



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

January 31, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar (*arrived 4:22pm*)
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever
Commissioner David Moore
Councilwoman Mary Rich
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Jeff Gold
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Councilman Jay Musleh
Councilman Matthew Wardell

Others Present:

Antonio Lopez
Angelia Wood
Jamie Kersey, FDOT
Zachary Zalneraitis
Darlene Soto
Jonathan Soto
Karen Fine
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn
Don Atwell, Marion County
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala

Tracy Straub, Marion County
Doug Shearer
Kevin Smith, Marion County

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 on the City of Ocala, Marion County, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

Item 3a. Oak Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment

Mr. Odom presented the Oak Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment and said that the Florida Department of Transportation had requested that the TIP be amended to reflect the addition of one project: Oak Road Rail Crossing- install constant warning timing devices.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Oak Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment.
Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3b. Emerald Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment

Mr. Odom presented the Emerald Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment and said that the Florida Department of Transportation had requested that the TIP be amended to reflect the addition of one project: Emerald Road Rail Crossing- install constant warning timing devices and flashing light.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to approve the Emerald Road Rail Crossing TIP Amendment.
Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3c. Safety Performance Measures and Targets

Mr. Daniels presented the Safety Performance Measures and Targets and said nationally, state-specific, and locally, there were transportation plans to have enhanced safety for all users of the transportation system. A coordinated effort to connect all the safety plans had long been in effect in the transportation realm, but over the last two years, a system of Performance Management, had led to a greater push for comprehensive and coordinated transportation and safety planning. Performance Measures for Safety had been developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), for which targets were being established cooperatively between the FDOT and MPO/TPO's within the State of Florida (as well as

nationally). Through this coordinated effort, the goals of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Highway Safety Plan (HSP), Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), and region specific safety and transportation plans can be shown to guide and support one another. In August of 2017, the FDOT adopted a target of “Zero” for the five (5) safety performance measures adopted by the FHWA for all public roads.

Mr. Daniels presented a table with brief descriptions of each of the 5 Safety Performance Measures:

- **Number of fatalities**- The total number of persons suffering fatal injuries in a motor vehicle crash during a calendar year.
- **Rate of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Travels (VMT)**- The ratio of total number of fatalities to the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT, in 100 Million VMT) in a calendar year.
- **Number of serious injuries**- The total number of persons suffering at least one serious injury in a motor vehicle crash during a calendar year.
- **Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT**- The ratio of total number of serious injuries to the number of VMT (in 100 Million VMT) in a calendar year.
- **Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries**- The combined total number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries involving a motor vehicle during a calendar year.

Mr. Daniels then presented the board with recommendations from the Ocala/Marion TPO:

- **Number of Fatalities**- recommended an interim performance measure of 61 for the year 2018, which would indicate no worsening of the condition on average.
- **Number of Serious Injuries**- recommended an interim performance measure of 327 for the year 2018, which would indicate no worsening of the condition on average.
- **Fatality Rate**- recommended an interim performance measure of 1.48 for the year 2018, which would indicate no worsening of the condition on average.
- **Serious Injury Rate**- recommended an interim performance measure of 7.99 for the year 2018 which would indicate no worsening of the condition on average.
- **Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries**- recommended an interim performance measure of 40 for the year 2018, which would indicate no worsening of the condition of average.

Mr. Moore said he believed one fatality was too many and that aim should be for zero. Mr. Zalak responded that shooting for zero instead of a reduction was unrealistic.

Mr. Daniels said that after looking at data from previous years that is how the TPO came up with the recommended target numbers.

Mr. Guinn mentioned that some traffic improvements effected local businesses and the entry to the businesses referencing the East Forty Publix.

There was some board discussion.

Ms. Bryant said that the TPO should do an assessment of the infrastructure issues that are causing safety problems and then from the results come up with a realistic target.

Mr. Antonio Lopez, 3130 NE 7th Lane, Ocala, FL 34470 addressed the board and said he believed that not only should the big issues be looked at but the small issues that cause traffic accidents as well. He too agreed that a zero target is unrealistic but agreed that an assessment should be done to address each issue that can make the roads safer.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to table the Safety Performance Measures and Targets until the TPO could conduct an assessment and bring the board recommendations of new targets. Mr. Livsey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3d. Appointment of Commissioner Michelle Stone to Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Chair

Mr. Daniels informed the board that the TDLCB was in need of a new chair to replace Councilman Hilty and asked the board to appoint Commissioner Michelle Stone to the chair of the TDLCB.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Appointment of Commissioner Michelle Stone to Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Chair. Ms. Hanchar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3e. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Committee Appointment

Mr. Odom told the board there were nine sitting members of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB), with room for fifteen. Mr. Odom asked to add three positions and informed the board that staff had not advertised these positions to the public because staff was attempting to fill the vacancies from Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged mandated organizations that had been vacant in recent years and included local social services representatives.

Mr. Odom asked the board for the appointment of the following applicants:

- **Dennis Yonce-** City of Ocala
- **Andrea Melvin-** Center for Independent Living
- **Jeffrey Aboumrad-** Florida Department of Education
- **Anissa Brescia-** Florida Center for the Blind (walk on application)

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Committee Appointment. Mr. Malever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. NE 14th Street (SR 492) and NE 30th Avenue Intersection

Mr. Daniels told the board that FDOT was in the process of reviewing the intersection of NE 14th Street (SR 492) and NE 30th Avenue for potential safety improvements. The intersection analysis included:

- A full signal warrant analysis,
 - Which involved taking 24-hour approach count and doing turning movement counts on the highest 8 hours
 - Reviewing crash history for the previous 12 months to see if there was a trend of correctable crashes
- The intersection operations will be observed in the AM and PM peak hours to determine if sight lines are impaired or if additional improvements need to be made.

Mr. Antonio Lopez, 3130 NE 7th Lane, Ocala, FL 34470, addressed the board and said the intersection is dangerous letting them know there had been two fatalities recent at the intersection with one of the fatalities being his daughter.

Mr. Lopez said he spoke with the Pastor at Central Christian Church and was told members were scared to pull out because of the intersection and its unsafe conditions and said that action needed to take place immediately.

Mr. Lopez also stated there not being a signal at the intersection is dangerous for all mobility. Mr. Lopez also mentioned the obstruction of view due to a stop bar at the stop sign that made it very hard to see oncoming traffic.

Mr. Lopez said he believed that everyone that traveled the road would benefit from a traffic signal.

Mr. Lopez said to get the information together and one at a time do something about it. Mr. Lopez urged the City, County, and State to do something right away and not take their time with it to prevent more fatalities.

Mr. Moore expressed deepest condolences to the families present that had lost loved ones due to the recent fatalities at the NE 14th Street and NE 30th Avenue intersection and also recommended looking at the visibility at the intersection.

Zachery Zalneraitis with the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Operations addressed the board to follow-up on Mr. Daniels comments about the study that was being performed and referenced the same studies Mr. Daniels previously mentioned and gave explanation of what the studies consist of.

Mr. Zalneraitis said that everything was on the table to prevent another accident at the intersection.

Mayor Guinn said that Mr. Lopez and the other family that suffered loss met with the City and asked if the study was about sixty days from being completed.

Mr. Zalneraitis said the study was expected to be done by the end of February.

Mayor Guinn asked if DOT was leaning towards putting up a traffic signal.

Mr. Zalneraitis said that the traffic signal was on the table and there were a lot of components that would go into a final decision to install the light.

Mayor Guinn said the City would put an article in the paper and publish socially that a signal would be coming to the intersection to inform the community.

Ms. Rich said there was a barrier going north on 30th Avenue and asked what was stopping people from seeing.

Mr. Zalneraitis said there were palm trees that stopped people from seeing.

Ms. Rich asked if the City and State could ask the property owners to cut down the palm trees.

Mr. Zalneraitis said that he was sure the City and State could ask and hopefully come up with a compromise with property owners to cut the palm trees.

Ms. Bryant asked if there were any preliminary results from the study.

Mr. Zalneraitis said not at this time because the study was still being conducted but said that all parties would be communicated with to come up with a solution.

Ms. Bryant also expressed deepest condolences to the families that suffered loss.

Mr. Livsey said that he hoped the City and State worked together to do what is right.

Mr. Lopez wanted to remind FDOT that there was major traffic coming out of side streets and the City Complex is located there which causes traffic and residential as well as the SunTran bus.

Mr. Moore said the board was asking FDOT to look at putting up a traffic signal to improve the intersection.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Kersey with FDOT said the only thing she had to present to the board was the construction report which had a couple of updates that included:

- SR 35 and Baseline Road lane closures
- SR 40 daytime lane closures

Ms. Kersey gave some staff announcements saying that there was a new District Five Secretary, Mike Shannon and a new Government Liaison, Anna Taylor.

Mr. Shannon expressed deepest condolences to the families that had suffered loss and said that FDOT would be taking a look at the intersection.

Mr. Shannon also introduced himself to the board and said he looked forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Taylor introduced herself to the board and said he looked forward to offering assistance.

There were no further questions from the board.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Daniels said that he would continue to send out the Legislative Updates to the board.

Mr. Daniels said the new websites for the TPO and SunTran were live and were still making some adjustments with some videos that were coming soon for How to Ride SunTran.

Mr. Daniels said that Mr. Bagen was the high bidder for bus wraps and would bring the contract to the board. Mr. Daniels also said that the City of Ocala Electric also expressed interest in a bus wrap.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Members

There were no comments by TPO members.

Item 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 9. Adjournment

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Administrative Assistant