



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

May 26, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Earl Arnett, Chairman
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Gary Ernst
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.
Councilman Brent Malever
Councilman John McLeod
Commissioner David Moore

Members Not Present:

Councilwoman Penny Fleeger
Commissioner Stan McClain
Councilwoman Mary Sue Rich
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT
Darren Park, City of Ocala Traffic
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Traffic
Kevin Smith, Marion County Growth Services
Bruce Phillips, City of Belleview Public Works
Eddie Esch, City of Dunnellon City Manager
Gennie Garcia, SunTran

Others Present (continued):

Michelle Shearer, Shady Greenway Conservation Alliance

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Arnett called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton stated the meeting was posted on the TPO, Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites and on the TPO Facebook page.

Item 3a. Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

Mr. Slay advised that when the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was developed, the second year budget was based on estimates. An amendment to the UPWP was necessary to reflect the final funding allocation, a carry-forward, and an additional allocation. Mr. Slay reported that there was also funding being added for a bicycle/pedestrian analysis for safety. The UPWP was primarily funded with planning funds from the USDOT.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the UPWP amendment. Mr. Moore seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3b. CrimeStoppers Bus Wrap

Mr. Leo Smith from CrimeStoppers reported to the board that CrimeStoppers was in the process of developing its FY 2015/2016 budget. The organization was looking to rewrap its SunTran bus in 2016 to upgrade its appearance. When CrimeStoppers had originally wrapped the bus, the board had waived the monthly advertising fee. Mr. Smith said that if the board did not waive the fee again, CrimeStoppers would probably not be able to wrap the bus because of funding. Mr. Smith mentioned that the wrap was a public service, educational program and hoped that the board would continue to waive the advertising fee.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to waive the advertising fee for the CrimeStoppers bus wrap, and Mr. Moore seconded.

Mr. Hilty asked how many buses were not wrapped, and Mr. Slay reported that staff had recently receive proofs for the Steven A. Bagen wraps, which would go on five buses. The contract for DeCarlis and Sawyer to wrap one bus was scheduled to go to Ocala City Council. With the two community service wraps, a total of eight buses were wrapped, leaving two “clean” (or unwrapped) for events.

A vote was called and the motion to waive the bus wrap advertising fee for CrimeStoppers was approved unanimously.

Item 3c. Reduced SunTran Fare for Military Veterans

Mr. Slay reported that staff had been approached by representatives from Veterans Helping Veterans regarding a reduced SunTran fare for military veterans. Mr. Slay said that staff had researched other transit properties around the state and found that most had a half fare for veterans. Staff was recommending a half fare with valid military identification or Veterans Administration card.

Mr. Hank Whittier from Veterans Helping Veterans said that they were the largest social service agency for veterans in the county. Mr. Whittier stated that a half fare would be meaningful to veterans trying to get places, while the impact to SunTran would be minimal. Ms. Bryant expressed support and called the request a worthwhile thing that the board needed to do. Mr. Slay mentioned that staff was recommending an effective date of June 1, 2015. Mr. Arnett noted that veterans would be using their own identification cards, which would mean no additional cost to SunTran. Riders would present an active duty or valid VA card to be eligible for the fare. Mr. Guinn voiced approval of the reduced fare.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the reduced SunTran fare for military veterans, and Mr. Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

Ms. Bryant moved for approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Moore seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 5. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith reported that SR 40 West would have lane closures west of CR 328 for shoulder work. Additional information was available on the cflroads.com website. Ms. Smith also mentioned an upcoming workshops and public meetings regarding the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan, the SR 40 Downtown Corridor Planning Study, and the SR 40 Downtown Traffic Operations Improvements.

Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay mentioned that at its April meeting, the board had directed staff to draft letters to the legislature. Mr. Slay said that the letters would be sent out soon and that staff had heard no updates regarding the bills they addressed.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Members

Mr. Guinn asked about bus shelters, and Mr. Slay advised that staff was working with the City's Public Works Department to discuss sites, right-of-way, and other factors. Mr. Slay estimated that work would begin on placing shelters by the end of the year if there were no right-of-way issues. Mr. Slay said that staff had set criteria for placing the first round of shelters and had identified fifteen locations. Mr. Guinn asked about selling ads on the shelters, and Mr. Slay said that previous efforts to sell advertising had not been successful because SunTran ran off the main roadways.

Item 8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 9. Adjournment

Chairman Arnett adjourned the meeting at 4:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant