



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

March 22, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Earl Arnett,
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Councilman Brent Malever, Chairman
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.
Commissioner Stan McClain
Commissioner David Moore
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Councilwoman Johanna Soldato
Commissioner Gary Ernst
Councilman Matthew Wardell
Councilwoman Mary Rich

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT
Bruce Phillips, City of Belleview Public Works
Kevin Smith, Marion County Planning
Huiwei Shen, FDOT
Darren Park, City of Ocala Public Works
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Engineering
Tracy Straub, Marion County Engineering
Tony Chau, City of Ocala Traffic Engineering

Others Present (continued):

Perry Drivas
Paul Marraffino

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Malever called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Secretary Shakayla Jacobs called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

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

Item 3a. I-75 Relief Task Force

Mr. Slay introduced Huiwei Shen with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Central Office to present the I-75 Relief Task Force.

Ms. Shen talked about the purpose of the I-75 Relief Task (Task Force) and how the Relief Task was to provide consensus recommendations on maximizing existing and developing new high-capacity transportation corridors to serve the Tampa Bay-Northeast Florida study area with initial emphasizes on the region west of I-75. Ms. Shen added that the Task Force included representatives from state agencies, local governments, regional planning councils, private landowners, environmental organizations, business and economic development interests and members of the public.

Ms. Shen said there were two overarching purposes for organizing the Relief Task and that was to provide relief to I-75 and improve mobility in the Initial Focus Area and also enhance regional connectivity between Tampa Bay, North Central, Florida, and Northeast Florida. Ms. Shen mentioned that some of the long term strategies were to have a Truck-Only lane system and I-75 Express Lanes.

Mr. McClain said that if another corridor were to be developed the Relief Task was looking at putting a corridor at the forty-four terminus of the Suncoast Parkway and forty-fourth then go north. Ms. Shen commented that original the Suncoast was going to veer west and go to nineteen but around 2013 there was an intensive public outreach that changed plans from nineteenth to the forty-fourth.

Item 4a. Draft FY 2016/17 – 2017/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Slay presented the Draft FY 2016/17-2017/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP serves as the TPO staff's two- year work outline including routine

work such as work done on the I-75 Task Force and Traffic Counts and also includes the budget which would be effective on July 1.

Mr. Slay highlighted three of the larger planning projects that were coming up which included the update of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Master Plan which had been completed in the year of 2009 and the next effort would be reviewing existing and planned ITS deployments to date and look at some of the issues related to staffing that both the City of Ocala and Marion County had since they were the two agencies that ran traffic management centers. The Transit Development Plan (TDP) was the second planned project and was an update of the existing TDP and due in September 2017 and would review current SunTran operations and put together a ten year plan. The Belleview Greenway Connector Study was the third planned project identified in the 2035 Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan with a connector from the City of Belleview to the Cross Florida Greenway. Mr. Slay said the Belleview Greenway Connector Study would identify the best route to make the connection and would be initiated after July 1, 2017.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2016/17-2017/18 UPWP as presented and Mr. McClain seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4b. TIP Amendment

Mr. Odom presented an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP documented the phasing and funding of a rail safety project that would upgrade the infrastructure at the ‘at-grade’ crossing on SW 99th Place north of the City of Dunnellon. Mr. Odom mentioned that the upgrades were to include improvements on flagging, parts, labor and related costs to upgrade signalization.

Commissioner Moore said it was brought to his attention that the train horns were loud at all times of the night and morning and wondered if the improvements would stop the trains from blowing their horns. Mr. Odom replied that the upgrades would not have anything to do with a quiet zone but would only be to enhance the infrastructure at the crossing. Mr. Slay added that it had been his understanding that the line that ran through Dunnellon was specifically used for coil cargo and that in the year 2017 or so the plant would stop using coils which would stop the train traffic.

Mr. Zalak asked what would be the funding source for this project and inquired about the construction implementation time. Mr. Slay responded that it was state funded and though he had not seen a construction schedule at the time the construction should start between then and June 2016.

A vote was called and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4c. Executive Director Salary

Mr. Slay talked about the Executive Director Salary saying that late last year, the City of Ocala approved a salary study that included all TPO positions. For employees with eight or

more years in their current position, their salary was moved to the midpoint of their respective salary grade. Mr. Slay said this impacted three TPO positions including his own.

The salary increases were done in two phases, 50% effective January 1, 2016 and the remaining 50% effective October 1, 2016. Mr. Slay said he made adjustments for the two employees but felt the TPO Board should approve his adjustment. Mr. Slay also mentioned that he had reviewed the existing salaries of counterparts within District 5 and that the new salary grade would be consistent with his previous grade.

Mr. McClain made a motion to approve the Executive Director Salary and Ms. Bryant seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Ms. Bryant moved approval of the consent agenda with the addition of staff travel. Mr. McClain seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith advised that there would be congestion due to the I-75 resurfacing on the northbound off ramp to CR 326 until approximately April 16. Ms. Smith also advised that due to the US 27 resurfacing project there were intermediate lane closures and the SR 40 downtown project would cause nightly lane closures on the inside lanes.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay stated that there had been progress made on the bus shelter project and that TPO staff had met with Mr. Connor to talk his contract and TPO staff had gone along with the City survey crew to do survey work and at the time there was still about five or six months of work to do. Mr. Slay mentioned that in some areas there was not enough public right of way for a bus shelter and that Mr. Connor would have to reach out to private owners to get permissions.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Members

There were no further comments from the TPO board.

Item 9. Public Comment

Mr. Perry Drivas of 5701 SE 22nd Street, Ocala, commented that on his road there had been ongoing issues with potholes and that a particular pothole nearest his home had been filled several times and the issue persisted.

Mr. Paul Marraffino 19544 SW 82nd Place Road, Dunnellon commented that Dunnellon Park was in need of a connector across the river to the community and wanted to know if there had been any progress with plans for the connector. Mr. Slay stated there had been a meeting with the Dunnellon City Council a month prior and a public workshop was planned for the following week to discuss the CR 484 corridor and there had been discussion on a short term solution for the connector which included converting the shoulder of an existing bridge to a walking path. Mr. Slay also mentioned that one of the long term plans was to look at building a separate bridge in the area for the community to have park access.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Malever adjourned the meeting at 4:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Administrative Assistant