



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:

Noel Cooper
Ji Li
Kia Powell
Loretta Shaffer (*arrived at 3:45pm*)
Eric Smith
Tracy Straub (*Chris Zeigler attended on Tracy's behalf*)
Bob Titterington
Chuck Varadin (*arrived at 3:32pm*)

Members Not Present:

Dave Herlihy
Mickey Thomason
Chad Ward

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO
Liz Mitchell, Ocala Marion TPO
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO
Ken Odom, Marion County
Jeff Shrum, City of Ocala

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Eric Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll and 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 February 6, 2024. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Following the proof of publication, Chairman Smith reminded the committee that they followed Roberts Rules of Order at all TAC meetings. As members, this meant that if they had a question or wished to make a statement, they were to notify the chair to avoid interruptions and talking over each other. For the public, they were asked to wait until the end of the meeting during Public Comment to address the TAC. The committee allowed all members of the public to speak for up to two minutes.

Item 3. Consent Agenda

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

Item 4a. Election of 2024 TAC Officer

Per the bylaws of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected a by a majority of the present voting members. The term shall be for one full calendar year.

Due to changes in TAC membership, the 2024 Vice Chair position is vacant. A nomination(s) and vote by members was needed to elect a **Vice-Chair** for 2024. In the event the TAC Chair is absent at a meeting, the Vice Chair presides as Chair.

Mr. Titterington made a motion to elect Mr. Mickey Thomason as Vice-Chair.
Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4b. Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3

Ms. Brown presented to the committee and said there was one project proposed to be amended to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The following summarizes the proposed change to the TIP.

FM# 454185-1 Capital-Marion Senior Services, Inc.

- To provide transportation for those in the community who qualify to receive assistance through the 5311 program

- Funds to be added to FY 2024
- Total: \$125,000

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the FY 2024 to 2028 TIP Amendment #3.

Mr. Titterington seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4c. Performance Management 2024 Safety Targets

Ms. Brown gave a detailed presentation to the committee on the Performance Management 2024 Safety Targets.

In 2023, the TPO Board tasked its staff with evaluating the current methodology to determine if the increased growth in Marion County necessitates a revised target methodology. TPO staff conducted a thorough review, including examining VMT data, crash statistics from 2018 to 2022, and peer methodologies from other MPO/TPOs in Florida. They also considered revisions to the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan, aligning it with federal grant opportunities and Vision Zero goals. The review found that VMT data for Marion County is current and crash data needed updating due to reporting delays and anomalies. Revised 2022 statistics showed increases in fatalities and non-motorized injuries. Peer reviews of other MPO/TPOs revealed various methodologies focusing on declining targets. In January 2024, a proposed FHWA rule could change Safety Performance Measure targets from annual to triennial, shift to a 3-year average, and require constant or improved safety performance from baseline levels.

Since 2018, the TPO Board had adopted quantifiable safety performance targets to track progress and reflect more accountability to the public.

Ms. Brown shared with the committee the three PM1 Safety Target options that were proposed:

Option A. Adopt safety targets based on the most current five-year rolling averages with a 5% reduction. This option supports the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan goal of Zero Fatalities and Zero Serious Injuries by 2045. This option also aligns the TPO more closely to other TPO/MPO peers, and the pending new rulemaking by FHWA.

Option B. Adopt safety targets based on the current rolling average methodology. This option has been adopted since 2018.

Option C. *Adoption of state targets of 0 for all five 2024 safety targets.

*If the TPO adopts FDOT safety targets, the requirement is to annually adopt the same targets until changes are made by the state.

Mr. Cooper inquired if the TPO board had approved Option B in the past.

Ms. Brown replied yes, and that year the TPO had asked for a recommendation to the board from one of the three options provided.

Ms. Shaffer inquired if reaching or not reaching the targets affected funding. Ms. Brown replied that funding was not impacted by reaching or not reaching the safety targets.

Mr. Balmes chimed in that some peers had implemented reduction targets in their plan and since FDOT had a Vision Zero it would help.

Mr. Varadin inquired if there was a need for a more aggressive downward rate.

Mr. Zeigler responded in agreement with Mr. Varadin on taking a more aggressive approach.

Mr. Balmes talked about Option A that had been recommended by TPO staff, which would adopt safety targets based on the most current five-year rolling averages with a 5% reduction.

Mr. Li asked if there was any action plan in place to reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities.

Mr. Balmes responded that the TPO had a Safety Action Plan that worked in conjunction with the safety targets.

Mr. Li suggested having something in place that showed that the Safety Action Plan was effective in decreasing the rates.

Mr. Titterington said there was no control of ensuring targets were met, but they could set the goal of zero and do what they could. He also said if the state target was zero, then why wouldn't they set the target the same.

Mr. Zeigler responded that reaching a goal of zero was simply impossible and setting a realistic goal made more sense.

The committee continued to engage in discussions aimed at finding different ways to increase safety and effectively reduce the numbers of serious injuries and fatalities.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve Option A for the Performance Management 2024 Safety Targets. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4d. TAC Bylaws Membership Update

Mr. Balmes said the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) serves at the pleasure of the TPO and consists of planners, engineers and other professionals in Marion County. Presently, the TAC consists of 10 members serving as voting members, and the Florida Department of Transportation District 5, as one non-voting member.

Annually, the TPO Director reviews the TAC membership and coordinates, as needed, with local government and partner agencies on representation for the upcoming calendar year. Based on a recent review, the TPO is recommending to the Board the addition of a Parks and Recreation voting member and specifically Jim Couillard. Mr. Couillard's background as the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department Director is extensive in the areas of nonmotorized transportation, including serving as past Chair of the Florida Greenways

and Trails Council. His significant knowledge of Marion County community needs would also be an asset to the TAC. This change would require an amendment to the TAC Bylaws and subject to committee approval.

Mr. Zeigler inquired if the addition of Mr. Couillard had been discussed with Marion County Administration.

Mr. Balmes said he had a discussion with Marion County Administrator, Mounir Bouyounes and he approved of Mr. Couillard's participation.

Ms. Shaffer said it would be a good idea to add Parks and Recreation with their huge influence.

Mr. Cooper inquired about having a Parks and Recreation representative from the City of Ocala.

Mr. Balmes suggested Mr. Couillard as the representative, citing his background and experience on the Florida Greenways and Trails Council.

Mr. Zeigler said the City of Ocala could appoint an alternate member.

Mr. Cooper suggested that Mr. Balmes should also meet with leadership at the City of Ocala to discuss having a potential member for Parks and Recreation as well.

Mr. Zeigler suggested having the Parks and Recreation member rotate from year to year.

Chairman Smith mentioned taking some time to revise the bylaws, including additional language regarding the position, and bringing it back to the committee at a later time.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to table the TAC Bylaws Membership Update. Mr. Zeigler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5a. 2024 Major Activities

Mr. Rob Balmes presented the 2024 Major Activities.

In calendar year 2024, the TPO was expected to be involved with a number of program and project activities to meet organization goals and state and federal requirements. In the meeting packet included current planned activities. A brief presentation was given at the meeting to share further information and how committee members would be involved throughout the calendar year in providing guidance, feedback and recommendations.

First Quarter: February to March

- 2024 Safety (PM1) Targets (February)
- Public Participation Plan (PPP) (March)
- Fiscal Years 24/2025 to 25/2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (April)

Second Quarter: April to June

- 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Kick-Off (April 23)
- List of Priority Projects (LOPP) (May, June)
- FY 2025 to 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (May, June)

Third Quarter: August to September

- 2024 Traffic Counts Online Map and Report (August)
- Commitment to Zero Dashboard and Annual Report (August)
- Roll Forward Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029 TIP Amendment (September)
- Greenhouse Gas CO2 Performance Measure Target (new)
- Active Transportation Plan (TBD)
- *Resiliency Improvement Plan (TBD)*
- 2050 LRTP Ongoing Updates (Open House)

Fourth Quarter: October to December

- 2050 LRTP Ongoing Updates
- 2045 LRTP Amendment (if necessary) (August-November)

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Kia Powell provided the construction report, which was updated to include maps to make it more public-friendlier to the committee, and shared that there are currently eight road closures within Marion County. A few other updates given were that a Safety Strategic Plan Workshop would be held at the Lady Lake Public Library on Monday, February 26, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Best Foot Forward, along with law enforcement, would be monitoring SE 28th Street and SE 52nd Avenue starting February 15 from 7 am to 9 am.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no comments by TPO Staff.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

Mr. Cooper informed the committee that the city of Ocala received a \$104,000 grant from the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. The City of Ocala has two projects, NW/SW 44th Avenue, moving forward under contract.

Item 9. Public Comment

Mr. Shrum inquired about the public involvement process of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Balmes said there would be a kick-off for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on April 23rd, which would also mark the beginning of the public involvement process. The

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consultant team selected is Kimley-Horn, and they are currently in the data collection phase.

Mr. Shrum expressed his interest in arranging a meeting with the TPO and Marion County to discuss the approach of the City of Ocala Vision 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Eric Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant