



## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**JANUARY 13, 2015**  
**3:00 PM**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

#### **2. PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

#### **3. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

*The TAC is required to annually elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson to serve for the calendar year. The current chairman is Ed Kelly, and Renee Blaney is vice-chairman.*

##### **B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

*Each year the Transportation Planning Organization develops a set of legislative priorities on which to focus. Staff will present the 2015 legislative priorities for review and approval.*

##### **C. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

*To ensure that the Transportation Improvement Program reflects the most current project information, it is periodically necessary to amend the document. Staff will present the Transportation Improvement Program amendments for review and approval.*

#### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. FDOT DISTRICT 5 FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014**

**6. COMMENTS BY FDOT**

**7. COMMENTS BY TPO STAFF**

**8. SUGGESTIONS BY CAC MEMBERS**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 minutes)**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

If reasonable accommodations are needed for you to participate in this meeting, please call the TPO Office at (352)629-8297 forty-eight (48) hours in advance, so arrangements can be made.

*The next regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be held on  
**February 10, 2015.***



## **2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

*The Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) was established to encourage a regional approach to transportation system improvements. This program proved highly successful in the Central Florida area. Funding for the program has declined steadily since 2008 due to the economic downturn and a shift of \$60 million in 2014 to the Florida Rail Enterprise. Restoring the program to its pre-recession levels enable local governments to accelerate a number of transportation projects.*

### **SUPPORT EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF THE CURRENT CHARTER COUNTY TRANSIT SURTAX**

*Section 212.055(1) F.S. authorizes charter counties to levy (by countywide referendum) up to 1¢ for various transportation uses including highway construction and maintenance as well as activities to support a transit system. Expanding eligibility for this surtax to counties that are members of a metropolitan/transportation planning organization would provide another resource for local governments in those counties to address transportation issues as well as provide a source of matching funds for programs such as the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP).*

### **SUPPORT INDEXING OF LOCAL OPTION GAS TAXES**

*Current market conditions, including more fuel efficient vehicles, are greatly undermining the purchasing power of local option gas taxes. In 1997, the Legislature allowed state gas taxes to be indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year. Providing local governments the same opportunity to index local option gas taxes would enable local governments to better address both*

*capacity and maintenance issues. Since 1990, the purchasing power of local option taxes has decreased by approximately 40%.*

**SUPPORT REDUCTION OF DISTRACTED DRIVING BY DESIGNATING USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AS A PRIMARY OFFENSE**

*Traffic crashes caused by drivers using wireless communication devices continues to be a concern. In 2013, the legislation was enacted that prohibited use of such devices while driving as a secondary offense, meaning a driver has to have committed a more serious violation (i.e. speeding, careless driving) to be issued a citation for texting while driving. Designating distracted driving as a primary offense would further deter this dangerous activity.*

DRAFT



January 7, 2015

**TO: TAC/CAC Committee Members**

**FROM: Kenneth Odom, Transportation Planner**

**RE: FY 2014/2015-2018/2019 'Roll-Forward' TIP AMENDMENT**

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In order to ensure that the Ocala/Marion County TIP reflects the most current project information, it is necessary to periodically amend the document. Amendments to the TIP are typically required:

- To add or delete a project;
- To change the state or federal funding allocation of a project;
- To change the year of anticipated funding of a project phase;
- To change the scope of work of a project;
- To change the source of federal or state funds.

Eight project amendments are proposed by the Florida Department of Transportation this month. Please see the attached page following this memo.

Specific details regarding the addition of these projects and the associated funding changes will be discussed at the January 13, 2015 meeting.

If you have any questions prior to the upcoming meeting, please contact our office at 629-8297.

Version: G1

Florida Department of Transportation  
STIP Amendments Needed for Estimate Increases  
MARION COUNTY  
Fiscal Years 2015 to 2018

Effective: 01/06/15 00:24

Run: 01/06/15 11:36

Item Segment	Last Approved STIP Amendment	Description	Phase Group	Federal Project	PH	Sq	Fund	Year	Original Estimate	Current Estimate	Estimate Increase
427188-2		SUNTRAN/OCALA/MARION URBAN CAPITAL FIXED ROUTE FTA SECTION 5307-2009	GRANTS AND MISCELLANEOUS		94	01	FTA	2015	1,294,144	1,294,144	-
							LF	2015	323,536	323,536	-
						02	FTA	2016	-	2,022,110	2,022,110
							FL	2016	-	505,528	505,528
<i>Project Totals</i>									<b>1,617,680</b>	<b>4,145,318</b>	<b>2,527,638</b>
431797-1		NE 25TH AVENUE FROM SR 492 TO NE 35TH STREET	RAILROAD AND UTILITIES	7777-267-A	37	01	SL	2015	-	15,000	15,000
<i>Project Totals</i>									-	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
431798-1		NE 36TH AVENUE FROM SR 492 (NE 14TH ST) TO NE 35TH STREET	RAILROAD AND UTILITIES		37	01	SL	2015	-	15,000	15,000
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
431798-2		NE 36TH AVENUE FROM SR 492 (NE 14TH ST) TO NE 35TH STREET	PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING		32	01	ACSL	2016	-	485,426	485,426
							CM	2016	-	889,574	889,574
				9339-004-U	31	01	SA	2015	-	10,000	10,000
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>1,385,000</b>	<b>1,385,000</b>
431798-4		NE 36TH AVENUE FROM NORTH OF NE 25TH STREET TO NE 35TH STREET	PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING		32	01	CM	2016	-	533,131	533,131
							SA	2016	-	106,876	106,876
							SL	2016	-	734,993	734,993
				9339-005-U	31	01	SA	2015	-	10,000	10,000
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>1,385,000</b>	<b>1,385,000</b>
436186-1		SW 80TH AVENUE FROM SW 90TH STREET TO SW 38TH STREET	CONSTRUCTION	8886-626-A	58	01	ACSL	2015	-	1,440,321	1,440,321
							LF	2015	-	564,679	564,679
					61	01	ACSL	2015	-	5,000	5,000
					68	01	ACSL	2015	-	18,000	18,000
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>2,028,000</b>	<b>2,028,000</b>
436474-1		COUNTYWIDE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, MARION COUNTY	PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING		31	01	TALL	2015	-	6,000	6,000
					38	01	TALL	2015	-	60,000	60,000
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>66,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>
437188-1		MARION-MARION COUNTY TRANSIT SEC 5339 SMALL URBAN BUS & BUS FACILITIES CAPITAL	GRANTS AND MISCELLANEOUS		94	01	DU	2015	-	434,778	434,778
							LF	2015	-	108,695	108,695
<i>Project Totals</i>										<b>543,473</b>	<b>543,473</b>



## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**October 14, 2014**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present:**

Renee Blaney (*departed 3:40 p.m.*)  
Davis Dinkins (*arrived 3:04 p.m.*)  
Joe London  
Suzanne Mangram (*departed 4:02 p.m.*)  
Richard McGinley  
Michelle Shearer (*arrived 3:25 p.m.*)  
Robert Sulzer (*arrived 3:08 p.m.*)  
Clarke Yandle

#### **Members Not Present:**

Ed Kelly, Chairman

#### **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

#### **Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Vice-chairwoman Renee Blaney. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

## **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. Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Odom presented the Roll-forward Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP was brought for approval twice per year because of the difference between the Federal and State fiscal years. Mr. Odom advised that there were significant changes to the TIP from its previous version. Staff had added two alternative priority lists to the TIP – an off-system priority list and a trail priority list.

Significant changes to the TIP included the addition of design-build funds for the Santos Trail and PD&E, PE, and some environmental mitigation for the Pruitt Trail. Mr. Odom reported that the Land Bridge Trail was also being amended into the TIP. The Belleview Beltway had been removed from the priority list because it was funded for construction in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Yandle asked about the scope of the trail projects, and Mr. Odom answered that there were three sections going into construction from Dunnellon to Santos. Two of the sections were design-build, and one was being held up because of a property issue. A trail from Santos to the Baseline Trail was moving forward.

Ms. Blaney asked about the SW 95<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, and Mr. Slay said that the Federal Highway Administration had requested additional information; the county commission had approved funding for a safety analysis. The interchange was still being envisioned as a full interchange.

*Mr. McGinley made a motion to approve the Roll-forward TIP as presented and Ms. Mangram seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **Item 4. Consent Agenda**

With the departure of Ms. Blaney at 3:40 p.m., Mr. McGinley assumed the role of acting chairman.

*Mr. London moved for approval of the September 9, 2014, meeting minutes. Mr. Sulzer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*



### **Item 5. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Smith announced that a Work Program public hearing would be held on December 9, at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing would be broadcast via webinar at [www.d5wpph.com/2014](http://www.d5wpph.com/2014). Ms. Smith reported that widening of SR 40 West was in progress.

### **Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Slay advised that a public hearing for the adoption of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan update would take place on October 28.

Mr. Odom reported that accomplishments from the plan update included consensus on trail corridors and alignments. Public involvement for the update had targeted specific stakeholders like bicycle clubs and shops. Newsletters, a project website, and social media had also been utilized to distribute information and receive comments.

Mr. Odom explained that a multi-use trail as referred to in the plan was a twelve-foot paved surface. Mr. Odom said that permeable concrete was being considered for places where there were environmental concerns; generally the trail surface would be asphalt.

Mr. Odom reported that the update had focused on regional connectivity. There was a push from the Florida legislature for connectivity with the Coast-to-Coast Trail. The Heart of Florida Loop was another major regional project that included Marion County. Funding had been received for the Marion County section of the Loop that would connect Ocala to Dunnellon. Mr. Odom said that the update tried to extend to as many counties as possible, including regional connectivity projects to the Goethe Trail and the Withlacoochee Bay Trail.

Economic impact was included in the update, and Mr. Odom said that it was not farfetched to think that Marion County and Silver Springs State Park could be an international destination and attract sporting events like endurance and road races. Ms. Blaney mentioned that the International Mountain Biking Association had once looked at Marion County as a possible ride center, so becoming an international destination was not farfetched. Mr. Odom said that the economic impact was estimated at around \$20,000,000 per year.

Three feasibility studies had been undertaken as part of the update. One project, the Florida Northern Railroad alignment, was not feasible. The studies had looked at right-of-way, crossings, and conflict.

The Cross Florida Greenway Trail included the Pruitt, Land Bridge, and Santos phases and connected Ocala to Dunnellon. Mr. Odom said staff was working on an eventual connection to Belleview. The Downtown to Silver Springs Multi-use Trail was six miles long and utilized existing facilities. The Silver Springs Bikeway was sectioned into two phases, the first a 4.5-mile section from Silver Springs State Park to the Baseline Trail and the second phase connecting Phase 1 to CR 42. Mr. Odom advised that much of the corridor for Phase 2 had existing rock roads or shelves that were ready for building the trail.

Another feature of the update was development of a bicycle suitability map. Staff planned to provide a copy of the map to each of the local bicycle stops. The map included levels of suitability, was interactive, and linked to [mapmyride.com](http://mapmyride.com).

Mr. Odom advised that additional bicycle projects included a trail on SR 40, a Lake Weir connection, a connections to the northeast side of the county, the Goethe State Trail, and Withlacoochee Bay Trail, a bikeway around Ocala, and East Pennsylvania Avenue in Dunnellon. Sidewalk recommendations were also included in the update.

Next steps were continued coordination with FDOT on an urban bicycle facility network, continued coordination with interested regional parties, and adoption of the plan at a public hearing scheduled for October 28.

Mr. McGinley commented that the Florida Northern Railroad tracks compassed Lake Weir down to Eustis, but Mr. Odom advised that the tracks were gone. Mr. Slay added that once the railroad abandoned the tracks, the adjacent property owners were generally given first right of refusal. Most of the abandoned line was now under private ownership.

Ms. Blaney asked about changes since the draft of the plan had been produced, and Mr. Odom advised that Marion County and FDOT staff had provided comments. Mr. Slay added that there were no fundamental changes.

Ms. Shearer asked about sidewalks on SE 95<sup>th</sup> Street, and Mr. Odom said that staff had looked at two routes for trails out of Belleview and preferred SE 110<sup>th</sup> Street. There appeared to be right-of-way issues on SE 95<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Slay mentioned that there was a recommendation for interconnected sidewalks for the schools and the city of Belleview which was different from the trail project. Mr. Slay added that alternative routes for the Belleview trail would be explored.

Mr. Yandle asked about the Florida Northern Railroad trail, and Mr. Slay advised that there was a lack of interest from the railroad. Staff had documented the information for the future.

Ms. Shearer asked if the Santos alignment was determined, and Mr. Slay said it was not detailed yet. Mr. Slay thought that the alignment would utilize existing crushed rock roads once it got west of SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ms. Shearer asked if equestrian trails would be rerouted, and Mr. Slay said he did not think all the trails could be completed separated. Staff had tried to minimize crossings of trails and all trail crossings would be marked.

Mr. Slay reported that staff was meeting with groups regarding trail alignments and having public meetings with the Office of Greenways and Trails regarding the Santos Trail. Marion County was working with FDOT on a request for proposals. Ms. Smith noted that there were known environmental issues on the project that would need to be mitigated first. Mr. Slay thought construction could start on late 2015 or early 2016, depending on the environmental findings.

**Item 7. Suggestions by CAC Members**

*There were no further comments by CAC members.*

**Item 8. Public Comment**

*There were no comments from the public.*

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Acting Chairman McGinley at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant