



Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
1:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Jim Belonger
Matt Fabian
Travis Magamoll
Suzanne Mangram
Richard McGinley
Nick Mora
Steve Rudnianyn

Members Not Present:

Richard Howard
Michelle Shearer

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO
Liz Mitchell, Ocala Marion TPO
Kia Powell, FDOT
Tom Duncan, City of Ocala
Daniel DaGraca, Kimley-Horn
Ted Schatt

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Travis Magamoll called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Item 2. Roll Call

Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Irby stated the meeting had been published online to the TPO's website, as well as the City of Ocala, Belleview, Marion County, and Dunnellon's websites on September 3, 2024. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4. Membership Update

Chairman Magamoll introduced and welcomed the new CAC member, Mr. Jim Belonger.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. McGinley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Rudnianyn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2025 to 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1 and Roll Forward

Ms. Sara Brown, Transportation Planner, presented two projects proposed for the amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The annual Roll Forward TIP Amendment Report was also included in the amendment request. Additionally, the Transit Asset Management Performance Targets were updated.

FM# 435209-2: NW 49th St from NW 70th (CR 225) to NW 44th Ave

- Add lanes and reconstruct
- Construction (CST) phase
- Funds to be added to FY 2025
- Total: \$3,424,000
 - EM25: \$1,500,000 – State Funds
 - LF: \$1,924,000 – Local Funds

FM# 439331-5: Ocala/Marion Urban Area FY 2024-2025 UPWP

- TPO Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) (carry-forward, adjustment)
- Funds to be added to FY 2025
- Total: \$1,128,631 – Federal Funds

TIP Roll Forward Report

- 37 total projects with carry-forward funding, prior year(s) to FY 2025
- \$332,301,269 total Roll Forward amount for FY 2025

Mr. Rudnianyn made a motion to approve FY 2025 to 2029 TIP Amendment #1 and Roll Forward. Mr. McGinley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 7a. Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Sara Brown, Transportation Planner, explained the concept of active transportation, which included non-motorized forms such as walking, biking, and rolling. In Marin County, equestrian access was also considered due to the large horse population. The goal of the plan was to identify objectives and strategies to improve active transportation, building on the existing bike and pedestrian plan.

She provided an overview of the plan, which included an introduction, vision, goals, objectives, and an analysis of existing conditions, such as roadway characteristics, sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes. Data was collected on traffic speeds and road conditions, followed by proposed improvements based on public input. A survey and a public comment map were made available at upcoming meetings, with opportunities for in-person and online participation.

The stakeholder group gathered feedback and identified potential improvements, such as addressing sidewalk gaps or trail needs, and ranked projects based on evaluation criteria. Active transportation strategies included lowering speed limits or adding bike lanes. The plan also outlined potential funding sources and performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies over time.

A consultant was scheduled to assist with public engagement starting in October. A public survey, comment map, social media postings, and a dedicated website were planned to be launched at the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) community workshop. The timeline included stakeholder meetings from August through May, with final presentations and public outreach in June. The plan was expected to be presented to committees and the board by August. Data collection was underway, and public outreach was set to begin the following week, followed by the consultant's involvement in October.

Item 8. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Kia Powell, FDOT MPO Liaison, mentioned that the usual construction report was included in the agenda. She highlighted that clicking online would allow access to each project, with hyperlinks available for detailed information. For those not using the hyperlinks, she suggested visiting cflroads.com. As of that morning, there were eight intermittent lane closures, and she offered to answer any questions but did not go into detail.

Ms. Powell noted that a resurfacing project on State Road 200, from east of I-75 to US 301, was beginning that month. Message boards had been placed, and preparations were underway.

She provided updates on the 2055 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) which was an 18-month initiative seeking volunteers, with many virtual meeting options available. Flyer's were provided for those interested in participating.

Ms. Powell also announced Mobility Week, scheduled for October 25th through November 2nd, aimed at promoting safe and multimodal transportation. Flyer's with QR codes and website links were available for those interested in getting involved.

Lastly, she mentioned the third edition of the FDOT newsletter, which highlighted various district activities and events beyond Ocala and Marion County. She invited attendees to reach out for additional information or resources. Concluding her report, she offered to answer any remaining questions and there were none.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director, provided updates on the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Safety Matters outreach series. He mentioned the upcoming community workshop for the 2050 Long-Range Plan, which would be held at the CF Webber Center from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this workshop was to gather public feedback on areas of concern, needs, issues, and projects for the community to consider for the plan.

The plan covered projects in five-year increments through 2050. Mr. Balmes emphasized the importance of public engagement to identify specific areas of concern and needs. The workshop featured interactive walls for comments, sticky notes, and a large map for identifying specific locations. It focused on critical community issues such as growth, development, safety, and congestion.

He highlighted the positive public response so far, noting over 300 comments on an online map and more than 250 survey responses. Mr. Balmes encouraged members to direct anyone with transportation concerns to the workshop to provide their feedback.

Additionally, the Marion County Public Information Office, following direction from the board members, initiated efforts to focus more on safety education and awareness in the community. Mr. Balmes reminded the group of the one-pager shared last month, outlining various safety activities aimed at increasing community engagement.

The vision for the Safety Matters outreach series included around ten videos for social media, addressing specific topics such as red-light running, aggressive driving, speeding, and unfortunate collisions involving bicycles and pedestrians. These videos were intended to feature testimonials from elected officials, leadership, and first responders, and to raise awareness about the importance of safe travel within the community.

Mr. Balmes, TPO Director, introduced the first video of the Safety Matters outreach series, which featured a testimonial from crash survivor Ms. Lindsee Kirby, along with messages from Chair Stone and Chair Dreyer. He noted that while this video was longer than anticipated, future videos would be shorter and more focused. The video was played during the meeting and shared with committee members.

Mr. Belonger inquired whether the Safety Matters series could be shared in schools to encourage teen drivers to prioritize safety on the roadways.

Mr. Balmes explained that, at that time, the videos were only being shared via social media. However, he indicated that exploring opportunities for sharing the videos in schools and through focus groups could be considered in the future.

Chairman Magamoll chimed in, suggesting that with local government involvement, it might be beneficial to contact the school board to explore ways to incorporate the Safety Matters series into school programs. He expressed his belief that students might not watch the videos randomly on YouTube but would benefit from a more structured approach to sharing the content. He concluded that he thought it was a good idea to pursue this option.

Item 10. Comments by CAC Members

There were no comments by CAC Members.

Item 11. Public Comment

Mr. Ted Schatt addressed the committee, emphasizing the need for better access to Midtown and proposing an evaluation of the feasibility of an off-ramp over the CSX railroad tracks. He raised concerns about a \$50 million investment proposal from CSX, which could create 300 jobs but might significantly increase rail traffic, potentially affecting local roads. Mr. Schatt requested communication with the county about the implications of this increased rail activity and advocated for alternative access points for students living in neighborhoods without bus service. He highlighted the historical context of the rail line's use and called for thorough assessments of the project's impact on local traffic and safety.

Mr. Schatt provided a printed document for the committee to review, which is included on page six in this set of minutes for the record and for public viewing.

Item 12. Adjournment

Chairman Magamoll adjourned the meeting at 1:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant

Catalytic Sites & Plans for Midtown Ocala

Current, upcoming and proposed projects to develop Midtown Ocala, leads Ocala Main Street to want to advance discussions of improving pedestrian and traffic flow, creating placemaking opportunities at various gateways and aid in the growth of the north side of Ocala Main Street's District.



- 1 Midtown Station (*Fire Station Site*)
- 2 Concord Parking Lot
- 3 SunTrust Parking Lot
- 4 The Forge (*Walton Property*)
- 5 Murphy Parking Lot
- ★ Gateway Signage
- 1 American Legion Building
- 2 Marion Sovereign Building
- Orange Path: Current OTrak Path in Downtown & Midtown
- Green Path: OTrak Expansion in Midtown & Tuscowilla Park
- Orange Line: Overpass into Midtown from 301
- Blue Line: Thoroughfare into Midtown