



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

August 11, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Renee Blaney, Chairwoman
Ed Kelly
Suzanne Mangram
Richard McGinley
Michelle Shearer (*arrived 3:20 pm*)

Members Not Present:

Davis Dinkins
Joe London
Robert Sulzer
Clarke Yandle

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT
Dr. Doug Shearer, Citizen

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chairwoman Renee Blaney. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was not present; however, a quorum was established with the arrival of Ms. Shearer.

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 3a. NE 25th Avenue and NE 36th Avenue PD&E Presentation

Mr. Slay introduced Mr. Carlos Rodriguez from Metric Engineering to present the work done on the NE 25th Avenue and NE 36th Avenue PD&E study. Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the project limits and said that the project aimed to enhance capacity and improve safety in keeping with the city of Ocala's Vision Plan and the community needs. Mr. Rodriguez advised that neither roadway currently had pedestrian or multimodal features, had no shoulders, and were substandard. There was also a high incident intersection on NE 25th Avenue. Traffic projections for year 2040 showed that NE 25th Avenue needed widened from NE 14th Street to NE 28th Street and NE 36th Avenue needed widened from NE 14th Street to NE 35th Street.

On NE 25th Avenue, raised medians were being recommended. Work in the study also addressed access to Manning Building Supply. On the north end of the project limits, there was a curve approaching NE 35th Street where a full median and frontage roads to access residences on either side were being recommended. All potential drainage retention pond locations had been identified, and an environmental analysis had been performed. Mr. Rodriguez reported that no relocations were anticipated. There was a location at the Wagon Wheel Mobil Home Park where noise mitigation was warranted. Mr. Rodriguez stated that design would be coordinated with the stakeholders.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the cost estimates for the recommended improvements. A public hearing was scheduled for September, and the PD&E was anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. Final design was anticipated in summer of 2016, and there was currently no funding for the right-of-way acquisition or widening.

On NE 36th Avenue, extensive coordination had been done with the property owners near the CSX railroad crossing regarding the best way to provide access. Mr. Rodriguez reported that most of the property owners were in favor of a Texas u-turn under the planned railroad overpass. NE 24th Street would need to be realigned to accommodate the grade separation at that location. All potential retention pond sites had been identified, and Mr. Rodriguez stated that this did not mean that all sites would be built. There were no major environmental concerns along the roadway; however, a location had been identified for noise mitigation.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the project costs. Only the railroad overpass was currently funded; widening of NE 36th Avenue was unfunded.

The project documents were on display at the Ocala Public Library. A public hearing was scheduled for September.

Item 3b. Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Mr. Slay advised the committee that some projects from the Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan had been removed from the needs assessment of the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan because declines in traffic counts meant they were no longer needed. Mr. Slay also noted that the cost estimates that were included were preliminary.

Mr. Wally Blain from Tindale-Oliver and Associates provided a brief overview of the public participation that had been done as part of the LRTP update. The needs assessment for the LRTP included highway needs, transit needs, and trail needs. Assessment of the highway needs included travel demands, trends, traffic counts, projected trends, and future demands. Highlights included two new interchanges, improving the interchanges at US 27, SR 40, and CR 484, widening SR 40 East, widening SR 200 South, widening and the addition of railroad overpasses on NE 25th Avenue and NE 36th Avenue, construction of SW 92nd Place Road (also known as the Belleview Beltway), widening I-75, and extending CR 42 over I-75 to connect to Marion Oaks.

Highlighted transit needs were circulator service on SR 200 and SR 35, improved frequencies on existing routes, new service on SR 200, express service to Marion Oaks, and potential future projects such as intercity rail and light rail. Mr. Blain advised that dedicated bus lanes had been pulled out of the plan.

Mr. Blain reported that trail needs included several pieces of the Cross Florida Greenway Trail that were committed over the next five years in addition to maintaining the existing trail priorities and coordinating with the Department of Environmental Protection on opportunities to extend the trail system.

Revenues included highway-specific funds, funds for transit, trail funding from the federal transportation alternative program, and flexible use funds. Mr. Blain mentioned that there was an alternative revenue option from a local discretionary sales surtax.

Mr. Blain advised that the final needs assessment would be presented in September with the recommended cost feasible plan. After presentation to the board, a public comment period would be opened, leading to adoption in November.

Mr. McGinley asked about light rail, and Mr. Voges advised that the Florida Northern tracks had been identified for future preservation. Mr. Slay added that the rail needs were not recommended projects; rather, they served as placeholders for the future.

Dr. Doug Shearer of 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, asked about the route for the Belleview multiuse trail, and Mr. Slay reported that FDOT had funded a feasibility study to look at NE 110th Street Road, US 441, and Baseline Road to determine the best way to connect the trail. Mr. Slay noted that SE 110th Street Road did not have enough right-of-way. The feasibility study would provide a more detailed look at the alternatives.

Item 4. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Mr. Odom presented an amendment to add operating funds to the Transportation Improvement Program for the operation of SunTran. This was an annual allocation.

Ms. Mangram moved approval of the Transportation Improvement Program amendment. Mr. Kelly seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March, April, and June of 2015. Mr. McGinley seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith announced upcoming public meetings regarding the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan. Ms. Smith also reported that Baseline Road widening had been awarded and a contract had been executed.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay mentioned that the final needs assessment and cost feasible plan would be reviewed at the next meeting for recommendation to the TPO board.

Item 8. Comments by CAC Members

There were no further comments by CAC members.

Item 9. Public Comment

Dr. Doug Shearer of 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, announced that the Greenway Equestrians were having the national television show Best of America by Horseback come in to film the trails on the Greenway. The equestrian group was staging a fundraiser to raise the \$20,000 needed to have the show filmed.

Item 10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Blaney at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant