



**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:**

Ji Li  
Bob Titterington (*arrived at 3:42pm*)  
Kenneth Odom  
Mickey Thomason  
Noel Cooper  
Eric Smith  
Elton Holland  
Rakinya Hinson

**Members Not Present:**

Dave Herlihy  
Loretta Shaffer  
Chad Ward

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes  
Shakayla Irby  
Liz Mitchell  
Jason Learned, FDOT  
Alice Giuliani, FDOT  
Rakinya Hinson, FDOT

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll. 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 June 6, 2023. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 3. Consent Agenda**

*Mr. Holland made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 4a. Functional Classification Process, Marion County**

Mr. Jason Learned and Ms. Alice Giuliani with FDOT presented.

At the April 11 TAC meeting, FDOT District Five presented an overview presentation Regarding the Functional Classification process and discussed the schedule for completion. The Committee was asked to provide a final review and approval of the Functional Classification Map for Marion County. The TPO Board would be asked to approve the map for Marion County at the June 27 meeting.

Mr. Learned said no comments had been received from Marion County or the Cities.

Mr. Odom asked inquired about a roadway, 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue within the City of Ocala that was under construction and planned to be finished in the Spring of the coming year and if it qualified for functional classification.

Mr. Learned said that Mr. Odom had mentioned the roadway however, no further information had been provided so the roadway was not added to the map. Mr. Learned said, FDOT could do an addendum to the map. He suggested doing a conditional approval with the understanding that FDOT would add the roadway to the functional classification map.

Mr. Holland said there was also another roadway at the south end of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue that effectively tied into to CR 484.

Mr. Cooper said the southern section was under construction and the northern section was expected to be starting construction soon.

Mr. Learned said that the map could be conditionally approved with the two projects appended or the changes could be processed as necessary. Amendments to the map would not take a long time to do.

Mr. Odom said it would be best to do all of the amendments at one time so the process would stay on point and he would contact Mr. Learned to provide him with all of the necessary information.

The segments to be included were:

- Southwest 49th Avenue from CR 484 to Marion Oaks Trail
- Southwest 44th Avenue from SR 200 to Southwest 20th Street
- Southwest 44th Avenue from Southwest 20th Street to SR 40
- Northwest 44th Avenue from SR 40 to Northwest 11th Street

Mr. Holland made a motion to conditionally approve the Functional Classification Map for Marion County subject to future amendments. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4b. Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6**

Mr. Balmes presented and said per the request of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), two projects were proposed to be amended to the FY 2023 to 2027 TIP.

##### **FM# 450948-1: SR 40 from NE 64th Avenue to Lake County Line**

- Resurfacing of SR 40 (25.7 miles)
- Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Construction (CST) phases
- Funds to be added to FY 2024, 2026
- Total: \$24,831,080

##### **FM# 450951-1: SR 40 from NE 25th Avenue to NE 64th Avenue**

- Resurfacing of SR 40 (4.2 miles)
- Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Construction (CST) phases
- Funds to be added to FY 2024, 2026
- Total: \$11,953,924

Mr. Thomason made a motion to approve the FY 2023 to 2027 TIP Amendment #6.

Mr. Holland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4c. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 2027 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Approval**

Mr. Balmes said that the draft Fiscal Years 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made available for public and partner agency review on May 2, 2023.

The TPO had received feedback from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and two comments from the public.

The following provides comments and updates made to the draft the FY 2024 to FY 2028 TIP since presented to the committees on May 9, 2023.

- **Public Comments:**
  - “In the draft TIP document for public review, the draft 2023 List of Priority Projects (Top 20 Priorities) is missing (Figure 12, page 26). Is there some reason that was omitted? It would be nice to see what's being proposed as the most important projects for 2023.”
    - **TPO Response:** Noted for public record. The citizen was provided a link to the current draft Top 20 list, and the process for adoption through the TPO Board. The citizen was thanked for the comment and action will be taken to add the most current draft Top 20 list in the draft TIP document.
  - “I live on SE 175th St. 34491. We frequently have overflow traffic in our neighborhood as the interstate backs up and drivers come on to 475, then onto SE 175th. I have emailed the sheriff, county commissioner, Marion County traffic dept. Several neighbors and I have come up with changes to our roads that we believe would help. Motorists are often speeding, not paying attention, littering, and disregarding pedestrians and their children and pets. We are concerned for our safety.”
    - **TPO Response:** Noted for public record. The citizen was thanked for the comment and asked to contact the TPO to share further details and recommendations.
  
- **FDOT Comments:**
  - Please add LRTP CFP page # for applicable projects. Page # for goals/objectives consistency is fine for projects not in CFP.

Mr. Thomason made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2024 to 2028 TIP Approval.  
Mr. Holland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4d. Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan Update**

Mr. Balmes said that on November 29, 2022, the TPO Board adopted the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan. The Action Plan outlined a visionary framework and strategies for achieving the long-term goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries to the transportation system of Marion County.

Based upon further guidance made available by the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), along with an interest by local governments to pursue the federal discretionary Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program, the TPO was proposing to update the Plan. In the **Strategies for Getting to Zero** section of the Action Plan, one of the TPO’s commitments outlined on page 39 (Safe Roads, Engineering/Planning) was to: ***“Review and update safety projects annually for the TPO’s List of Priority Projects (LOPP) process. Reference LOPP safety projects to the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan.”***

The TPO was proposing to accomplish this strategy by updating the Action Plan to include safety and operations projects tied to both the LOPP, safety emphasis areas, and local government partner input. The project list would help support an annual review of safety project needs, along with local government SS4A applications to USDOT.

Additionally, as part of having a “compliant” Safety Action Plan, USDOT called for a specific aspirational goal to achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries. Therefore, the TPO proposes a community-wide goal of achieving zero by 2045, which reflects the TPO’s current Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) horizon year.

**Commitment to Zero Project List:** Staff proposed the committee review and select one of two project list options:

**Option A:** Projects are listed/ranked in order based on four primary criteria:

- Location on the Commitment to Zero High Injury Network (HIN)
- Five-year history of fatalities and serious injuries (2018-2022)
- Location in a 2045 LRTP Equity Area
- 2023 LOPP Ranking

**Option B:** Projects are listed/ranked in order based on the adopted LOPP ranking process with further strategic refinement conducted by the TPO committees (CAC, TAC) and Board.

The draft 2023 Commitment to Zero Priority Projects List Options A and B, along with the proposed vision goal page edits. Background information was provided to the committee, including the Commitment to Zero High Injury Network (HIN) and U.S. Department of Transportation grant Self-Certification Worksheet.

The committee engaged in discussion with the outcome of deciding on Option A, projects to be listed/ranked in order based on the four primary criteria’s.

*Mr. Holland made a motion to approve the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan Update: Option A. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

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

Ms. Hinson provided an updated construction report and reminded the committee that they could also see updates on projects by visiting [cflroads.com](http://cflroads.com).

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

Mr. Balmes gave the following comments:

#### **2023 Traffic Counts Report**

- The TPO had published to the website on May 26, 2023, the 2023 Traffic Counts Report and Online Map. The report was compilation of traffic counts taken and administered by professionals at Marion County, City of Ocala, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

#### **Apportionment Process**

- On May 16, 2023, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) sent a notice to all MPO/TPO’s in Florida beginning the decennial Apportionment Plan and Urban Area Boundary/Functional Classification process. All MPO/TPO’s are required to submit an Apportionment Plan to FDOT by November 14, 2023 (by 180 days).

### **Apportionment Plan**

Every MPO/TPO reviews the composition of its membership in conjunction with the decennial census. MPO/TPO's must then submit a Membership Apportionment Plan that meets the requirements of both federal law and state statute.

Apportionment Plans are required to contain a profile of the MPO/TPO, including the total planning area population; Census-designated urban area populations greater than 50,000 people; proposed board membership; and a planning area boundary map. Resolutions of support from local governments must also be part of the Plan.

### **PROTECT Grant Cycle**

- On April 21 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) regarding the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program. PROTECT grants may be used for planning and improvement projects. The close date of the NOFO is August 18, 2023. The current NOFO will include two fiscal years of funding.

An inquiry was sent to local government partners regarding the grant opportunity and level of interest in the pursuit of a Resiliency Improvement Plan grant. TPO staff is considering the submission of a grant application for the development of an Improvement Plan for Marion County. The federal share for an Improvement Plan is 100%. TPO Board and local government interest would be the critical component to pursuing the grant. A Resiliency Plan may address issues such as short and long-range investment needs, assessment of vulnerabilities, evacuation planning and hazard mitigation.

### **Stop on Red Event**

- The FDOT Office of Safety had been in the process of planning a Stop on Red event in Ocala Marion on August 9, 2023. More details to come.

### **CMP State of the System Update**

- There was a meeting scheduled for June 28, 2023 to go over the FDOT Context Class as it related to the level of service. Amber Gartner would be in attendance for the meeting.

### **Joint CAC/TAC Meeting**

Mr. Balmes asked for the committee's thoughts on the Joint CAC/TAC meeting and if they would like to do it again.

Mr. Odom said it was engaging to have both committees together and thought it would be a good idea to have both committees joint from time to time.

Mr. Balmes said the CAC would like to see if the TAC could slow down a little so they could understand more of the technical side.

Mr. Odom said that he would encourage the CAC to ask any questions and the TAC would be glad to expound.

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Approved – August 8, 2023

Mr. Smith said there should be a liaison between the two committees because it was a complicated going back and forth between chair persons.

**Item 7. Comments by TAC Members**

Chairman Odom announced that it would be Mr. Elton Holland's last meeting with the TAC as he would be leaving Marion County to pursue new endeavors. Chairman Odom thanked Mr. Holland for his dedication and service to the TPO.

**Item 8. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Chairman Kenneth Odom adjourned the meeting at 4:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant