



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**March 27, 2018**

### MINUTES

#### Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Commissioner Jeff Gold  
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar  
Commissioner Ronald Livsey  
Councilman Brent Malever  
Commissioner David Moore  
Commissioner Michelle Stone  
Commissioner Carl Zalak

#### Members Not Present:

Mayor Kent Guinn  
Councilman Justin Grabelle  
Councilman Jay Musleh  
Councilwoman Mary Rich  
Councilman Matthew Wardell

#### Others Present:

Ted Schatt  
Steve Sherrer  
Don Atwell, Marion County  
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala  
Michelle Shearer

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

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 on the City of Ocala, Marion County, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

**Item 3a. Transit Provider Contract**

Mr. Daniels presented the Transit Provider Contract and said that on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, The City of Ocala Procurement Department received three proposals for Transit Management Services. The three firms were McDonald Transit (RATP Development), Midwest Paratransit Services and Transitions Commute Solutions. The proposals were reviewed by the Selection Committee Members which included: Mike Daniels and Ken Odom from the TPO, Tom Wilder from Marion Transit Services, Councilwoman Mary Sue Rich from the City of Ocala and Commissioner Kathy Bryant from Marion County.

Mr. Daniels said that at the Selection Committee Meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, McDonald Transit Associates was unanimously recommended by the Selection Committee members. The contract rates for all three firms were provided to the board:

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Proposed Rate Hour</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
McDonald Transit Associates, Inc (RATP Development)	\$58.94*	\$1,856,610.00
Midwest Paratransit Services Inc.	\$61.51	\$1,937,865.00
Transitions Commute Solutions, LLC	\$58.50	\$1,842,750.00

\*Price negotiated down from an initial average price of \$59.71 per hour for a total of \$1,880,865.

Mr. Daniels said staff was requesting approval to proceed with the contact with RATP Development as recommended by the Selection Committee.

*Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the Transit Provider Contract. Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 3b. Draft UPWP 2018-2019 to 2019-2020**

Mr. Daniels presented the Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and said that the UPWP served as the TPO staff’s two-year work outline and budget and would be effective on July 1 and showed the allocations for each funding source to the board:

	<b>FY 2018/19</b>	<b>FY 2019/20</b>
<b>PL</b>	\$807,110	\$550,000
<b>Section 5305(d)</b>	\$74,876	\$78,097
<b>TD</b>	\$26,821	\$26,821

Mr. Daniels said the FY 2018/19 PL allocation included a \$310,000 carryforward from the previous UPWP and that the FY 2019/2020 allocation is an initial estimate and would be updated early next year when the actual allocations will be made available.

Mr. Daniels also said that the UPWP covered routine activities such as traffic counts, TIP development, and public involvement as well as various studies. For the next two years, staff would be working on several plans that included an updated to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), an update to the Pennsylvania Avenue study, the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Diet, Corridor Assessments for CR 484 and US 27, Trail Safety and Supporting Facilities Study and the Nature Coast Trail Feasibility Study.

Mr. Daniels said staff was requesting approval of the UPWP for submittal to FDOT and upon approval, staff would submit to FDOT for review and bring back the final draft at the next board meeting in April.

Ms. Bryant asked Mr. Daniels if the plans he talked about were just in a municipality or for the actual trails and if so was he working in coordination with the Office of Greenways and Trails.

Mr. Daniels replied that he was talking about the trails and that the Office of Greenways and Trails were included in the discussions.

*There was board discussion about the projects included in the UPWP.*

Mr. Ted Schatt, 1425 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471 addressed the board about improvements on Silver Springs Boulevard in downtown and a left turn lane that heads east for movement into Midtown.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Draft UPWP 2018-2019 to 2019-2020.

Ms. Hanchar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4a. Florida Turnpike Enterprise Coastal Connector Presentation**

Ms. Rebecca Bolan with Florida Turnpike Enterprise (Montgomery Consulting Group) gave the presentation on the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Coastal Connector.

Ms. Bolan said that The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise was in the planning phase of the Coastal Connector, a high-level study that would evaluate new transportation corridor alternatives in Citrus and Marion Counties. The study would establish a new vision for transportation by incorporating emerging transportation technologies to improve freight movement, address seasonal congestion, accommodate projected growth, and plan for emergency evacuation to create Florida's Next Generation Corridor.

Ms. Bolan said that major transportation improvements could take decades to realize, so now was the right time to begin planning and investing in the future transportation systems. Delay in planning could result in continued deterioration of roadways, increased congestion, and rising costs. The intent of the study was to keep the region moving forward by establishing a long-term vision and plan for the next generation transportation system.

The Coastal Connector Study was following a process developed by the Florida Department of Transportation known as an Alternative Corridor Evaluation, or ACE. The ACE process helped to identify and evaluate corridor alternatives by considering transportation needs and environmental issues early in the project development process to document potential alternatives that can be carried forward into future phases. By the end of the study, enough information would be gathered to determine whether a new route would move forward to a more detailed evaluation.

Ms. Bolan said the Florida Department of Transportation had a history of conducting studies to evaluate proposed alternatives with the goal of alleviating congestion, and improving the performance and reliability of the area's transportation systems. An example was used that, Florida's Future Corridors, I-75 Relief, and the North I-75 Master Plan studies were conducted by the FDOT that evaluated improvements to I-75 and existing corridors as well as recommended the continued study of new alternative corridors.

The Coastal Connector ACE Study was an innovative solution to connect the North Central Florida region with a new alternate corridor. As the region continued to experience traffic growth, the study would plan to improve regional freight movements, address seasonal congestion, accommodate projected population growth, and plan for emergency evacuation.

Ms. Bolan said Florida's Turnpike Enterprise encouraged the public to be involved throughout the study by providing comments, questions and suggestions to the study team and added that public participation was solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

### **Item 5. Consent Agenda**

*Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

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

Ms. Kersey with FDOT provided the board with an updated construction report that included more details about projects and contact information for the project managers and the contractors.

Mr. Zalak asked about the light timing at Baseline and if DOT had been paying attention.

Ms. Kersey said that should would find out and get back with Mr. Zalak with an answer.

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

Mr. Daniels said that one of the tasks approved in the Transportation Development Plan was funding for SunTran marketing and that the TPO had recently made videos showing how to ride the SunTran that included: Planning a trip, Bike on Bus, Wheelchairs, and Strollers.

Mr. Daniels said that links to view the videos would be sent out to the board members.

Mr. Daniels also informed the board that the TPO office had officially moved and was located in the City of Ocala's Citizen Service Center.

### **Item 8. Comments by TPO Members**

Ms. Bryant said she would like to work with Mr. Daniels on the format of the meeting agenda and take Public Comment in the beginning of the meeting and the end of each meeting instead of taking public comment after each agenda item in the case anyone from the public was on a limited time schedule.

Ms. Bryant also asked that Presentations be moved up to the beginning of the meeting.

The board members agreed.

Mr. Zalak said he spoke with Mr. Daniels about CR 484 and asked him to look at the capacity element and some other opportunities so that the plans would be more detailed.

Mr. Zalak also said in the Long Range Plan consider a flyover on Baseline because a long-term plan was needed.

Mr. Daniels said there would be an update to the LRTP and that the TPO would review those options.

**Item 9. Public Comment**

Ms. Michelle Shearer, Secretary of Greenway Equestrians addressed the board about trail section from Belleview to the Cross Florida Greenway and did not want the route to cross the horse trail.

Mr. Daniels said that two different alternatives were being looked at and the crossing issues were being addressed.

**Item 10. Adjournment**

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant