



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

March 10, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Bart Ciambella, Chairman
Eddie Esch (*departed 11:13 am*)
Sue Farnsworth
Gennie Garcia
Dave Herlihy
Tony Chau (*for Winston Schuler*)
Kellie Smith
Kevin Smith

Members Not Present:

Mike Daniels
Mickey Thomason

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Mike McCammon, FDOT
Ryan Marks, FDOT

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Chairman Bart Ciambella. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof Of Publication

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

Item 3a. 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 two 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 phase and funding on Priority #8: SR 200, for which Ms. Smith reported that there was some design overhead in the current fiscal year and \$220,000 for mitigation in the next. Mr. Odom said that staff would review the information to make sure it was correct in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Odom advised that US 41 from SW 111th Place to SR 40 was fully funded. Mr. Ciambella asked about the timeline for SR 40 from CR 328 to SR 40, and Mr. Odom replied that there was no funding. Mr. McCammon added that with the widening the road would be realigned to the north. Mr. Slay said that the design was done. Mr. Odom mentioned that the funding showing up on the list in the packet was another error; that funding was actually allocated to widening to the east on SR 40.

Mr. Slay reported that staff had discussions with FDOT regarding the sidewalk and bicycle facility on SR 40 west of US 441. There was a four foot sidewalk with a two foot asphalt strip that had been classified as a bike lane. Mr. Slay said the discussions involved redoing the sidewalks for a better configuration for pedestrians and cyclists. The project would not need right-of-way and involved a section of SR 40 from I-75 almost to US 441. Mr. McCammon amended that some right-of-way might be needed at NW 27th Avenue. Mr. McCammon added that if the project was done on the south side of the road, right-of-way would be an issue west of NW Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue. There was discussion regarding where to rank the project.

Ms. Farnsworth made a motion to include sidewalk and bicycle improvements on SR 40 at number seven on the priority list and move the remaining projects down accordingly. Mr. Esch seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Farnsworth made a motion to approve the priority project list as amended and Mr. Esch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Herlihy asked about maps of the project locations, and Mr. Slay said that staff could provide project maps.

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. Herlihy moved for approval of the TIP amendments as presented. Ms. Farnsworth 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 when children were educated regarding rail safety, they could then have an impact on their parents driving habits.

Mr. Levigne discussed the dimensions and construction of railroad tracks and crossings and the importance of planning and design to make railroad crossings safe. Mr. Ciambella asked about statistics regarding quiet zones, and Mr. Levigne reported that in south Florida they had seen an increase in trespassing with the implementation of quiet zones. Mr. Levigne said that selective enforcement found that this was attributable mostly to impatient people ducking under the safety gates.

Mr. Herlihy asked about safety videos oriented toward buses, and Mr. Levigne said that there were videos for buses, law enforcement, and different school levels, among others. Mr. Levigne reported that the newest safety program was called See Tracks, Think Train.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Chau made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015, meeting. Ms. Farnsworth seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith reported that design on US 441 at NW 42nd Place was complete for a turn lane and ready to go to construction pending the latest contract. SR 200 at SW 60th Avenue was being sent

out for design for a dual left turn lane. Mr. Ciambella advised that the county made the northbound right turn a turn only lane and was adding a right turn arrow.

Mr. Smith asked about pushbutton projects, and Ms. Smith said that it was a traffic operations program. Mr. Ciambella asked about closing the left turn near the Mojo's restaurant just south of Belleview on US 441. Mr. McCammon said that a change to a nearby median opening was needed and that a public hearing would be required.

Mr. McCammon reported that widening on SR 40 from CR 328 to SW 80th Avenue was ongoing. The contractor was putting down lime rock and hoped to switch traffic to the new section in four to six weeks.

Resurfacing on US 27 from US 441 to CR 326 was starting in town and working outward. The work would be done at night. There was a pond reconstruction at Plumley Farm for drainage improvement. An underperforming pump was being replaced in a pond in Belleview behind the Auto Zone on US 441. A pivotal hangar replacement project was starting soon to improve signal ability to withstand high winds.

There was discussion regarding the CSX select site and establishing an intermodal logistics center in Marion County. Mr. Marks reported that CSX identified land of which they approved for potential projects. This was just a pre-screening process. Mr. Slay said that once the study was finished, staff might have the city of Ocala staff do a presentation.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay said that the Long Range Transportation Plan update would kick off at the next meeting. The control population was lower than the last update, and staff did not anticipate significant changes to the plan. Impact fee revenues had been projected in the last plan, but the County had had a moratorium on those fees. Mr. Smith asked about BEBR projections, and Mr. Slay answered that staff used BEBR medium.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

Mr. Ciambella announced that he was leaving the County; the TAC would need a new chairman.

Item 9. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item 10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Ciambella at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant