



## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**March 10, 2015**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present:**

Renee Blaney, Chairwoman  
Davis Dinkins  
Richard McGinley  
Michelle Shearer  
Robert Sulzer (*arrived 3:06 pm*)  
Clarke Yandle

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

Ed Kelly  
Joe London  
Suzanne Mangram

#### **Others Present:**

Greg Slay, TPO Director  
Ken Odom, TPO Staff  
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff  
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff  
Kellie Smith, FDOT

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Renee Blaney. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

## **Item 2. Proof Of Publication**

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website and Facebook page and on the city of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon and the Marion County websites.

## **Item 3a. Review and Approval of FY 2021 Priority Projects**

Mr. Odom presented the FY 2021 Priority Projects draft. There were no changes to the order from the previous year; however, there were funding changes. Mr. Odom noted that there were several errors on the list. The first correction was the phase and funding on Priority #1: SR 40/US 441, which should have been \$197,000 for construction in FY 2015/2016. The second correction was the addition of \$73,000 in design funds on CR 484 at I-75. The next correction was to the phase and funding on Priority #8: SR 200, which should have been \$220,000 for in the next fiscal year for scrub jay mitigation. Mr. Yandle asked about the mitigation, and Mr. Slay said the funds were used to buy additional land.

Mr. Sulzer commented that it did not make sense to widen SR 200 in Marion County if Citrus County was not going to widen the bridge at the county line. Mr. Slay said that staff would have conversations with the new MPO/TPO to encourage them to take action on the bridge.

Mr. Odom reported that there was no funding currently on SR 40 for widening from CR 328 to US 41.

Mr. Slay advised the committee that an issue had come to light recently regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities on SR 40 between I-75 and US 441. Looking primarily on the north side of the road, there was a sidewalk with an adjacent asphalt strip that was being called a bicycle lane. Mr. Slay said that staff had had conversation with FDOT regarding retrofitting the sidewalk and bicycle lane into an eight to ten foot multiuse path on the north side of the road. There was expected to be sufficient right-of-way on most of the project area, with the possibility of a little being needed around NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Technical Advisory Committee had added the project to the priority list as the seventh priority at its meeting that morning. Mr. Slay said that a feasibility study would be needed to see what could be done.

Ms. Shearer asked about the PD&E for the SW 95<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, and Mr. Slay said it had been moved to FY 2016/2017. The County had submitted the additional safety work the FHWA had requested. Mr. McGinley asked about right-of-way for the interchange at CR 484, and Mr. Slay said that right-of-way needs would not be known until the design was at least 36% complete. The project was to do operations improvements, not for adding lanes.

Mr. McGinley made a motion to approve the Priority Projects list with the corrections noted and the addition of the SR 40 multimodal project at number seven. Mr. Yandle seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of five to one. Ms. Shearer was opposed.

### **Item 3b. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Mr. Odom presented the four project amendments for the Transportation Improvement Program. Funding had been added for environmental mitigation of SR 200 from the Citrus County line to CR 484. Construction funding had been added to construct turn lanes on SR 200 at I-75, and environmental mitigation funds had been put in reserve for the Santos Trail Gap and the Land Bridge Trail Gap project.

Mr. McGinley asked whether the endangered species issues on the Greenway trail had been resolved, and Ms. Smith reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had done a site visit to determine what it wanted from the County, such as level of survey and locations. Ms. Smith said that the County would likely hire a consultant to do the survey work. Of there were gopher tortoises in the project area, those would have to be take into account, as well.

Mr. Sulzer inquired regarding the degrading pavement of SR 200, and Mr. Slay stated that a couple of spots had been fixed and there were still a few that needed addressed. FDOT was doing the work. Mr. Slay noted that FDOT had two big resurfacing projects coming up that might affect work on the SR 200 pavement.

Ms. Shearer asked what determined whether a road was slagged or smooth asphalt. Mr. Slay said that sometimes traffic counts and maintenance were factors. Ms. Shearer wondered whether people drove slower over slag, and Mr. Slay said that slag roads were generally narrower.

*Mr. Sulzer made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Mr. McGinley seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Item 4. FDOT Rail Safety Program Presentation**

Mr. Odom introduced Mr. Don Levigne from Operation Lifesaver. TPO staff had received a request from the Marion County Health Department regarding the need for a rail safety program. Mr. Odom advised that with quiet zones being designated around the county, staff thought it was a good idea to start looking into a safety program.

Mr. Levigne provided a presentation regarding the importance of rail safety. The Operation Lifesaver program had a number of informational videos designed for different audiences. The program reached out to professional drivers and worked with schools to teach children. Mr. Levigne stated that school presentations were tailored to each age group.

Ms. Blaney asked if the Operations Lifesaver program was being done in Marion County, and Mr. Odom said that staff had wanted to see what the CAC thought about the program. Mr. Levigne also discussed the construction of railroad tracks and the physics of stopping a locomotive.

## **5. Consent Agenda**

Mr. McGinley moved for approval of the January 13, 2015, meeting minutes. Mr. Yandle seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **Item 6. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Smith reported that design was complete for a turn lane on US 441 at NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Place. A left turn lane was being added on SR 200 at SW 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Widening continued on SR 40 West with drainage work; the limerock base was also being laid. Milling and resurfacing on US 27 was starting in the urban area and would be done at night. There was a pond project at Plumley Farm and a pump replacement project in Belleview. Ms. Smith reported that there was also traffic signal maintenance happening at various locations in the county.

Ms. Slay reported that on SR 200 at SW 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the County had transitioned to a dedicated right turn lane at the intersection that should help traffic flow.

## **Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Slay reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan would kick off at the next meeting. The plan horizon was 2040, and Mr. Slay advised that staff did not anticipate any major changes based on population projections.

## **Item 8. Suggestions by CAC Members**

*There were no further comments by CAC members.*

## **Item 9. Public Comment**

*There were no comments from the public.*

## **Item 10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Blaney at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton  
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant