



# CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ocala Citizens Service Center  
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34471  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room

**June 12, 2018**  
**3:00 PM**

## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

### 2. PROOF OF PUBLICATION

### 3. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP) UPDATE

*Staff will present the updated 2018 Public Involvement Plan, for review and approval.*

#### B. 2018 TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION PLAN UPDATE

*Staff will present the updated 2018 Public Involvement Plan, for review and approval.*

### 4. PRESENTATION ITEMS

#### A. TRANSIT REALIGNMENT

*Staff shall make a presentation regarding proposed route realignments to improve the efficiency of the SunTran Bus System for discussion.*

#### B. INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

*Staff shall make a presentation regarding an update to the Intelligent Transportation Systems Strategic Plan for discussion.*

### 5. COMMENTS BY FDOT

### 6. COMMENTS BY TPO STAFF

### 7. COMMENTS BY CAC MEMBERS

### 8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 minutes)

### 9. 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  
**August 14, 2018.***



**June 4, 2018**

**TO: TAC/CAC Members**

**FROM: Derrick Harris, Transportation Planner**

**RE: Public Involvement Plan (PIP) DRAFT**

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Attached is the DRAFT 2018 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for your review. This document has been updated from the previously approved PIP in 2014. Therefore, this document is an update to a currently existing plan rather than a new plan altogether. Some of the key updates are as follows:

- Committee Representation from various organizations
- Methods for evaluating the TPO's effectiveness in involving the public
- Tables that clearly depict committee's roles within the TPO, and timelines for plan updates and public comments

TPO staff will present this document to committee members at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff is requesting approval of this document.

If you have any questions regarding the Public Involvement Plan, please feel free to contact the TPO staff at (352)-629-8297.



**OCALA / MARION COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION (TPO)**

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN  
(PIP)**

**ADOPTED  
00/00/2018**

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

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## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

### PURPOSE

Public Involvement is at the center of the transportation planning process, as transportation networks affect the public in a variety of ways. Therefore, the voice of the public is essential in ensuring that the transportation decisions that are made, are efficient, and effective at serving the residents they impact. The Ocala/Marion Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) Public Involvement Plan (PIP) documents the goals, objectives, and strategies for ensuring that all individuals have every opportunity to be involved in transportation planning decisions. As the transportation network effects economic vitality, personal and freight mobility, and local/regional priorities it is critical for the voices of everyone to be heard and documented.

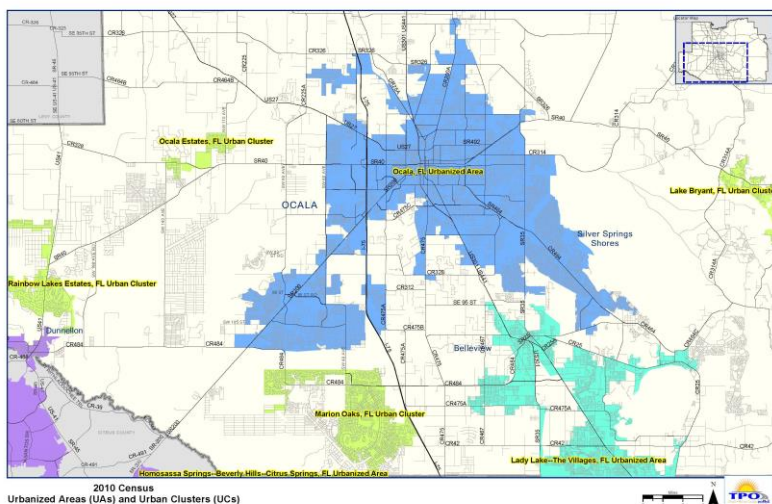
It is the primary goal of this document to increase awareness on the various opportunities that are available to the public, and the measurements used by the TPO to determine our effectiveness with advertising and promoting those opportunities. The TPO is committed to ensuring that all individuals can be involved, especially those communities who have been traditionally under-served and under-represented.

### 1.0 TPO HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

#### History

The Federal Highway Act of 1962 established legislation that mandated that any urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more that plans to expend United States Department of Transportation funding must subscribe to a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive ('The 3-C') planning process.

The Ocala/Marion County TPO was established to provide a forum for the development of transportation policy and transportation planning services for the Ocala/Marion County area. The TPO was established in 1981 after the US Census Bureau determined that the urbanized population of Marion County had surpassed the threshold of 50,000 people. The Ocala/Marion County urbanized area includes the Cities of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and their surrounding areas, and the adjoining areas between Ocala and Belleview. Also included are the



areas of Silver Springs Shores and Marion Oaks, the SR 200 corridor to CR 484 and the US 441 corridor from Belleview to the Lake County line east of US 301 and west of CR 25. Additional Urban Clusters have been identified at Lake Bryant, Ocala Estates and Rainbow Lakes Estates (See Figure 1). The planning boundaries for the TPO include all of Marion County.

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)***

### **Committees/Board Structure**

The Ocala/Marion TPO is supported by a diverse subcommittee structure that provides input from a variety of sources. A description of each of the elements of this structure and the TPO Board is listed below.

#### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of up to 16 Marion County residents who provide input to the TPO from a citizen's point of view. Appointments to this committee are made through an application process where the candidates are interviewed by TPO staff and are then recommended to the TPO board for membership. The TPO board then votes on approval of each candidate's appointment. Considerations for appointment are based on the geographic location, interviews and overall background of each candidate. The Ocala/Marion County TPO strives to maintain a cross-section of Marion County citizens in order to provide a well-rounded review of transportation issues both geographically and professionally.

#### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) membership is comprised of twelve members who are planners, engineers, technicians and other professionals representing local and state government agencies and local transit providers. The TAC recommendations are based on the professional experience of the committee members.

The TAC is comprised of the representatives from the following organizations:

- *The City of Belleview: Development Services*
- *The City of Dunnellon: Community Development*
- *The City of Ocala: Traffic Engineering*
- *The City of Ocala: Growth Management*
- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners: Traffic Engineering*
- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners: Growth Services*
- *Marion County Public Schools*
- *The Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Office of Greenways & Trails*
- *The Florida Department of Transportation*
- *SunTran*

Both the CAC and TAC offer input from their varying perspectives, whether that be in a professional sense (planners, engineers, etc.) or from a citizen perspective (local residents). These committees both garner feedback, input, advice, and recommendations for staff to present to the TPO Board.



#### The TPO Board

The TPO board is the final level of review and decision-making body in the TPO organizational structure. Recommendations from TPO staff and the committee substructure are reviewed, discussed and then either approved or rejected through a one member-one vote process.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

The TPO Board voting membership is comprised of one representative from the City of Belleview City Commission and the City of Dunnellon City Council, five members from the city council of the City of Ocala and the five county commissioners from the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The FDOT-District Five Secretary is also a non-voting member of the TPO Board

### Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the TPO Board shall be held at least quarterly. At the last regular meeting of each year, the TPO will approve the following year's meeting schedule. Regular meeting dates and times may be changed by the chairman or vice-chairman to accommodate special circumstances such as holidays.

### Special Meetings

A special meeting of the TPO Board may be called by the Chairman. Each member of the TPO and local media services will receive a notification of such special meeting stating the date, hour and place of the meeting and the purpose for which such meeting is called, and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

### Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is comprised of up to sixteen members and is charged with oversight of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). The membership is comprised of one representative each from the City of Ocala, Marion County Public School board, the FDOT, and various health and labor not-for-profit organizations. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged provides funding to the CTC to provide transportation to local residents. The TDLCB is responsible for reviewing the performance of the CTC and establishing trip priorities.

The TDLCB is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners*
- *Marion County Department of Veteran Affairs*
- *Marion County Public Schools*
- *The City of Ocala*
- *Ocala Housing Authority*
- *Centers for Independent Living*
- *CLM Workforce*
- *Florida Center for the Blind*
- *The Agency for Health Care Administration*
- *The Agency for Persons with Disabilities*
- *The Florida Department of Education*
- *The Florida Department of Elder Affairs*
- *The Florida Department of Health – Marion County*
- *The Florida Department of Transportation*

The public is encouraged to attend all TPO committee and board meetings. Meetings are advertised on the websites of the TPO, Marion County and the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and



***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)***

Ocala as well as the TPO's most current social media site in accordance with the notification requirements of **Florida Statute s.286.011, F.S.**

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

### **2.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GOALS, POLICIES & OBJECTIVES**

**Goal:** The public involvement process is intended to provide accurate and timely information about ongoing or upcoming transportation planning projects.

**Objective #1:** *The TPO shall encourage participation by all Marion County citizens in the transportation planning process.*

**The TPO shall:**

- Policy 1.1: Strive to include those citizens that are among the traditionally underserved and under-represented, including business owners and residents who are a part of but not limited to, low-income and minority households.
- Policy 1.2: Whenever possible, hold public meetings at locations that are easily accessible to potentially affected residents and business owners.
- Policy 1.3: Schedule public involvement activities, to the maximum extent possible, at key decision-making points, during the development of TPO projects.
- Policy 1.4: Assist in making arrangements, with reasonable notice of at least 48 hours, for any citizen who requires special accommodations while attending any TPO related events.
- Policy 1.5: Provide timely and comprehensive information that is easily understandable to the average citizen.
- Policy 1.6: Strive to continuously enhance the public awareness and knowledge of transportation related issues in an effort to foster increased trust and to maintain and continually increase credibility with the public.
- Policy 1.7: Ensure that all TPO sponsored meetings, where two or more elected officials are present, will be subject to the rules of Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law.

**Measurement**

- Hold meetings in various locations, and times to ensure a large part of the populace has the opportunity to voice any questions, concerns, or support. Keep an updated log of all events, activities, and locations.
- Keep a log of any accommodations that were provided to individuals upon request, such as translation of materials or a translator for any Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons.

**Objective #2:** *The TPO shall continually notify and provide updates to the public of all upcoming and ongoing TPO transportation related activities.*

**The TPO shall:**

- Policy 2.1: Continually update the TPO website in order to ensure that the most current versions of all TPO publications are readily available to the public.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

- Policy 2.2: Post notices of all upcoming meetings and hearings on the TPO website.
- Policy 2.3: Post updates on the status of upcoming and ongoing roadway projects.
- Policy 2.4: Post agendas and meeting packets of all upcoming CAC, TAC, TDLCB and TPO board meetings on the TPO website.
- Policy 2.5: Maintain a contact database for mailing and electronic notification of all interested residents and organizations of upcoming meetings, hearings or projects.
- Policy 2.6: Create and distribute flyers and newsletters to inform the public of upcoming projects and the status of ongoing projects.
- Policy 2.7: Have staff available to address private and public organizations, as requested and with reasonable notice, about TPO or other transportation related activities.
- Policy 2.8: Have staff available at the TPO office during normal business hours to provide project specific and/or general information about TPO or other transportation related activities.
- Policy 2.9: Make all documentation and data available, with reasonable notice, upon public request.

### **Measurement**

- Continual update of the TPO website, and plans.
- Continually advertise for upcoming events, plan updates, and scheduled TPO activities.
- Look for new ways to promote and advertise to increase awareness of events, and activities.

**Objective #3:** *The TPO shall continually identify, and where applicable, implement new methods to improve the overall public involvement process.*

### **The TPO shall:**

- Policy 3.1: Utilize continuing education and training courses to increase the communication, written and presentation skills of TPO staff.
- Policy 3.2: Continually seek increasingly effective methods to enhance public involvement and community outreach activities.
- Policy 3.3: Review all public involvement activities for continued viability.
- Policy 3.4: Ensure that the most effective public outreach techniques are utilized for the appropriate tasks.
- Policy 3.5: Communicate with other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to stay informed about the status of other public involvement programs.

### **Measurement**

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)***

- TPO staff will keep records of any continuing education/seminars/webinars taken throughout the year.
- Will seek out new training opportunities throughout the year.
- Actively recruit a diverse group of new members for committees through our local partners and connections.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

### **3.0 PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **3.1 LONG RANGE ACTIVITIES**

Public participation is especially crucial in the development of any long-term plan or program. The activities listed below shape the development and implementation of the transportation system over the course of several years. To obtain the highest level of public participation, individual participation plans are developed for each activity. The tools utilized can include large public meetings, small community or civic group meetings, interactive sessions, or displays at public events.

##### **3.1.1 Long Range Transportation Plan**

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the cornerstone of the transportation planning process for the Ocala/Marion County area. The LRTP serves as a twenty-five-year blueprint for transportation improvements for the entire county. The plan projects future population and employment and analyzes their impact on the anticipated transportation system. In addition, it includes goals, objectives and financial projections as well as estimates of future traffic.

<b>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</b>
Cornerstone of the transportation planning process
Serves as a 20 to 25-year blueprint for transportation improvements & projects
Analyzes future population, employment, and economic growth
Includes financial projections
A 30-Day Public Comment Period
Updated every 5 years

##### **3.1.2 Transit Development Plan**

The Transit Development Plan (TDP) serves as the five-year plan for public transportation services for the area. The TPO's first TDP, adopted in March 1996, laid the foundation for the development and startup of SunTran, the area's first fixed-route, urban bus service. The TDP also reviews the paratransit system administered by Marion Transit Services (MTS). An update of the TDP was completed in August 2012 and included analysis of expansion of SunTran through additional routes and expanded hours as well as potential increases of service levels for MTS.

##### **3.1.3 Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Update**

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan provides the framework for a ten-year planning horizon that identifies key bicycling and pedestrian facilities, projects and policy direction. This program is the first step in establishing a contiguous system of bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout Marion County. The first master plan was adopted in 1997. An update to the initial document was completed in September of 2014 by identifying new facilities and deficiencies, adding an extensive trails component and updating policies.

##### **3.1.4 Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan**

The Ocala/Marion TPO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded or discriminated against because of their race, color, or national origin as identified as part of Title VI of the Civil

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Therefore, through the planning process of plan updates, committee meetings, and associated TPO activities, staff has used and will continue to use a variety of outreach strategies to incorporate all individuals throughout the community. These include stakeholder interviews, community meetings, project specific website like [www.planocalamarion.com](http://www.planocalamarion.com) which was used for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, and in-person meetings. In addition, any board meeting is open to the public and there is opportunity for public comment.

Strategies for outreach include holding public activities, and community meetings in locations that are accessible to all individuals. Therefore, meetings are held in Silver Springs Shores, Marion Oaks Civic Association, City of Dunnellon, City of Belleview, as well as throughout the City of Ocala. This ensures that all communities have the chance to be involved without having to travel long distances in order for their voices to be heard. Also, it is defined by Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice, that communities that have been traditionally underserved were involved throughout the transportation planning process.

Please see **APPENDIX C** for the TPOs Title VI Policy and complaint procedure. For information on instructions on how to file a complaint, a complaint form, a list of Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits, please see the TPOs Title VI Plan at the following website <http://www.ocalamariontpo.org/what-we-do/plans-and-programs>.

### **3.1.5 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

The purpose of the LEP is to increase awareness and provide meaningful access to all TPO plans, programs, meetings, and events to individuals with limited to no ability to speak, read, or write English. The TPO is committed to increasing awareness to all individuals, including those that have been traditionally underserved, such as those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Both the TPO and SunTran websites can be translated into more than 100 languages so that access is available to all citizens. For more information regarding the TPO's LEP plan, please see the appendix section of the Title VI Plan on the TPOs website <http://www.ocalamariontpo.org/what-we-do/plans-and-programs>.

## **3.2 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the course of any given year, the TPO is required to produce or update a varied number of documents that detail various aspects of the transportation planning process. A majority of these documents are reviewed by both the CAC and TAC for recommendation and then forwarded to the TPO for final approval. While the TPO strives to keep annual activities on a consistent schedule, the timeframes listed may shift slightly from year to year. Please check the TPO website at [www.ocalamariontpo.org](http://www.ocalamariontpo.org) for the most up-to-date information regarding any activities. The following chart is a summary of the schedule, and public comment/notice periods for the governing board, committees, and required plans of the TPO:

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

Opportunities for Public Participation		Schedule	Public Comment Period	Public Notice
<b>Meetings</b>				
Governing Board	Ocala/Marion TPO	Meets 4th Tuesday of Every Month	Every Meeting	7 days
Committees	TAC, CAC	Meets Monthly	Every Meeting	7 days
	TDLCB*	Meets Quarterly	Every Meeting	7 days
<b>Program Adoption</b>				
Long Range Transportation Plan	L RTP	Every Five Years	30 Days*	30 Days
Transportation Improvement Program	TIP	Every Year (May & October)	30 Days	30 Days
Unified Planning Work Program	UPWP	Every Two Years (July 1 <sup>st</sup> )	30 Days	30 Days
Public Involvement Plan	PIP	Every Three Years	45 Days	45 Days
Transit Development Plan	TDP	Every Five Years	30 Days	30 Days
<b>Program Amendments</b>				
Long Range Transportation Plan	L RTP	As Needed	30 Days	30 days
Transportation Improvement Program	TIP	As Needed	7 Days	7 days
Unified Planning Work Program	UPWP	As Needed	7 Days	7 days
Public Involvement Plan	PIP	As Needed	7 Days	7 days
Transit Development Plan	TDP	As Needed	7 Days	7 days

\* The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) requires a public hearing. Public Hearings satisfy specific regulatory requirements. Whereas, Public meetings are held throughout the planning process to gather citizen input, and feedback. In addition, the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Committee holds an annual public hearing. For more information about Public hearings see section 4.0.2 regarding Legal Advertisements.

**3.2.1 Unified Planning Work Program**

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is produced on a biennial basis and serves as the TPO’s work plan for a given fiscal year. The UPWP outlines various tasks and programs for which the TPO is responsible and lists projected expenditures. It also identifies funding sources

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

(federal, state and local) and their contribution. The UPWP is developed over a four-month period beginning in February. The initial draft is developed by staff and reviewed by the CAC and TAC then the TPO board reviews and approves or recommends modifications to the draft version of the document. The draft is then transmitted to the FDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review. These agencies provide comments back to TPO staff prior to final adoption. If there are substantial revisions required as a result of multi-agency comments, the final draft is again reviewed by the CAC and TAC prior to submittal to the TPO for final approval. Otherwise, the final draft is submitted directly to the TPO board in May.

<b>Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)</b>
Outlines various tasks the TPO is responsible for
Identifies funding sources and their contributions from our local partners
Developed every 2 years (Must be adopted by July 1 <sup>st</sup> when developed)
A 30-Day Public Comment Period

### **3.2.2 Priority Project Review**

Each year the TPO is required to review its Project Priorities listing. The Project Priority process is used to rank the significance of future transportation projects which establishes a preferred hierarchy for funding eligibility that is used as a guideline by the FDOT. Beginning in May, TPO staff makes recommendations to both the CAC and TAC for the current year priorities. After a 30-day review, the CAC and TAC make a final recommendation to the TPO board in June. The TPO board then reviews the listing and approves a final list for submittal to the FDOT in August.

### **3.2.3 Transportation Improvement Program**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) serves as the TPO's five-year transportation budget. It lists all transportation projects and their costs for a five-year period. The TIP includes projects from all modes of transportation (highway, transit, aviation, bicycle and pedestrian) as well as maintenance and resurfacing. By federal law, the TIP must be financially feasible based on available revenues. Since the State of Florida operates on a different fiscal year than local governments (July 1 – June 30 vs. October 1 – September 30), the TIP is updated twice each year in June and October to maintain consistency with the FDOT. The June update includes federal and state projects included in FDOT Five-Year Work Program. The October "Roll-Forward" update also includes local projects adopted as part of each municipality's respective budget process.

<b>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</b>
A 5-year transportation budget
Lists all projects upcoming within a 5-year period
Includes all modes of transportation
Includes projects from the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
A 30-Day Public Comment Period
Updated every year (Usually May & October)

#### Amendments to or Removals from Transportation Improvement Program



## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)***

The existing federally approved TIP can be modified at any time when there is a joint agreement between the TPO and FDOT. Modification of a current TIP may require amendment to the FDOT Adopted Work Program. The district may amend the Adopted Work Program based on projects that require mid-year rescheduling, however; any project change requires joint action by the TPO and the FDOT.

Upon TPO endorsement of the TIP modification, a copy of the modification is sent to the district and DCA for consistency review purposes. Therefore, the TPO may not remove or reschedule any local City, County, or City/County funded level of service project from the current TIP to a subsequent TIP without an amendment. However, if a locally funded project is a non-level of service requirement, the TPO may unilaterally add, remove, or reschedule any project to the TIP.

Action by the District Secretary is required for all joint TIP amendments that involves the FDOT Adopted Work Program that is to be advanced, deleted, or rescheduled pursuant to the following provisions of paragraph 339.135(7) (c), F.S.:

- (a) Any amendment that deletes any projects or project phase;
- (b) Any amendment which adds a project estimated to cost over \$150,000;
- (c) Any amendment which advances or defers to another fiscal year, a right of way phase, a construction phase, or a public transportation project phase estimated to cost over \$500,000, except an amendment advancing or deferring a phase for a period of 90 days or less; or
- (d) Any amendment which advances or defers to another fiscal year, any preliminary engineering phase or design phase estimated to cost over \$150,000, except an amendment advancing or deferring a phase for a period of 90 days or less.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

### 4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUES

This section defines the strategies and tools that are currently utilized to facilitate the public involvement process.

#### 4.0.0 Public Notice

A Public Notice is a form of advertisement for any TPO meetings, events, workshops, plans or plan updates. The TPO advertises in multiple jurisdictions across Marion County, which include the Cities of Dunnellon, Belleview, Ocala, and Marion County. In addition, advertisements will be sent to the local newspaper, The Ocala Star Banner. Please refer to the following sections for specific strategies and tools utilized by the TPO for public outreach and involvement.

#### 4.0.1 TPO Website

The TPO website features information on current and upcoming construction projects, priority projects, committee descriptions, meeting schedules and times, TPO staff contact information and sections that allow for the download of most TPO documents such as the Traffic Count book, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan and the current version of the Interactive TIP. The website is continually updated and maintained by TPO staff. The TPO website is the primary location of the most up-to-date information regarding all TPO activities.



#### 4.0.2 Legal Advertisements

Formal notifications are distributed to the print media for publication in the legal section of local newspapers, at least two weeks in advance, to notify the public about upcoming TPO hearings. The Long-Range Transportation Plan requires a Public Hearing as it contains federal and state funded major transportation improvements. The Florida Department of Transportation defines a major transportation improvement in accordance with state law (Chapter 339.155, F.S.) as a project that increases capacity, builds new facilities, or provides new access to limited-access facilities. In addition, the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) requires an annual public hearing.

#### 4.0.3 Press Releases

General or official notifications are distributed to different media sources to inform the public of upcoming and ongoing transportation projects or other TPO related activities.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

### **4.0.4 Project Update Meetings**

Project Update Meetings are held to keep the public informed on the progress of specific projects, plans or studies. These meetings typically begin approximately midway through a project, plan or study analysis period and additional meetings are conducted until the requisite action is completed.

### **4.0.5 Community Meetings**

Community Meetings are held to solicit public opinion as related to a wide range of TPO sponsored activities. They are utilized in a variety of different planning activities from the development of individual projects all the way up to area-wide activities such as development of the LRTP. These meetings can be designed as broadly as to implore area wide attendance or specifically targeted towards individual groups such as civic organizations, homeowner's associations, special-interest groups, municipalities and local-elected officials.

### **4.0.6 Civic Groups**

Civic Groups are specifically engaged in order to assemble diverse perspectives from groups that are organized around a common interest or in pursuit of a common cause. These groups can be composed of, but not limited to minorities, low-income citizens, the physically challenged and/or the elderly.

### **4.0.7 Newsletters**

Newsletters are used to inform the public about the activities of the TPO or provide status updates on current or upcoming projects. They can be general in nature by providing quarterly or yearly synopses of TPO activities or more project-specific by focusing on individual phases of ongoing projects, plans or studies.

### **4.0.8 Maps**

Printed maps are used in every type of TPO public involvement activity to provide a visible reference so participants are able to more effectively relate to the data that is being presented. Maps can be as small as a sheet of paper for inclusions in hand-outs or packets, or as large or larger than 'poster-size' to be openly displayed during meetings.

### **4.0.9 Surveys**

Surveys are a standardized and structured method of soliciting input about specific topics, plans, or projects from the public. Surveys can also be used to collect technical or quantifiable data such as travel pattern information, number of miles driven to work or average number of trips driven per day.

### **4.0.10 Comment Forms**

Comment forms are used to solicit public input about specific topics or presentations at public workshops or meetings. They are also used to allow the public to gauge different elements of those workshops and meetings, such as the quality of the presentation, clarity of the topic, staff knowledge and professionalism.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)



To whom it may concern:

The TPO staff welcomes and encourages public comment and participation at all TPO related meetings. If you wish to have a staff member contact you to discuss concerns in greater detail, or if you would just like to formally make a comment regarding any TPO matter, please fill out the following comment form.

We thank you in advance for contributing to the transportation planning process in Marion County.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (please use back of page, if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### 4.0.11 Posted Mail & E-Mail/Automated E-Mail Systems

Traditional and digital mailings are utilized to notify individuals and/or organizations about upcoming meetings, hearings or the status of a specific project and to transmit agendas. Posted mail can be postcards, flyers, agendas, newsletters or letters.

### 4.0.12 Sign-In Sheets & Contact Database

All TPO sponsored events utilize sign-in sheets to record citizen participation and to use as a basis for the construction of a contact database that is maintained by TPO staff or contracted consultants. Contact databases are used to notify all previous participants about significant upcoming events and to distribute newsletters either by e-mail or posted mail.

### 4.0.13 TPO Logo

The TPO logo is included on all TPO publications to signify the origin of the document or product. Any documents produced by the TPO, or by a consultant for the TPO, will feature the TPO logo. The TPO logo was updated in 2010.



# **APPENDIX**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **A.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Federal and State Law require all MPOs/TPOs to provide consideration for projects that will:

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized uses;
- Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and freight;
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life;
- Enhance the integration of connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- Promote efficient system management and operation; and
- Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

### **A.2 Federal Requirements**

- **The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)** of 1991 was landmark legislation for the future of transportation in the United States. ISTEA was unprecedented in its requirement that the “planning processes consider such factors as land-use and the overall social, economic, energy, and environmental effects of transportation decisions.” Additionally, ISTEA recognized that:
  - The inclusion of public outreach practices in the planning process is of critical importance as it allows the citizens and organizations to voice concerns and recommendations for individual plans or projects;
  - the Interstate Highway System is nearly complete and preservation rather than expansion is the higher priority;
  - a well integrated multi-modal transportation network is more efficient at moving freight and passengers than an independent, loosely connected series of transportation modes;
  - protection of the natural and human environments is important to the overall welfare of the population;
  - there should be accessibility to and equity in the provision of transportation services;
  - development patterns are rapidly changing, and the need to provide metropolitan planning areas with more control over their jurisdictions is paramount;
- On June 9, 1998, the President signed into law **PL 105-178 Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)**. **TEA-21** continues to build on the emphasis placed on transportation by **ISTEA**. **TEA-21** can be viewed at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21).
- On August 10, 2005 the President signed into law the **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Efficiency Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**. With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$286.4 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in our nation's history. The two landmark bills that brought surface transportation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century—the **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)** and the **Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)**—shaped the highway program

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

to meet the nation's changing transportation needs. SAFETEA-LU continues to build on that firm foundation, supplying the funds and refining the programmatic framework for investments needed to maintain and grow our vital transportation infrastructure.

- SAFETEA-LU can be viewed at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu).
- “In October 1993, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration jointly issued regulations found in **23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 450** to guide the development of statewide, local and metropolitan plans and programs.” These regulations include the following:
  - Early and continuous public involvement opportunities throughout the planning and programming process;
  - Timely information to citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private sector transportation entities and other interested parties, including segments of the community affected by transportation plans, programs, and projects;
  - Reasonable access to information;
  - Adequate public notice of public involvement activities and ample time for public review and comment at key decision points;
  - Explicit consideration and response to public comment;
  - Consideration of the needs of the traditionally underserved, including low-income and minority citizens;
  - Periodic review of the public involvement efforts by the MPO/TPO to ensure full open access to all;
  - Review of public involvement procedures by the FHWA and FTA when necessary; and
  - Coordination of the MPO/TPO public involvement processes with statewide efforts whenever possible.

This code, in its entirety, can be accessed at [www.access.gpo.gov/uscode](http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode).

- In January of 2003, **23 USC 135** was enacted. It provides for the reasonable access to comment on proposed plans. This code, in its entirety, can be accessed at [www.access.gpo.gov/uscode](http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode).
- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** - This title declares it to be the policy of the United States that discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin shall not occur in connection with programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance and authorizes and directs the appropriate Federal departments and agencies to take action to carry out this policy. This title is not intended to apply to foreign assistance programs. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** can be accessed, in its entirety, at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/title\\_vi.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/title_vi.htm).
- **28 CFR 36 – The Americans with Disabilities Act** was signed into legislation in July of 1990. It requires all government programs to be accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that reasonable efforts be made to accommodate citizens with disabilities who wish to attend public meetings. **28 CFR 36** can be accessed at [www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm).

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

- In February of 1994, **Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice** was signed into legislation. This order addresses avoidance of actions that can cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations. **Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice** can be accessed at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ejustice/facts/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ejustice/facts/index.htm).

### **A.3 State Requirements**

- **s.339.155, F.S.**, provides for public involvement in transportation planning. It states that citizens, public agencies, and other known interested parties be given sufficient opportunity to comment on the long-range component of the Florida Transportation Plan. It also states that hearings are a required element during the development of major transportation improvements. This statute can be viewed at [www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/federal/files/339ana01.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/federal/files/339ana01.pdf).
- **s.339.175, F.S.**, requires public involvement in the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This statute can be viewed at [www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/federal/files/339ana01.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/federal/files/339ana01.pdf).

**s.286.011, F.S.** – “**The Sunshine Law**” – Founded in 1967, the Sunshine Law “establishes a basic right of access to most meetings of boards, commissions and other governing bodies of state and local governmental agencies or authorities. The Sunshine Law requires that meetings of boards or commissions be open to the public, reasonable notice of such meetings be given, and minutes taken and made available to the public in a timely manner.” The Sunshine Law can be viewed, in its entirety, at [www.myfloridalegal.com/sunshine](http://www.myfloridalegal.com/sunshine).



**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

**APPENDIX B  
Comment Card**



To whom it may concern:

The TPO staff welcomes and encourages public comment and participation at all TPO related meetings. If you wish to have a staff member contact you to discuss concerns in greater detail, or if you would just like to formally make a comment regarding any TPO matter, please fill out the following comment form.

We thank you in advance for contributing to the transportation planning process in Marion County.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (please use back of page, if needed)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Please submit all comments to TPO staff or the Title VI Coordinator Derrick Harris, at 201 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ocala, Florida 34471. If you have any questions feel free to contact the TPO at (352) 629-8297.

**APPENDIX C**

**Title VI Policy & Complaint Procedure**

**Title VI Policy**

The Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from the transportation planning process on because of their race, color, or national origin as identified as part of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Title VI Complaint Procedure**

Any person who believes that he or she, or any specific class of persons, has been subjected to discrimination or retaliation by the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization may file a verbal or written complaint as such actions are prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Verbal and non-written complaints received by the TPO shall be resolved by the Director. The Director will acknowledge receipt of the complaint(s) and within ten (10) calendar days inform the Complainant in writing of any action taken or proposed action to address the complaint(s). If actions that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to resolve the situation are not satisfactory to the Complainant, the Director will advise the Complainant to file a written complaint in the manner outlined in the Written Complaint Section.

The staff of the Ocala/Marion TPO will maintain a log of all verbal and non-written complaints received by the agency. The log will include all of the following information:

- Name of Complainant;
- Name of Respondent;
- Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, familial status, or retaliation);
- Date complaint received;
- Explanation of the complaint and the actions that have been taken or are proposed to resolve the issue raised in the complaint.

**Written Complaints**

If the Complainant does not feel that verbal or non-written procedures have satisfactorily resolved the complaint, or if any time the person(s) request(s) to file a written complaint, the Director shall refer the Complainant to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five Title VI Coordinator for processing in accordance with approved State procedures. Additionally, the Director shall advise the Complainant of other avenues of redress that are available, such as the Florida Department of Transportation's Equal Opportunity Office (EOO). Additionally, if the Director has previously investigated the complaint, he or she will provide a copy of the reported finding and proposed disposition to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator.

All written complainants received by the Ocala/Marion County TPO shall be immediately referred by the Director to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator. The Director will

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)***

advise the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the complaint. The following information will be included in every notification to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator:

- Name, address, and phone number of the Complainant;
- Name(s) and address(es) of the Respondent;
- Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, familial status, or retaliation);
- Date of alleged discriminatory act(s);
- Date of complaint received by the Ocala/Marion County TPO;
- A statement of the complaint;
- Other agencies (state, local, or federal) where the complaint has been filed;
- An explanation of the actions the Director has taken to or proposed to resolve the complaint(s).



**June 4, 2018**

**TO: TAC/CAC Members**

**FROM: Derrick Harris, Transportation Planner**

**RE: Title VI Plan/Nondiscrimination Plan DRAFT**

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Attached is the DRAFT 2018 Title VI Plan or Nondiscrimination Plan for your review. This document has been created to ensure the TPO's commitment to comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

TPO staff will present this document to committee members at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff is requesting approval of this document.

If you have any questions regarding the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan, please feel free to contact the TPO staff at (352)-629-8297.

# TITLE VI PLAN

Prepared by

Ocala/Marion Transportation Planning Organization

In cooperation with

Cities of Ocala, Dunnellon, Belleview,

Marion County, & SunTran

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

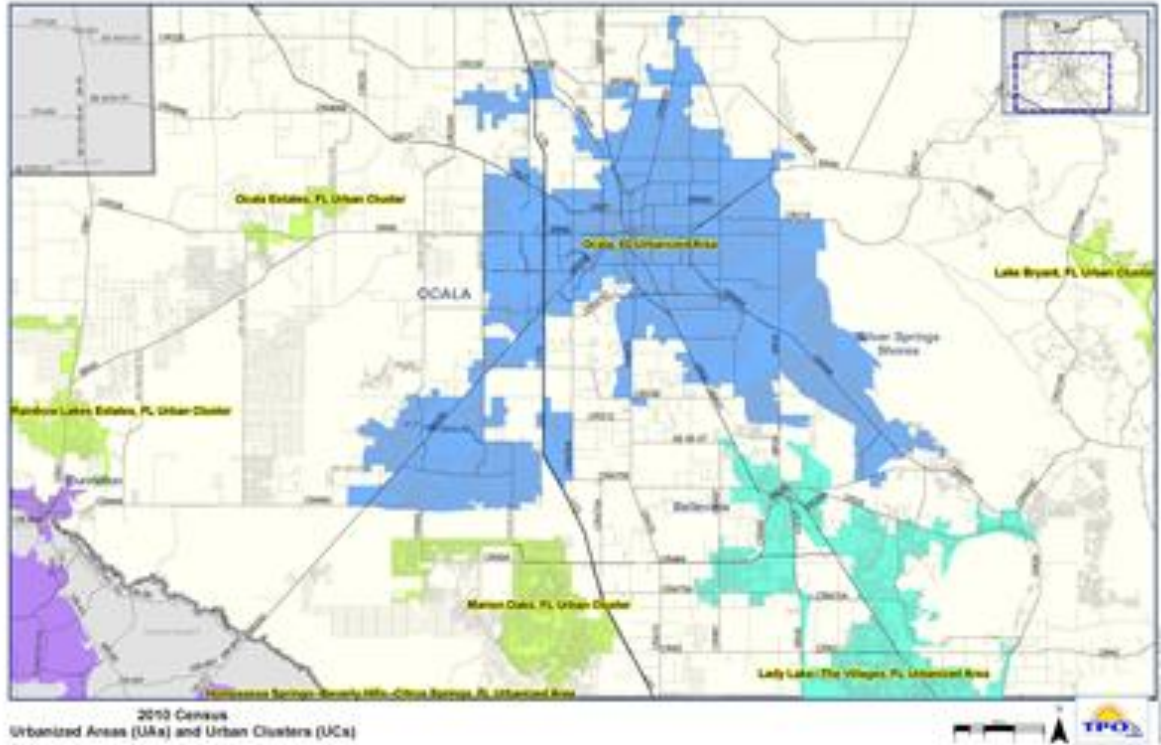


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STUDY AREA MAP



## TITLE VI STATEMENT

## OCALA/MARION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal equal opportunity laws and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in admission or access to and treatment in TPO programs and activities, as well as the TPO's hiring or employment practices. Title VI complaints related to TPO programs may be directed to Derrick Harris, Title VI Coordinator, Ocala/Marion TPO, 201 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ocala, Florida 34471. Mr. Harris can also be reached at the following email address: [dharris@ocalafl.org](mailto:dharris@ocalafl.org) or by calling (352) 629-8297. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficiency individuals is available upon request.



## INTRODUCTION

The Federal Highway Act of 1962 established legislation that mandated that any urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more that plans to expend United States Department of Transportation funding must subscribe to a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive ('The 3-C') planning process.

The Ocala/Marion County TPO was established to provide a forum for the development of transportation policy and transportation planning services for the Ocala/Marion County area. The TPO was established in 1981 after the US Census Bureau determined that the urbanized population of Marion County had surpassed the threshold of 50,000 people. The Ocala/Marion County urbanized area includes the Cities of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and their surrounding areas, and the adjoining areas between Ocala and Belleview. Also included are the areas of Silver Springs Shores and Marion Oaks, the SR 200 corridor to CR 484 and the US 441 corridor from Belleview to the Lake County line east of US 301 and west of CR 25. Additional Urban Clusters have been identified at Lake Bryant, Ocala Estates and Rainbow Lakes Estates. The planning boundaries for the TPO include all of Marion County.

## COMMITTEES

The Ocala/Marion TPO has a variety of committees that work together to increase public involvement, transparency, awareness, economic vitality, and mobility. These committees are made up of an array of individuals with varying levels of expertise and backgrounds. This type of diversity helps garner greater efficiency, and effectiveness for accomplishing the transportation goals of the TPO planning area. In addition, having so many varying individuals throughout the community involved within these committees helps to increase communication and awareness throughout the community, which is vital for success as it relates to the transportation planning process.

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of up to 16 Marion County residents who provide input to the TPO from a citizen's point of view. Appointments to this committee are made through an application process where the candidates are interviewed by TPO staff and are then recommended to the TPO board for membership. The TPO board then votes on approval of each candidate's appointment. Considerations for appointment are based on the geographic location, interviews and overall background of each candidate. The Ocala/Marion

County TPO strives to maintain a cross-section of Marion County citizens in order to provide a well-rounded review of transportation issues both geographically and professionally.

#### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) membership is comprised of twelve members who are planners, engineers, technicians and other professionals representing local and state government agencies and local transit providers. The TAC recommendations are based on the professional experience of the committee members.

The TAC is comprised of the representatives from the following organizations:

- *The City of Belleview: Development Services*
- *The City of Dunnellon: Community Development*
- *The City of Ocala: Traffic Engineering*
- *The City of Ocala: Growth Management*
- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners: Traffic Engineering*
- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners: Growth Services*
- *Marion County Public Schools*
- *The Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Office of Greenways & Trails*
- *The Florida Department of Transportation*
- *SunTran*

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is comprised of up to sixteen members and is charged with oversight of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). The membership is comprised of one representative each from the City of Ocala, Marion County Public School board, the FDOT, and various health and labor not-for-profit organizations. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged provides funding to the CTC to provide transportation to local residents. The TDLCB is responsible for reviewing the performance of the CTC and establishing trip priorities.

The TDLCB is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

- *Marion County Board of County Commissioners*
- *Marion County Department of Veteran Affairs*
- *Marion County Public Schools*
- *The City of Ocala*
- *Ocala Housing Authority*

- *Centers for Independent Living*
- *CLM Workforce*
- *Florida Center for the Blind*
- *The Agency for Health Care Administration*
- *The Agency for Persons with Disabilities*
- *The Florida Department of Education*
- *The Florida Department of Elder Affairs*
- *The Florida Department of Health – Marion County*
- *The Florida Department of Transportation*

### The TPO Board

The TPO board is the final level of review and decision-making body in the TPO organizational structure. Recommendations from TPO staff and the committee substructure are reviewed, discussed and then either approved or rejected through a one member-one vote process.

The TPO Board voting membership is comprised of one representative from the City of Belleview City Commission and the City of Dunnellon City Council, five members from the city council of the City of Ocala and the five county commissioners from the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The FDOT-District Five Secretary is also a non-voting member of the TPO Board

The public is encouraged to attend all TPO committee and board meetings. Meetings are advertised on the websites of the TPO, Marion County and the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and Ocala as well as the TPO's most current social media site in accordance with the notification requirements of **Florida Statute s.286.011, F.S.**

The non-elected advisory committee's racial breakdown for the TPO is as follows:

BODY	CAUCASIAN	LATINO	AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN AMERICAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER
TAC	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
CAC	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TDLCB	47%	13%	20%	0%	0%	0%

## NOTICES PROVIDED

The Ocala/Marion TPO provides a Title VI page on its website, as well as this plan to inform individuals regarding the Title VI policies, and procedures. The Ocala/Marion TPO provides the following notice of nondiscrimination on all its plans, documents, studies, and websites.

### TITLE VI STATEMENT

#### OCALA/MARION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal equal opportunity laws and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion or disability, in admission or access to and treatment in TPO programs and activities, as well as the TPO's hiring or employment practices. Title VI complaints related to TPO programs may be directed to Derrick Harris, Title VI Coordinator, Ocala/Marion TPO, 201 SE 3rd Street, 2nd Floor Ocala, Florida 34471. Mr. Harris can also be reached at the following email address: [dharris@ocalafl.org](mailto:dharris@ocalafl.org) or by calling (352) 629-8297. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficiency individuals is available upon request.

In addition, Title VI information (posters, flyers, etc.) will be displayed in the SunTran administration facilities, as the Ocala/Marion TPO administers SunTran services.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Ocala/Marion TPO works toward incorporating a vast and diverse array of public participation throughout the planning process. This includes engaging our minority and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations to receive input, and working diligently to increase awareness of the planning process for all our residents throughout the planning area.

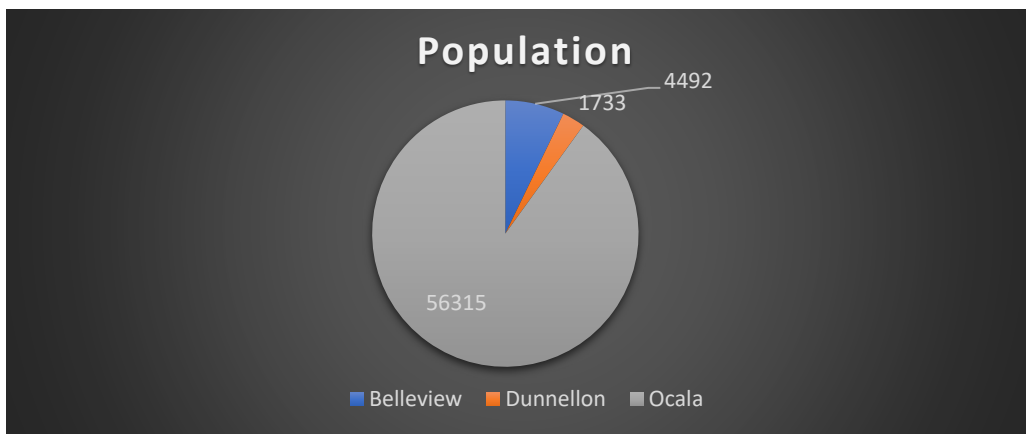
The Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the TPO includes various goals, and objectives to increase public involvement with the transportation planning process. This includes various outreach strategies such as, public forums, community meetings, project specific websites, and updating the TPOs website. The strategies include holding these outreach events, activities, and meetings in locations that are accessible to all individuals. Therefore, meetings are held in Silver Springs Shores, Marion Oaks, City of Dunnellon, City of Belleview, as well as throughout the City of Ocala. This ensures that all communities have the chance to be involved in the transportation planning process, regardless of location. Public Involvement is highly encouraged and sought out to get a well-rounded view of the publics thoughts and concerns.

The Ocala/Marion TPO's PIP was approved in 2014, but is currently being updated. The update will include ways of measuring the TPOs effectiveness in public involvement, various public

involvement opportunities, and strategies to increase our awareness to the citizens of Marion County. For more information regarding the PIP visit <http://www.ocalamariontpo.org/what-we-do/plans-and-programs>.

### DEMOGRAPHICS FOR THE OCALA/MARION TPO AREA

The Ocala/Marion TPO contains the incorporated cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, and Ocala, as well as Marion County in its entirety. Marion County has a population of 340,341, based on the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates (2012-2016). The following chart is a breakdown of population by incorporated areas within the TPO planning area, from the Census 10 year, 2010.



*\*Data from Census 2010*

The Ocala/Marion TPO planning area (Marion County) has experienced a higher percentage increase in its total population and in its aging population (65 & older), than the State of Florida. The TPO has had an increase in total population of 22%, and an increase of 26% for its aging population from 2000 to 2010 (Census 10-Year). Whereas, the State of Florida, has had a total population increase of 15%, and an increase of 14% for its aging population from 2000 to 2010 (Census 10-Year). The following chart highlights the population percentage increases mentioned above:

Marion County	65 & Older	Total Population	State of Florida	65 & Older	Total Population
2000	63,488	258,916	2000	2,807,597	15,982,378
2010	85,318	331,298	2010	3,259,602	18,801,310

Percent Increase %	26%	22%	Percent Increase %	14%	15%
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*Census 2000 & Census 2010*

The TPO has experienced a higher percentage of growth with our total population since the year 2000, compared to the State of Florida as mentioned earlier. However, when examining the growth in greater detail, the percentage of growth is most concentrated with traditionally underserved and minority populations. Therefore, this makes the need to increase the TPOs public involvement and awareness within these communities that much greater. The following chart highlights the percentage of growth mentioned earlier:

Demographics Marion County								
	White	Black	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	Some other race (as identified by Census)	Total Population
2000	217,909	29,900	15,616	1,158	1,806	57	4,363	258,916
2010	268,284	40,828	36,137	1,309	4,407	144	9,512	331,298
Percent Increase %	19%	27%	57%	12%	59%	60%	54%	22%

*Census 2000 & Census 2010*

Demographics State of Florida								
	White	Black	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	Some other race (as identified by Census)	Total Population
2000	12,465,029	2,335,505	2,682,715	53,541	266,256	8,625	477,107	15,982,378
2010	14,109,162	2,999,862	4,223,806	71,458	454,821	12,286	681,144	18,801,310
Percent Increase %	12%	22%	36%	25%	41%	30%	30%	15%

*Census 2000 & Census 2010*

The TPO is dedicated to increasing public involvement and awareness with all our communities throughout the planning area. Staff will focus on advertising, continually updating the TPO website, and actively recruit members from these communities to be a part

of our committees, meetings, and any TPO associated activities to better serve the community.

For more information regarding goals, objectives, and strategies as it relates to public involvement please see the TPOs Public Involvement Plan (PIP). The following plan can be found on the TPOs website <http://www.ocalamariontpo.org/what-we-do/plans-and-programs>. Feel free to reach out to TPO staff for any additional questions or concerns at (352) 629-8297.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

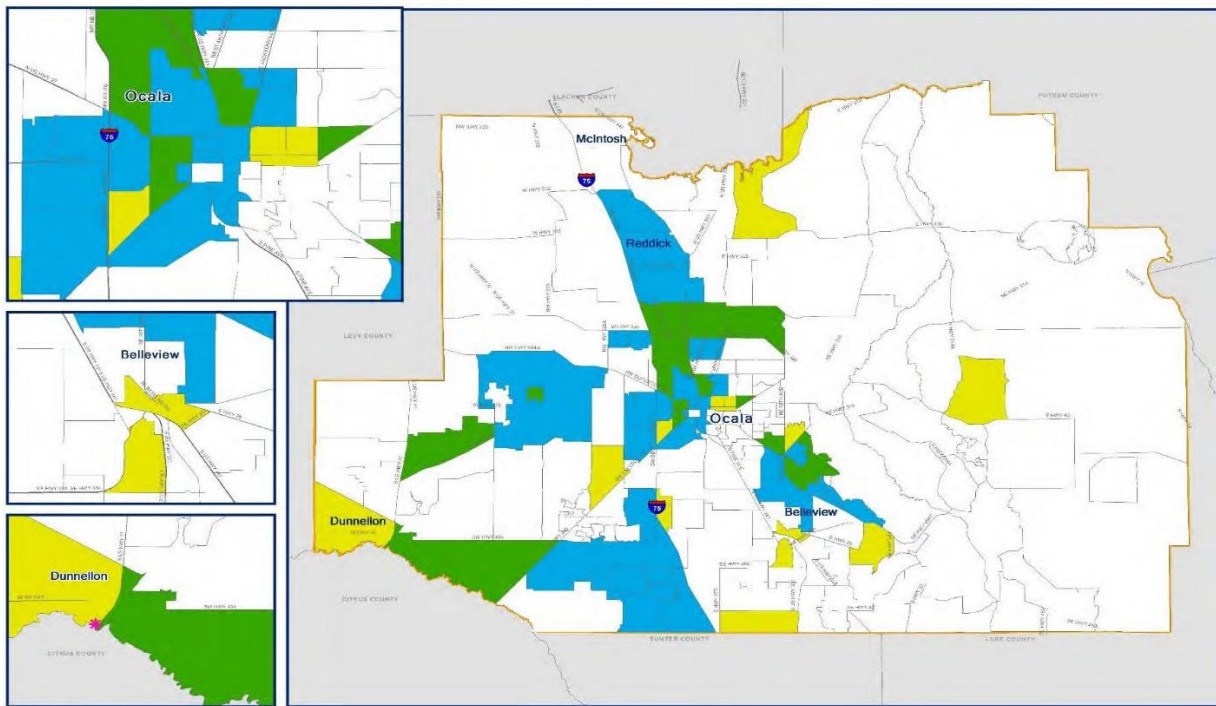
The TPO performs Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis when developing long range plans that consider the impacts of projects over at least a 20-year horizon, to compare how those projects adversely affect high concentration of minority, low-income, and other traditionally under-served communities. Therefore, seeking public input throughout the planning process from these communities is vital for ensuring all members of the community are involved and no one community is adversely or disproportionately affected.

For the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, an EJ analysis was performed. To determine the EJ areas, block group data on income levels and on people who identify themselves as “minorities” from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates were used. Then, the needs plan projects were overlaid with the EJ areas to determine the proportion of projects located within or outside of the defined EJ areas. Lastly, an analysis was done to ensure that the projects didn’t disproportionately affect the identified EJ areas. The following chart and map highlights the analysis that was performed:

	EJ Areas	Non-EJ Areas	Total
<b>Population</b>	<b>140,848</b>	<b>192,655</b>	<b>333,503</b>
<b>Percent of Population</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cost Feasible Roadway Projects</b>	<b>\$142,975,000</b>	<b>\$278,445,000</b>	<b>\$421,420,000</b>
Per Capita	\$1,015	\$1,445	\$1,264
Mileage	22.2	21.4	43.6
<b>Interchanges/Overpasses</b>	<b>\$84,838,000</b>	<b>\$38,000,000</b>	<b>\$122,834,000</b>
<b>Unfunded Needs Roadways</b>	<b>\$426,760,000</b>	<b>\$388,311,000</b>	<b>\$815,082,000</b>
Per Capita	\$3,030	\$2,016	\$2,444
Mileage	38.9	36.2	75.1

<b>Transit Plan (All Capital and Operating Costs 2020–2040)</b>	<b>\$114,534,000</b>	<b>\$38,766,000</b>	<b>\$153,300,000</b>
Per Capita	\$813	\$201	\$460
Mileage	52.0	17.6	69.6
<b>Cost Feasible Trails (2020–2040)</b>	<b>\$3,406,000</b>	<b>\$24,693,000</b>	<b>\$28,100,000</b>
Per Capita	\$24	\$128	\$84
New Trails Mileage	8	58	66
Existing Mileage, All Trails	19	19	38

2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (EJ Assessment of Transportation Projects)

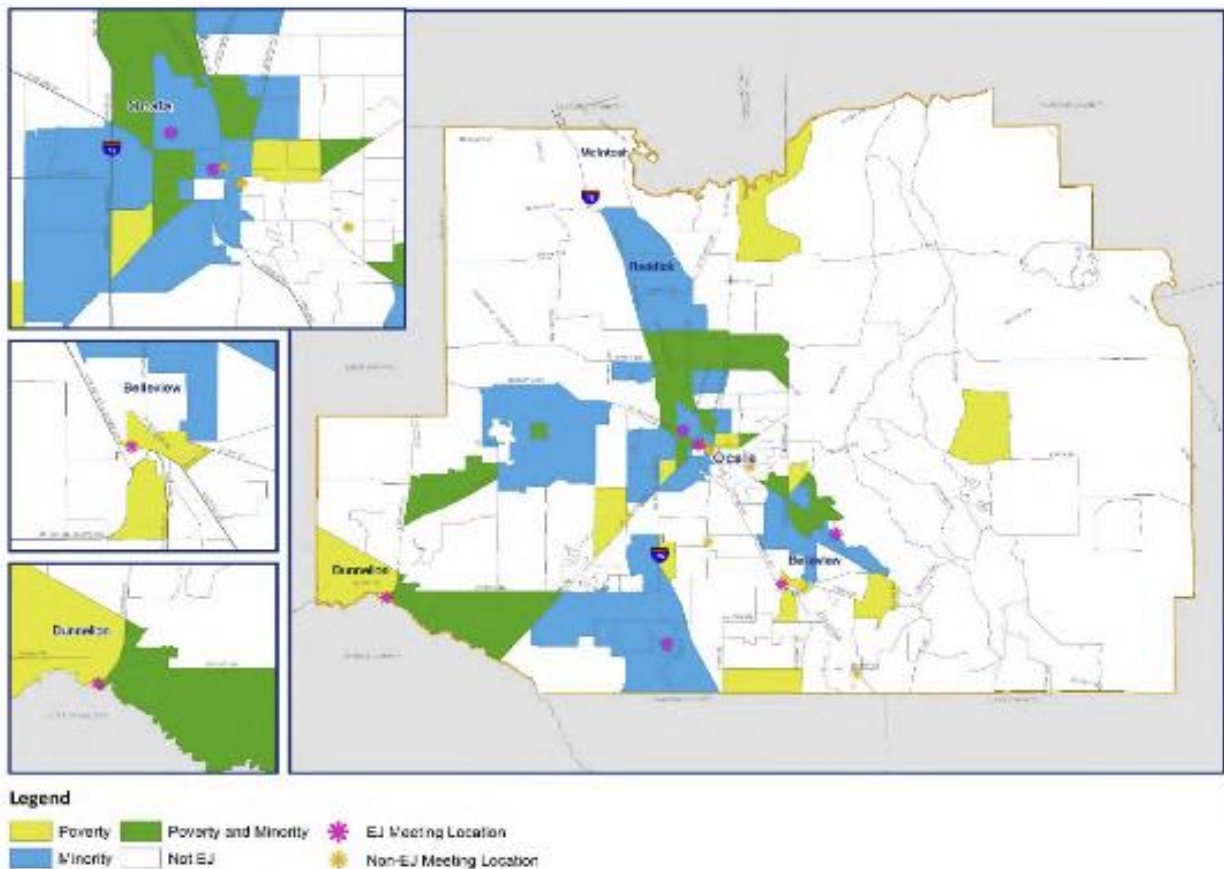


**Legend**  
 Poverty     Poverty and Minority  
 Minority     Not EJ

Poverty status and minority data from 2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (Environmental Justice Areas)





*2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (Community Meetings in Environmental Justice Areas)*

### LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

The Ocala/Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is committed to increasing awareness and involvement with all individuals throughout the planning area, including those communities that have been traditionally underserved, such as those individuals that have Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Both the TPO and SunTran websites allow translation of the site to over 100 languages to significantly remove language as a barrier to access, and to help accommodate the navigation, and awareness of TPO related events, activities, and meetings. Also, the Title VI Statement and complaint procedure for filing a Title VI related complaint have been translated into Spanish and placed on revenue buses. This allows for those individuals who are Limited English Proficient to be aware of their rights as it relates to Title VI and LEP. For more information

including demographics, outreach efforts, staff training, and overall procedures please see the TPOs LEP Plan in **APPENDIX D**.

### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Any person who believes that he or she, or any specific class of persons, has been subjected to discrimination or retaliation by the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization may file a verbal or written complaint as such actions are prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The following must be included to be considered an official written complaint:

- Complainant's name, and contact information
- When/where the alleged discrimination occurred.
- Any additional information that the complainant wants or thinks necessary to include regarding the alleged offense.

Verbal and non-written complaints received by the TPO shall be resolved by the Director. The Director will acknowledge receipt of the complaint(s) and within ten (10) calendar days inform the Complainant in writing of any action taken or proposed action to address the complaint(s). If actions that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to resolve the situation are not satisfactory to the Complainant, the Director will advise the Complainant to file a written complaint in the manner outlined in the Written Complaint Section. Please find a complaint form in **APPENDIX B**. The official complaint will need to be submitted to either a TPO staff member, or our Title VI Coordinator/Executive Director. The complaint can be submitted at the following location:

Ocala/Marion TPO Office  
 Title VI Coordinator  
 201 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Ocala, Florida 34471

The staff of the Ocala/Marion TPO will maintain a log of all verbal and non-written complaints received by the agency. The log will include all the following information:

- Name of Complainant;
- Name of Respondent;
- Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, familial status, or retaliation);
- Date complaint received;

- Explanation of the complaint and the actions that have been taken or are proposed to resolve the issue raised in the complaint.

In addition, you can find a complaint log in **APPENDIX C**. However, to date there have been no complaints, investigations, or lawsuits regarding TITLE VI discrimination.

### **Written Complaints**

If the Complainant does not feel that verbal or non-written procedures have satisfactorily resolved the complaint, or if any time the person(s) request(s) to file a written complaint, the Director shall refer the Complainant to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five Title VI Coordinator for processing in accordance with approved State procedures. Additionally, the Director shall advise the Complainant of other avenues of redress that are available, such as the Florida Department of Transportation's Equal Opportunity Office (EEO). Additionally, if the Director has previously investigated the complaint, he or she will provide a copy of the reported finding and proposed disposition to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator.

All written complainants received by the Ocala/Marion County TPO shall be immediately referred by the Director to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator. The Director will advise the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the complaint. The following information will be included in every notification to the FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator:

- Name, address, and phone number of the Complainant;
- Name(s) and address(es) of the Respondent;
- Basis of complaint (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, familial status, or retaliation);
- Date of alleged discriminatory act(s);
- Date of complaint received by the Ocala/Marion County TPO;
- A statement of the complaint;
- Other agencies (state, local, or federal) where the complaint has been filed;
- An explanation of the actions the Director has taken to or proposed to resolve the complaint(s).

## APPENDIX A

General Requirements (Chapter 3) based on the FTA Circular 4702.1B are as follows:

1. A copy of the Title VI notice to the public, and a list of locations where the notice is posted.
2. Instructions on how to file a complaint, complaint procedures, and a copy of a complaint form.
3. A list of any public transportation-related Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits.
4. A public participation plan that includes an outreach plan to engage minority and limited English proficient populations, as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI program submission.
5. A plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency, based on the DOT LEP Guidance.
6. Must provide a table depicting the racial breakdown of the non-elected advisory committees, and a description of efforts made to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees or councils.
7. If a facility has been constructed, shall include a copy of the Title VI equity analysis that was conducted during the planning stage with regard to the location or facility.

Requirements for Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations based on the FTA Circular 4702.1B (Chapter 6) are as follows:

1. All general requirements set out in section 4 of Chapter 3 (see above).
2. Demographic profile of the metropolitan area that includes identification of the locations of minority populations in the aggregate.
3. A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process.
4. Demographic maps that overlay the percent minority and non-minority populations as identified by Census or ACS data, at Census tract or block group level, and charts that analyze the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation purposes, including Federal funds managed by the MPO as a designated recipient
5. An analysis of impacts identified in (#4 of this section) any disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and, if so, determines whether there is a substantial legitimate justification for the policy that resulted in the disparate impacts,

and if there are alternatives that could be employed that would have a less discriminatory impact.

**APPENDIX B**

Title VI Complaint Form

Complainant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Agency complaint is against: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of discrimination: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of offense: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide any witnesses (names, addresses, and phone numbers) that can attest to the offense:

\_\_\_\_\_

Provide any comments or details regarding the offense (use back of page if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

**\*Signature required for complaint\***

Please submit all comments to TPO staff or the TPO Title VI Coordinator Derrick Harris, at 201 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ocala, Florida 34471. If you have any questions feel free to contact the TPO at (352) 629-2897.



**APPENDIX C**

Complaints and Investigations Log

Date	Investigations	Summary	Status
Date	Lawsuits	Summary	Status
Date	Complaints	Summary	Status



## APPENDIX D

### LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN

A Limited English Proficiency (LEP) analysis was completed by the Ocala/Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) for the Ocala/Marion TPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). To complete this analysis the TPO conducted a “four-factor analysis” utilizing the U.S. Department of Transportation LEP guidance. The results are as follows:

Factor 1: According to Census data, only 3.3% or 10,777 individuals respectively, of the population 5 years and over, speak English less than “very well.” Therefore, due to this limited number of individuals who speak English less than “very well” there has been little to no contact with LEP individuals over the years.

Language Spoken at Home	Number	Speak English very well	Percent	Speak English less than very well	Percent
Population 5 years and older	323,363	312,586	96.67%	10,777	3.33%
Only English	286,699	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish or Spanish Creole	28,920	20,417	70.60%	8,503	29.40%
Other Indo-European language	4,985	3,645	73.12%	1,340	26.88%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	2,289	1,401	61.21%	888	38.79%
All Other Languages	470	424	90.21%	46	9.79%

\*Data provided by American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates 2012-2016

Factor 2: Considering the small amounts of individuals that live in the planning area who have Limited English Proficiency, the probability of interaction with LEP individuals is very low. However, the SunTran transit service who the TPO administers does have the Title VI Statements translated into Spanish on the revenue vehicles. Also, the Title VI Complaint procedures/forms can be translated into Spanish upon request. In addition, both the TPO website



[www.ocalamariontpo.org](http://www.ocalamariontpo.org), and the SunTran website [www.suntran.org](http://www.suntran.org), can be translated into 100 different languages.

Factor 3: Transportation is a vital part of people's everyday lives. It affects the roads they drive on, congestion, development, and their safety on the roadways.

Therefore, increasing awareness with all individuals regarding the transportation planning process is an objective of the TPO.

Factor 4: With such a limited number of individuals (< 5%) contained within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), it would not be cost effective to translate all documents into Spanish. However, the SunTran does have Title VI Statements, and complaint procedures translated into Spanish on the revenue buses. In addition, both the SunTran and TPO websites can be translated into a wide array of languages.

Staff will use the following tools to monitor if such a need ever presents itself:

- Keep an updated monitoring system of any requests for translations. Those include for plans, documents, and public meetings.
- Continual updates throughout the SunTran administration facilities, including SunTran buses to keep all individuals informed on the policies for Title VI, and ways to submit a complaint. All surveys and postings on the vehicles will be translated into Spanish utilizing Google Translate.

### **Translation**

When and if an interpreter is needed, first a determination of what language is needed. Then, depending on the language needed the TPO will utilize all available resources, including an interpreter to ensure that the needs of that individual or individuals are met. However, as

there are no translation services within the Ocala area, further assistance would be sought out from the Ocala Police Department, and the University of Florida language department.

### **Training**

All TPO staff will be provided with the LEP plan as part of the Title VI Plan in the Employee Orientation. Employees will be educated on procedures and services available under Title VI.

Training topics include:

- Understanding the Title VI LEP program responsibilities;
- What language assistance is available;
- Documentation of language assistance requests;
- How to handle a complaint

Please note: that as the TPO is the administration organization for SunTran services, that SunTran has their own Title VI and LEP plan that can be found at the following website:

<http://www.suntran.org/about-us/title-vi>.



**June 7, 2018**

**TO: TAC/CAC Members**

**FROM: Michael Daniels, Director**

**RE: Transit Realignment**

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Staff is proposing to realign the existing Suntran Bus Routes in order to maximize efficiency based in large part on the public involvement recommendations that came out of the 2018 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update and the 2016 Suntran Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA).

These changes are summarized on the following page along with a map showing the proposed and existing routes.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 629-8297.

**Realign existing system** – To maximize the efficiency of the SunTran network, the proposed route alignments from the SunTran COA, finalized in February 2016, and the Transit Development Plan Update in 2018, with some necessary modifications, are assumed to be the base network to the existing system. The revised network takes the current funding environment into account. The following summarizes the modifications to the route alignments:

**Blue Route** – The proposed alignment of the Blue route would provide one-way service on the majority of the route, including a one-way loop along Blitchton Road that is currently serviced by the Purple route with 60-minute headways. The alignment would provide a more direct travel path between several important anchors:

the Health Department, the Ocala Regional Medical Center, SW 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Downtown, and the northwest area identified as an important transit market. The alignment would benefit ridership due to the directness of travel between major anchor points and the available transfers at the Downtown Transfer Station. This would also make service more efficient in the northwest, as it would provide a transfer opportunity to all other routes serving the Downtown Station before continuing to the Health Department.

**Yellow Route** – The proposed alignment operates similar to the current Yellow B route, with some segments with two-way service and a loop in the northeast. This route was redesigned to reduce out-of-direction travel, provide coverage service in the northeast, and provide more premium two-way service in the area. This route alignment provides two-way service on NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street that previously only had one-way service every other hour by removing the out-of-direction travel that had served some very low ridership segments in close proximity to the current and proposed Green routes. This alignment maintains a substantial level of coverage in the northeast, increases efficiencies in service, and improves the frequency of the Yellow route.

**Green Route** – The proposed alignment operates similar to the current Green Route with a minor exception of expanding to provide service directly to the Marion County Library and removing a segment northeast of the Silver Springs Walmart by continuing on SR 40. The alignment then continues the current inbound alignment, returning to Downtown. This alignment has the effect of providing counter-clockwise loop service (opposite the Yellow route) on a few roadways, providing two-way transit service on those routes. This alignment reduces overall out-of-direction travel on the outbound trip by adding service where the current Blue route alignment had provided service on. Additionally, this alignment provides coverage to a significant portion of the northeast that was modified to increase efficiencies for the Yellow route.

**Orange Route** – The proposed alignment is a combination of the Orange and Yellow A routes, with extended service past the I-75 corridor. This alignment uses N Magnolia/1st Avenue (one-way pairs) to exit/enter the Downtown area and station. This alignment removes some difficult turning movements from the current Orange alignment near the medical centers south of Downtown that are served by the Blue route in this recommendation, without the need to complete the difficult turn. This has the effect of reducing out-of-direction travel and providing two-way service along portions of the route. The newly-added service area along SR 200 was a top request of current and potential riders and was identified as a sizeable transit market due to the employment density in the area. This alignment may also assist in attracting paratransit trips to fixed route

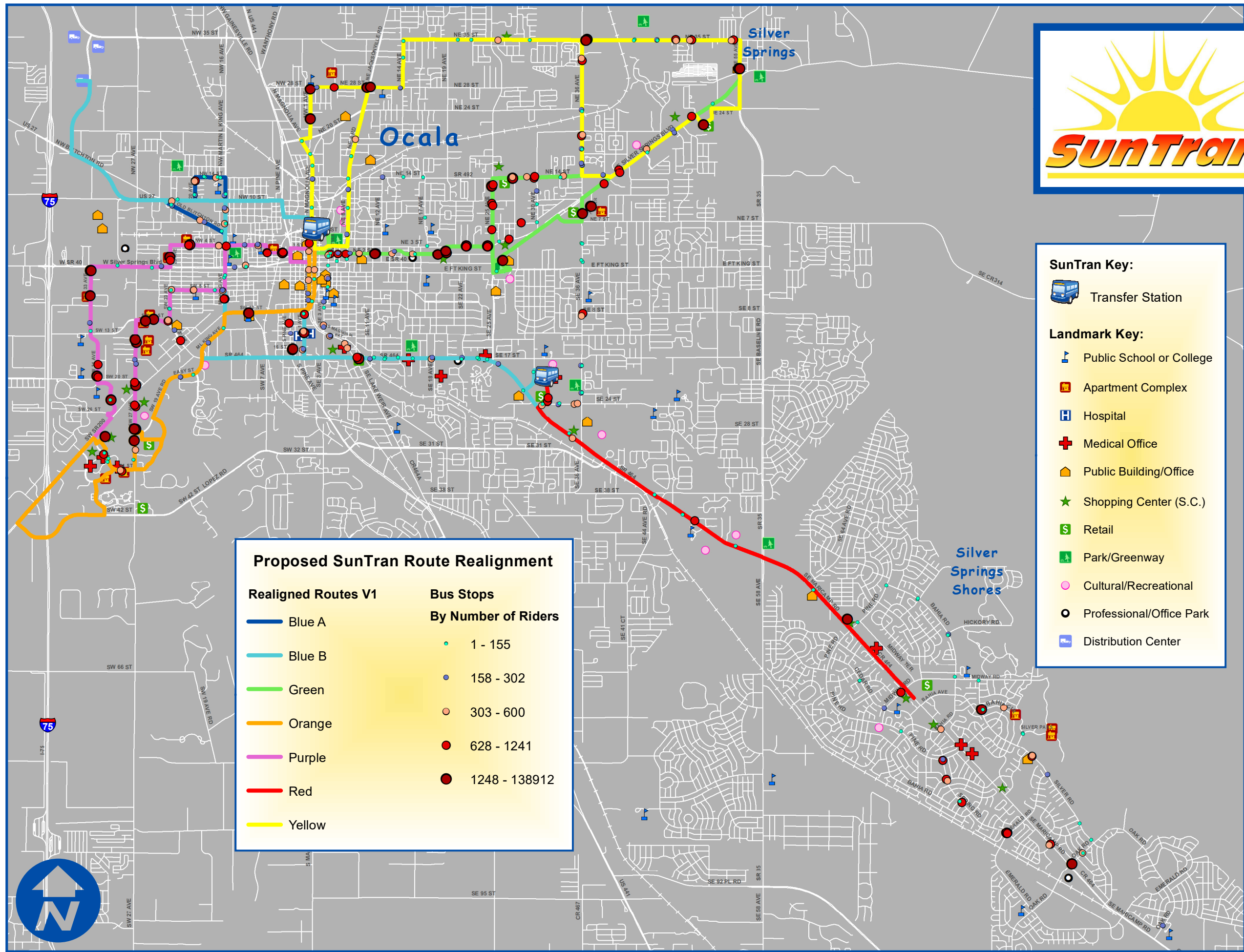
service in an area with an already high number of paratransit trips.

**Purple Route** – The proposed alignment is a combination of the current Purple, Orange, and Yellow A routes. It provides more direct service to the southwest and a second route option to the northwest, both important coverage areas. This alignment also provides coverage in the southwest where the Orange and Yellow A routes were assessed as being too close to each other. This alignment extends route service to Paddock Mall before returning to Downtown. This new alignment would serve several high-ridership stops in coverage areas while providing access to several key anchor points in the southwest.

**Red Route with Flex Service** – The proposed alignment preserves the western portion of the existing route from the Health Department as it continues east but would connect directly to Winn-Dixie and Walmart using SE Maricamp Road and not bifurcate into A and B branches at the Winn-Dixie. The remainder of the existing service area of the route would operate as a Flex service, within the general area served by the existing Red Routes. The Red route is presently the lowest ridership route and has the highest operating cost per passenger trip. It is proposed to eliminate the last trip of day due to low ridership.

**Silver Route to the Ocala / Marion County Commerce Park**

The proposed alignment shall provide service to the Ocala/Marion County Commerce Park, which is a growing employment center for Fed Ex Ground, Chewy.com, and Autozone. The route shall be coordinated to run during employee shift changes.



**SunTran Key:**

- Transfer Station

**Landmark Key:**

- Public School or College
- Apartment Complex
- Hospital
- Medical Office
- Public Building/Office
- Shopping Center (S.C.)
- Retail
- Park/Greenway
- Cultural/Recreational
- Professional/Office Park
- Distribution Center

**Proposed SunTran Route Realignment**

Realigned Routes V1	Bus Stops By Number of Riders
Blue A	1 - 155
Blue B	158 - 302
Green	303 - 600
Orange	628 - 1241
Purple	1248 - 138912
Red	
Yellow	

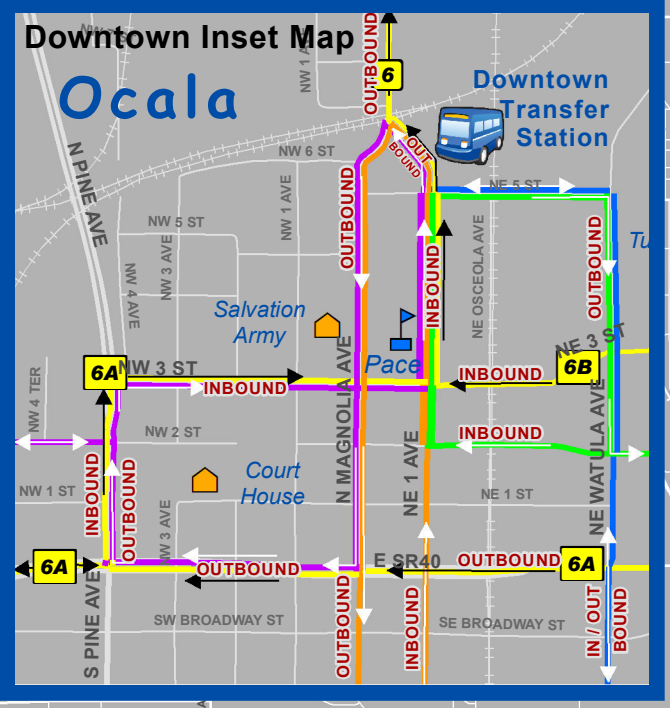
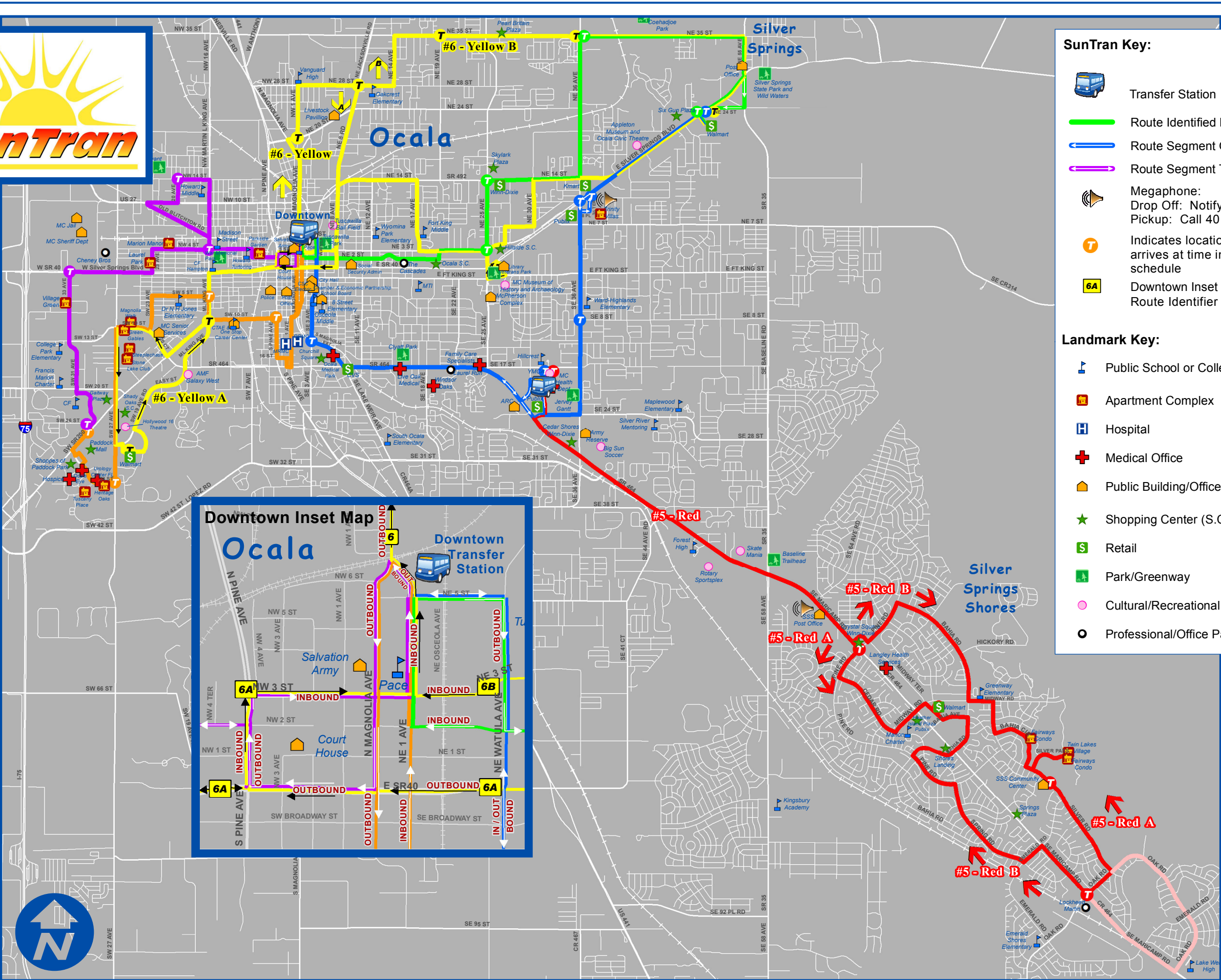




www.SunTran.org

Phone: 401-6999

Effective Date: November 4, 2013



**SunTran Key:**

- Transfer Station
- Route Identified by Color
- Route Segment One-Way Only
- Route Segment Two-Way
- Megaphone:  
Drop Off: Notify Driver  
Pickup: Call 401-6999
- Indicates location where bus arrives at time indicated on schedule
- Downtown Inset Map:  
Route Identifier

**Landmark Key:**

- Public School or College
- Apartment Complex
- Hospital
- Medical Office
- Public Building/Office
- Shopping Center (S.C.)
- Retail
- Park/Greenway
- Cultural/Recreational
- Professional/Office Park



**June 7, 2018**

**TO: TAC/CAC Members**

**FROM: Michael Daniels, Director**

**RE: ITS Strategic Plan Update**

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The purpose of this project is to update the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan for the City of Ocala and Marion County. The previous Plan was developed in 2008, and this update will re-affirm and/or adjust the earlier plan, and identify specific projects and actions to deploy and operate ITS consistent with local, state and federal policies, regulations, standards, and guidelines. The projects developed shall contribute to a safe and efficient transportation system for the County by addressing pressing operational needs identified in the study, as well as planning for specific needs for the next five years, and general needs for the 5 to 10 year timeframe.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 629-8297.