



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

August 23, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Earl Arnett
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Councilman Rick Hancock
Commissioner Gary Ernst
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman Brent Malever, Chairman
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Stan McClain
Councilman Matthew Wardell
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner David Moore
Councilwoman Mary Rich
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.
Commissioner Ron Livsey
Mayor Nathn Whitt

Others Present:

Ryan Marks
WT Bowmen
Huiwei Shinn, FDOT
Janna Taylor, FDOT
Tony Chau, City of Ocala Traffic Engineering
Gennie Garcia, SunTran
Ginger B.
Don Atwell, Marion County OCI
Amber Gartner
Tracy Straub, Marion County Engineering

Others Present (cont'd):

Darren Park, City of Ocala Public Works
Sean Lanier, Ocala Public Works
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Engineering

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Malever called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Secretary Shakayla Jacobs called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Jacobs 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. Critical Freight Corridors

A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3b. SunTran Bus Wraps

Discussed contract with Beggan Associates which expired on July 6, 2016. We have had about ten organizations requesting bus wraps one is a non-profit group called Measure Up Marion. The options presented today are to continue to have Beggan wrap the four buses and continue with the other three, Crimestoppers, Recycling and Utility and add Measure Up Marion or choose to go out to bid. Two buses are always kept unwrapped which leaves eight buses. According to the Procurement Department, there is a reverse bid process where we can start out at \$1,000 and have the bids go up from there. A question was raised on the life span of the bus wrap material. The response was three to five years.

A motion was made and seconded to go back into a contract with Beggan Associates for another year and at the end of that year we can reevaluate the contract. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded to put the other bus out to bid and if any other buses become available they should go out to bid as well. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3c. Request for Bus Passes

City of Ocala recently hired a Social Services Liaison to coordinate efforts with the local agencies to assist the homeless and low income people with transportation needs, etc. This may require twenty monthly passes to get this going. These will be provided directly from SunTran to the Social Services Liaison and distributed as they see fit.

Motion was made and seconded to approve this. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4a. I-75 Relief Presentation

Ms. Huiwei Shinn, FDOT, updated the Board with a brief summary on the I-75 Relief Task Force, which was established to provide recommendations on how to develop transportation options relief to I-75 and to also enhance regional activity connectivity from Tampa to the Jacksonville area. The Task Force recommendations will be submitted to DOT Secretary by October 1, 2016. There have been a total of seven meetings since the last Task Force meeting in August. The Task Force has worked with the DOT and the community to develop the best options. The Task Force wants the DOT to immediately start to optimize existing transportation corridors. What is meant by that is they want us to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of I-75 and other transportation corridors through short term operational solutions. They also want to provide technical and financial support to assist local governments in improving regional and local roads and transit systems. They want the DOT to focus our energy and resources on transforming I-75 by expanding its capacity and improving its safety, efficiency and reliability through strategies such as express lanes and truck only lanes. They also want us to take a look at US-301 to see if there are any improvements that we can make in that area. The Task Force wants us to work with the freight rail industry to expand rail capacity and connectivity with emphasis on the S line and provide more choices for long distance travel, including enhancing intercity bus services and creating passenger rail services.

A question was raised, asking if I-75 will be the priority since 70% of truck traffic goes on I-75 in Marion County. Ms. Shen responded that I-75 is the priority with a recommend special truck lane only plan.

Another question was asked regarding the enhancements on US -301 and 41 are they being done by sections. Ms. Shen responded that if any changes that are recommended will go to the community to get their input. We are evaluating different options at this point.

Item 4b. US 441 Corridor Study - Belleview

A corridor study was recently completed in the City of Belleview and US 441. The object of the corridor study was to not only look at the operational efficiency and safety of the roadway, but also some potential multi-modal enhancements.

Mr. W.T. Bowman, Tindale Oliver Associates updated the Board with information. The City approached the TPO to initiate this corridor study. The study limits are generally 441 through the City from 301 to about 102nd. There were quite a few goals established at the beginning. First to determine what we were going to do here, the principles and the vision; develop corridor strategies that develop safety, multi-modal enhancements, pedestrian bicycle and walk ability esthetics. We have completed our recommendations both short term and long term. There was significant public involvement in our study.

In our traffic engineering portion, we have a four lane divided roadway with split speed limits; 40 mph and 45 mph as you go further northwest. There are six signalized intersections, two of which are of primary focus due to the potential for congestion. There is ample vehicle capacity so there is no need to widen this road. It functions well as a four lane facility. In our safety analysis we identified very specific hot spots. There are a

couple of signal operational issues, they can be resolved with by just recalibrating the timing. There is no transit service and there is no need for immediate transit service and there are also no bicycle facilities. Our future conditional analysis saw the corridor behaving exactly as it does today without significant land redevelopment or changes to development patterns.

Marion County conducted a speed study during our study. The speeds in the corridor in the 85 percentile are running 5, 8, 10 mph over posted limits.

Public feedback we received on our study consisted of reduce the speeds, maintain the parking that's on the roadway and minimize impacts to access.

Short Term

Speed reduction and modifying the lane widths. The outside lane on that roadway are currently 15' -17' wide. Typical is 11' – 12' wide. Bringing that in with striping helps to reduce speed by giving you a tighter feel on the roadway. We would also like to request that FDOT perform a speed study.

During our study we saw about nine or ten accidents at the race track driveway. We are looking to modify that driveway.

Spot Median Enhancements – These are 12' – 16' islands place sporadically and strategically throughout the corridor. These have a minimal impact on access to businesses.

Mid-Block Crossings – Though we did not see significant crossing throughout the corridor, the speed of the roadway does cause a concern. We propose two places where there could be raised islands with directional type mid-block crossings with the appropriate treatment to be decided.

Traffic Signals – There were a few left turns having some traffic issues. These signals just need to be retimed.

Long Term

Access Management requires significant study for median changes.

Buffered Bike Lanes - Without redoing the land use, things like a bicycle path may not be appropriate right now. We did not observe significant pedestrian/bike use. There could be if you provide the proper facilities.

Intersection Improvements – Closing one of the minor uses at 301. Consideration of a five leg roundabout at the intersection of 301 and 441 Bab Rd.

Transit Service – Would require a significant amount of study.

Item 5a. Transit Shelters

We were approached by Mr. Conner a year or two ago regarding putting in Transit Shelters contingent on being able to sell advertising in there to make it profitable for him. We explained to him the City's sign ordinance and he felt it was too stringent. We approached the City in regards to changing the sign ordinance. They decided not to change it. Mr. Conner decided to pull out of this venture. However, we have been working with the Survey Department and Engineering Department surveying all the locations. We are in the process of going out for two RFPs one we are calling an ADA Access RFP to do not only the concrete work, but any other ADA improvements i.e., sidewalk connectivity. The other RFP will be for Transit Shelters and to have them installed. We have already allocated money through our FTA Grants. We should be in the process by the beginning of the year.

Item 6. Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 7a. TPO Selection Committee Update

Currently looking at seven applications. We have interviews on Tuesday, August 30th at 8:30, 9:15, 10:00 and 10:45 am and on September 1st at 3:00, 3:30 and 4:15 pm. After these interviews recommendations will be presented to the Board.

Item 8. Comments by FDOT

Kelly Smith, FDOT presented packets to Board including the Construction Report and information on the lane closures. There will be a Public Meeting for the State Road 200 Widening Project on September 13th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Advent on SW Highway 484 in Dunnellon.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Staff

Commissioner Kathy Bryant requested that we add to our All Systems Priority List the Sunrise and Horizon Schools Sidewalks project.

Tracy Straub, County Engineer – We have been approached by the community to get a sidewalk in an area that would support school network as well as the community. We would like to get this project identified on the All Systems Improvement List so we can look for future DOT funding. This would be a half mile stretch of sidewalk.

A motion was made and seconded to have this placed on the All Systems Priority List. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 10. Comments by TPO Members

Commissioner Zalak reported on the Central Florida MPO Alliance one of the things they are working on logistically is asking the FDOT to work on the truck stops. They are

having some truck hauling stop issues in Seminole County and long term, it could affect I-75 and how they do the reliefs and weigh stations.

Commissioner Gary Ernst liked to thank the Mayor.

Item 11. Public Comment

None.

Item 12. Adjournment

Chairman Malever adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Administrative Assistant