incorporated into the project development.

Candidate projects were classified by different types. Mr. Asgarinik reviewed the local projects under development, which included various sidewalk gaps, traffic operations improvements on US 41 at CR 484, resurfacing on US 441 and SR 200, sidewalks on SR 200 and US 19, traffic operations on US 27, a turn lane on SR 200 at SW 60th Avenue, SR 200 interchange improvements, drainage on US 441, resurfacing on SR 492, and resurfacing on SR 40.

Mr. Esch asked about the timeframe for the operations improvements on US 41 at CR 484, and Mr. Asgarinik advised that the project's scope was still under development and there was no budget for it yet. Discussion ensued regarding options for improving the intersection.

Item 4b. Florida Transportation Plan

Ms. Smith provided a presentation on the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan. The Florida Transportation Plan served as the state's Long Range Transportation Plan, established the timeframe for allocating state funds, and identified roles and responsibilities. The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) included the state's largest strategic facilities for moving between regions and states. The SIS Policy Plan set policies to guide decisions such as which facilities were designated for the SIS. The Florida Transportation Plan and SIS Policy Plan were being updated in parallel for adoption in 2015.

FDOT was in the process of meeting with partners and public groups to discuss the plans and solicit feedback. The draft plans would be made available in the fall with adoption planned for

the end of the year. Updates were available on the website set up for the plans; latest events and documents were posted there, along with a table for submitting comments. Ms. Smith said that FDOT was focused on public involvement and looking for public events where the Department could be present to give people an opportunity to provide input.

Item 4c. Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Mr. Odom reported that a presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) had been given to the TPO board at its March meeting to kick off the planning process. The LRTP was considered the TPO's most important planning effort and was required to be financially feasible. Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had to be amended into the LRTP in order to be authorized for state and federal funding. Final adoption of the LRTP was scheduled for November 2015. The plan would evaluate local comprehensive, corridor, and vision plans, develop goals, policies, and objectives, and utilize stakeholder interviews and grassroots outreach. Once the draft plan had been developed and presented, a comment period would be opened before final adoption. Mr. Odom went over a brief informational survey with the committee.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Herlihy made a motion to approve the March 10, 2015, meeting minutes. Mr. Esch seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith reported that an upcoming detour on SR 35 for railroad surface replacement. More information was available on the Central Florida Roads website.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay advised the committee that staff had recently attended a meeting regarding infrastructure funding. Mr. Slay said that there were concerns from the private sector that funding issues would hamper economic recovery. The meeting had included discussion of funding options beyond impact fees. Mr. Smith added that there was an upcoming meeting to gain input and direction from the County Commission.

Mr. Slay reported that the bridge over the Withlacoochee River on SR 200 at the county line was not on the Citrus County priority list. Mr. Slay stated that staff wanted to discuss the bridge with the Hernando/Citrus MPO to see it moved up their priority list. Widening of SR 200 in Marion County was just waiting on construction funding.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

Mr. Esch advised that a stakeholder meeting for the Taskforce on the Ingles lochs had discussed building to accommodate jumbo barges.

Item 9. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item 10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Daniels at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant