



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ocala Citizens Service Center
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34471

January 10, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present:

Renee Blaney
Davis Dinkins
Ed Kelly
Richard McGinley, Chair
Michelle Shearer

Members Not Present:

Joe London
Paul Maraffino
Suzanne Mangram
Steve Rudnianyn
Robert Sulzer
Clark Yandle

Others Present:

TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Chairman McGinley. Secretary Shakayla Jacobs called the roll. 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. Transit Development Plan

The Transit Development Plan (TDP) was a ten-year plan that guides funding and served the mobility needs of all users of the fixed route transit system (SunTran). It was required by the Florida Department of Transportation and was updated annually with a major update to be completed every five-years.

The Ocala/Marion TPO had retained Tindale Oliver & Associates Inc. to assist with the development of the major update that began in November 2016. To this point, the public involvement processes had begun and fifteen of eighteen stakeholders had been interviewed by the consultant and TPO staff had prepared candidate lists for three separate focus group meetings that would be taking place over the last week of January and/or the first week of February.

TPO staff would present a brief synopsis of the public involvement activities to date as well as inform the committee on what the next steps would be and how we plan on the entire process to develop.

Item 3b. Bus Passes

The SunTran fixed route bus system had been in operation since 1998 and almost since its inception, SunTran had been petitioned to provide free bus passes to non-profit groups operating within Marion County. While SunTran had met that need from time to time, it has been completely at the discretion of the TPO Board.

Each individual request had been reviewed by the TPO Board on a case-by-case basis and most have been approved. However, there had never been an established policy on how these requests should be handled, nor had there ever been any established criteria that would indicate if a particular organization should or should not be eligible.

TPO staff are currently researching other transit systems throughout the United States in order to determine what the best approach to accommodating these types of requests will entail. Once staff had determined what alternatives would be most suitable for the unique characteristics of our system, those alternatives would be brought back before the committees and the TPO Board in order to establish a policy that would govern the eligibility of these requests, and if eligible, would determine if passes should be provided free of charge or made available at a discounted rate.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

Ms. Blaney made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kelly seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Comments by FDOT

Construction report was presented.

Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no comments by TPO Staff.

Item 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 8. Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm.