



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
3:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Ji Li
Dave Herlihy
Bob Titterington (*arrived at 3:54pm*)
Kenneth Odom
Mickey Thomason
Noel Cooper
Loretta Shaffer
Eric Smith
Rakinya Hinson
Chad Ward
Chris Ziegler (*alternate member for Elton Holland*)

Members Not Present:

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO
Jeff Shrum, City of Ocala

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 3:33pm and Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll. A quorum was present.

Item 2. 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 5, 2023. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3. Consent Agenda

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Thomason seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1

Two projects were proposed to be amended to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

FM# 435209-1: I-75 at NW 49th Street from end of NW 49th Street to end of NW 35th Street

- New Interchange at I-75
- Right-of-Way (ROW) phase
- Funds to be added or carried forward prior years to FY 2024, FY 2025
- Total: \$20,429,319
 - CIGP: \$100,000 (FY 24) – State Funds
 - DIH: \$19,189 (FY 24) – State Funds
 - LF: \$11,700,000 (FY 24) – Local Funds
 - DDR: \$3,737,100 (FY 25) – State Funds
 - SA: \$4,873,030 (FY 25) – Federal Funds

FM# 439331-4: Ocala/Marion Urban Area FY 2023-2024 UPWP

- TPO Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) (carry-forward, adjustment)
- Funds to be added to FY 2024
- Total: \$307,934

In addition, the annual Roll Forward TIP Amendment Report was proposed to be amended with the request. The following summarizes the proposed changes to the TIP. Mr. Balmes also provide a slideshow presentation to the committee showing project highlights.

TIP Roll Forward Report

- 39 total projects with carry-forward funding, prior year(s) to FY 2024
- \$59,297,220 total Roll Forward amount for FY 2024

Mr. Thomason made a motion to approve FY 2024 to 2028 TIP Amendment #1.

Mr. Herlihy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5a. Draft 2023 Apportionment Plan

Every ten years, after the decennial census, all MPO/TPO's must review the composition of board membership and the respective planning area boundary. An "Apportionment Plan" serves as the official document summarizing both the proposed membership and MPO/TPO planning area.

Federal law enables state and local governments to largely determine the composition of an MPO/TPO and the planning area. The Governor officially apportions the membership of the MPO/TPO in agreement with the affected local governments, based on the transmitted Apportionment Plan.

Apportionment Plans must contain a profile of the MPO/TPO, including the total planning area population; Census-designated urban area populations greater than 50,000 people; proposed board membership; and a planning area boundary map. A Resolution of support from the governing body of the MPO/TPO must also be part of the Plan.

A draft 2023 Apportionment Plan for the Ocala/Marion County TPO was provided to the committee in the agenda packet.

Current TPO Board membership is 12 Voting and 1 Non-Voting (FDOT) since 2003.

The TPO proposed: TPO Board Membership remaining the same 12 Voting and 1 Non-Voting (FDOT) with a total of 13 members.

The makeup of the TPO board: The City of Ocala (5 voting members), Marion County (5 voting members), City of Belleview (1 voting member), City of Dunnellon (1 voting member), and FDOT (1 non-voting member).

Adoption of the Apportionment Plan was anticipated in October. Submission of an Apportionment Plan, with a resolution of support, must be transmitted to the Florida Department of Transportation by November 14, 2023.

Mr. Herlihy inquired whether the TPO Director was responsible for the data and analysis of the Apportionment Plan.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had brought up Reddick and McIntosh and asked if there had been any previous consideration.

Mr. Odom clarified that there was no discussion regarding Reddick or McIntosh. Instead, the discussion focused on the possibility of appointing a representative from Silver Springs Shores and Marion Oaks, but it did not progress further.

Mr. Herlihy inquired about the significance of having the entirety of Marion County represented and wanted to know if it would allow for the possibility of allocating funds for projects in areas like the northeast.

Mr. Odom responded that, regarding membership on a committee level, it was challenging to secure representation in certain areas, and that's precisely why the committees were established. Some areas have consistently posed difficulties in terms of representation.

Item 5b. Commitment to Zero Dashboard and Annual Report

As part of the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan, the TPO has been working with its consultant Kittelson and Associates to develop an online, interactive dashboard and annual report. Both tasks are part of the TPO's commitment to maintain education and awareness for transportation safety in Marion County.

Commitment to Zero Dashboard

The following URL address provides a direct link to the Commitment to Zero Dashboard, located on the TPO's ArcGIS online platform:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/efaf16b5991c420cb7f018d001c1d52c>

The Commitment to Zero Dashboard is meant to provide a public-friendly resource to review the most recent five years of crash data (2018-2022), with an emphasis on fatalities and serious injuries. The Dashboard has a number of features, such as changing the map display to an aerial background; selecting crashes by year and severity; viewing crashes by location; selecting weather conditions; reviewing vehicle types; among others. The Dashboard would be updated annually to include the most recent five-year period, along with any refinements and improvements.

Commitment to Zero Annual Report

The Annual Report provides an in-depth summary of crash statistics over the most recent five-year period (2018-2022) in Marion County. This includes key statistics like total crashes, crash types and crash severity by year, top frequency/severity locations, and detailed information about the users.

Mr. Balmes gave a brief overview on how to navigate the Commitment to Zero Dashboard and said that ongoing feedback would be most welcomed to ensure the Dashboard remained accessible and of value to the community.

Mr. Cooper asked about the source of the information in the dashboard, and Mr. Balmes responded that all the information came from Signal Four Analytics.

Ms. Shaffer inquired whether the data from the Congestion Management Plan, specifically the 2023 State of the System discussed at last month's meeting, had been overlaid with the data in the Commitment to Zero Dashboard for comparison.

Mr. Balmes replied, that overlay could be done in GIS.

Mr. Odom mentioned that when searching for patterns in fatalities, there are generally none. The only consistency that ever emerged was related to bike or pedestrian fatalities.

Mr. Jeff Shrum, City of Ocala Growth Management Director, inquired about the role of the Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST) in the Commitment to Zero.

Mr. Balmes replied that the CTST was indeed a part of the working group for the Commitment to Zero. Additionally, the CTST and TPO were discussing the possibility of having a joint safety meeting.

Mr. Herlihy asked if any of the data on the dashboard was downloadable.

Mr. Balmes said that all of the information was provided by Signal Four Analytics and that GIS files were public information and could be brought into a map for analysis.

Item 6a. TAC Membership

Periodically, TPO staff review the TAC bylaws to ensure the most relevant guidance is in place. Annually, TPO staff were expected to provide a membership report to the TPO Board. The current TAC bylaws include an overview of membership as follows:

The TAC shall include local engineers, planners, and a variety of other professionals throughout the County. The following includes the voting members of the TAC:

- Two (2) representatives from Marion County
- Two (2) representatives from the City of Ocala
- One (1) representative from the City of Belleview
- One (1) representative from the City of Dunnellon
- One (1) representative from SunTran as assigned by the City of Ocala
- One (1) representative from the Marion County School District
- One (1) representative from Greenways and Trails
- One (1) representative from Marion County Tourism

A representative from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5, will serve as a non-voting advisor. Ocala Marion TPO will provide staff support for the meeting.

TPO staff were in the process of conducting a review of the current membership of the TAC, and seeking feedback from the members. No specific recommendations had been proposed at the time.

Mr. Ziegler said that he would be the TAC replacement for former County Engineer, Elton Holland and a new alternate would need to be named.

Mr. Balmes said the TPO would send a letter with current membership to the County for an official response of the TAC appointee and alternate member.

Mr. Herlihy asked if we had any spots for first responders on the TAC.

Mr. Odom replied that first responders were included in CTST.

Item 6b. Mobility Week

Ms. Irby provided the committee with a Save the Date flyer for Mobility Week, which was scheduled for October 27 through November 4. The TPO had been in the process of planning Mobility Week events and would provide information to the committee as it became available.

Mr. Herlihy asked if there were any back to school events during Mobility Week.

Mr. Odom replied that Walk Your Kids to School Day would be the first Wednesday in October and did not coincide with Mobility Week.

Item 7. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Hinson provided an updated construction report and also let the committee know that cflroads.com was reference for project information.

Ms. Hinson provided a few comments on the I-75 Rest Area Construction. The Sumter Rest Area was opened on August 11, with over 30,000 square yards of pavement installed to accommodate 110 car parking spaces and 64 truck and RV spaces, including accommodations for handicap parking. The truck parking lot was equipped with Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) which would automatically update rest area truck parking signs to let truck drivers know how many parking spaces were available in a rest area.

Ms. Hinson provided a couple of other updates. First, the S.R. 40 Resurfacing project from the Marion County Line to the Volusia County Line is now 100% complete from the Marion County Line to the St. Johns River. Second, the Resurfacing of U.S. 441 from NW 20th Street to the U.S. 301 Interchange in Spar was finished on August 7.

Another important update was that FDOT had 36 employees deployed to District 2 for hurricane cleanup and recovery efforts following Hurricane Idalia. The crews would remain there for as long as needed.

Ms. Shaffer inquired about the rest area in Marion County and whether FDOT collaborated with destinations on rest area amenities. Ms. Hinson wasn't sure but said she would find out.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes announced that the TPO would be adding a Transportation Planner named Sara Brown, and she would attend the next committee meeting.

Item 9. Comments by TAC Members

Chairman Odom welcomed Mr. Chad Ward from the City of Dunnellon to the TAC.

Item 10. Public Comment

Mr. Jeff Shrum, City of Ocala Growth Management Director, mentioned the discussion regarding the rail corridor, the train depot from Downtown to Silver Springs Shores, and suggested that it could be included as a discussion item in the Long-Range Transportation Plan

TAC Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023
Approved – October 10, 2023

(LRTP). It was not currently a project and just wanted to put it on the radar of the TAC.

Item 11. Adjournment

Chairman Kenneth Odom adjourned the meeting at 4:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant