



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 3:33pm*)
Kenneth Odom
Noel Cooper
Loretta Shaffer
Eric Smith
Elton Holland
Jonathan Scarfe (*for Rakinya Hinson*)

Members Not Present:

Dave Herlihy
Mickey Thomason
Chad Ward

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO
Liz Mitchell, Ocala Marion TPO
Steven Neal, City of Ocala
Jonathan Scarfe, FDOT
Mary Bierwagen, FDOT
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn
Jonathan Crosby, Kimley-Horn

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and Acting Secretary Liz Mitchell called the roll. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Acting Secretary Liz Mitchell 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 August 1, 2023. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3. Consent Agenda

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. Congestion Management Plan (CMP). State of the System Update

The TPO was conducting an update to the Congestion Management Plan (CMP), State of System Report. Activities included a revised level of service information, an updated comprehensive database table and associated map series for the CMP major roadway network in Marion County.

The update had been performed per the request of 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 state (FDOT) roadways in Marion County based on the release of the new Quality/Level of Service (Q/LOS) Handbook in January 2023. Local (non-state) roadways were analyzed using the 2020 Q/LOS Handbook.

Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn and Associates, provided a presentation on the draft 2023 Congestion Management Plan, State of the System Report. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Ocala Marion CMP was adopted in August 2021
- The CMP follows the federal 8-step process
- A Systems Evaluation was included with the CMP adoption in 2021, in addition to a CMP comprehensive database
- Traffic data used for the 2023 Report are from 2022 traffic counts by FDOT, the City of Ocala and Marion County, plus projected to 2023
- The 2023 Report includes the new FDOT Quality/Level of Service for state roads only. This includes the new Context Classification
- Local roads were analyzed with the 2020 Quality/Level of Service methodology

Ms. Gartner showed the impacts to state roads from the new Context Classification and 2023 FDOT methodology. Ms. Gartner also presented on the revised 2023 daily congestion and level of service (LOS) to the CMP network of Marion County, and the projected 2028 levels.

Ms. Gartner also highlighted the revised Congested Corridors map, which includes Extremely Congested, Congested, Approaching Congested and Not Congested. She explained some of the differences in congestion linked to growth and traffic changes, along with the new FDOT Quality/Level of Service tied to Context Classification. In addition, she shared a map of a supplemental analysis done for County-maintained roads only that are approaching a Level of Service of D or at 80% per the request of the County Commission.

Ms. Gartner shared some recommendations with the Committee, including ongoing updates and monitoring, future studies and more integration into the TPO's List of Priority Projects (LOPP).

Loretta Shaffer asked about ongoing traffic congestion on I-75 related to the significant changes in areas of the County for the 2023 Report, involving the 2028 congestion levels. Ms. Shaffer also noted the impacts of the new interchange at NW 49th bringing benefits to traffic congestion on the corridor.

Ms. Gartner confirmed the changes are due to the increased traffic volumes and growth in the area. But the FDOT new Quality/Level of Service and Context Classification had an impact on the changes as well.

Noel Cooper inquired about the Level of Service and whether it is daily or peak period.

Ms. Gartner stated the CMP focuses on daily Level of Service, and that congested corridors would be expected to have greater congestion during the peak periods of the day.

Ken Odom stated a review of the draft Level of Service tables will be conducted by Marion County.

Rob Balmes mentioned that all files from the update will be made available electronically to the local governments.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve the Congestion Management Plan (CMP), State of the System Update. Mr. Titterington seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Comments by FDOT

Jon Scarfe, FDOT Liaison Supervisor re-introduced himself to the Committee. He was recently appointed Supervisor of the MPO Liaison Team at FDOT District 5. He was in attendance at the meeting as Ms. Rakinya Hinson was on vacation.

Mr. Scarfe provided project updates that were referenced in the July 2023 FDOT Construction Report for Marion County.

Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff

Rob Balmes provided some updates from the TPO. The TPO has been working with Marion County Procurement Services to advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the 2050 LRTP. An RFQ was posted from June 30 to August 4. A selection committee will review the submittals and work through a selection process. After the process concludes, Mr. Balmes will provide an update to the TAC.

As mentioned in June, the TPO is required every 10 years to develop an Apportionment Plan per the Census. The contents of the Plan include population changes of the TPO Planning Area, TPO Planning Area Boundary and TPO Board membership. A draft of the Apportionment Plan will be shared with the TAC in September.

The TPO is working closely with its consultant Kittelson and Associates to develop a Commitment to Zero Dashboard and Annual Report. This project will be completed at the end of August. A report and presentation will be provided to the TAC in September.

Mr. Balmes also mentioned the FDOT/National Coalition for Safer Roads and TPO event in Ocala at SW 27th and SR 200 on August 9. Committee members were invited to participate with a press conference at 9 am.

Item 7. Comments by TAC Members

Loretta Shaffer provided general comments on the congestion of the I-75 corridor in Marion County and ways to alleviate the problems. She highlighted the need to continue looking at the future plans, such as the proposed flyover at CR 42 in the southern portion of the County.

Ken Odom confirmed that CR 42 is in the 2045 LRTP as a future need for the County.

Noel Cooper announced the City of Ocala submitted three Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grants this cycle. Awards are anticipated in two rounds.

Bob Titterington provided an update on the mid-block crossing concern on US 301/441 in Belleview. FDOT conducted a study as requested and determined pedestrian signals are not warranted due to 85th percentile speeds approaching 49 miles-per-hour. The City Commission is very concerned about pedestrian safety and residents attempting to cross the roadway at such high posted speed limits, with no pedestrian signals. Further follow up will be requested by the City.

Ji Li announced SunTran and the City of Ocala recently were awarded a Low or No Emission grant by the Federal Transit Administration of \$16.2 million for an electric bus fleet.

Item 8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 9. Adjournment

Chairman Kenneth Odom adjourned the meeting at 4:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant