



**TPO Board Meeting**

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471  
September 24, 2024  
3:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Councilmember Kristen Dreyer  
Councilman Tim Inskeep  
Commissioner Matt McClain  
Commissioner Michelle Stone (*arrived at 3:18pm*)

**Members Not Present:**

Councilmember Ire Bethea  
Commissioner Craig Curry  
Commissioner Ray Dwyer  
Councilmember James Hilty  
Councilmember Barry Mansfield  
Mayor Ben Marciano  
Commissioner Carl Zalak

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, TPO  
Sara Brown, TPO  
Shakayla Irby, TPO  
Kia Powell, FDOT  
Melissa McKinney, FDOT  
Jon Scarfe, FDOT  
Eric Smith, City of Ocala  
Darren Park, City of Ocala  
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala  
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala  
Nathan Gallops, Ocala Police Department  
Tracy Straub, Marion County  
Signe Nielsen, reThink Your Commute  
Other members of the public not signed in.

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairwoman Kristen Dreyer called the meeting to order at 3:10pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Item 2. Roll Call**

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant, called the roll, and a quorum was not initially present. A quorum was achieved at 3:18 p.m. with the attendance of Commissioner Michelle Stone, securing the special quorum of at least five board members.

*Ms. Bryant made a motion to proceed with the special quorum requirement of at least five board members. Ms. Stone seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 3. Proof of Publication**

Shakayla Irby stated that the meeting was published online on the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, and Marion County websites on September 17, 2024 and shared on the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 4. Consent Agenda**

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

### **Item 5A. 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. McClain made a motion to approve FY 2025 to 2029 TIP Amendment #1 and Roll Forward.*

*Ms. Bryant seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 6A. Active Transportation Plan Overview**

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 includes an introduction, vision, goals, objectives, and an analysis of existing conditions, such as roadway characteristics, sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes. Data will be 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 will provide feedback and identify potential improvements, such as addressing sidewalk gaps or trail needs, and rank projects based on evaluation criteria. Active transportation strategies include lowering speed limits or adding bike lanes. The plan will also outline potential funding sources and performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies over time.

A consultant will assist with public engagement starting in October. A public survey, comment map, social media postings, and a dedicated website were launched at the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) community workshop. The timeline includes stakeholder meetings from August through May, with final presentations and public outreach in June. The plan is expected to be presented to committees and the board by August 2025. Data collection was underway, and public outreach was set to begin the following week, followed by the consultant's involvement in October.

Mr. Inskeep inquired about the location of the Active Transportation Plan website.

Ms. Brown responded that the website could be accessed by visiting the TPO's website at [www.OcalaMarionTPO.org](http://www.OcalaMarionTPO.org) and clicking on 'Active Transportation Plan' under the Plans and Programs tab.

### **Item 6B. Quarterly Budget Status Update**

Mr. Balmes TPO Director, presented the quarterly budget status update to the board. A chart was provided to give quarterly updates on funding, with this being the first of the fiscal year, which began on July 1st. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had provided an initial authorization of \$264,000, covering July 1st through the end of October.

A second authorization of approximately \$700,000 was expected in late October, which would cover funding through June of the following year.

The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) funding was also discussed, with the full year's allocation in place. Some non-eligible funds, such as professional dues, were noted. A full financial update, including direct and indirect expenses, was to be presented quarterly, with the next report expected in January.

Additionally, a one-page summary of the full Unified Planning Work Program was provided, condensed by Ms. Liz Mitchell, Grants Coordinator, for ease of review.

### **Item 7. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Kia Powell with FDOT provided several updates. She referred to the construction report included in the agenda, noting that as of that morning, about five roads had intermittent lane closures, all of which were listed on the CFL Road website for the latest updates.

Ms. Powell highlighted a project that had begun that month: the resurfacing of State Road 200 from east of I-75 to US 301, which includes safety enhancements such as speed adjustments and safer crossings. Additional updates include roadway improvements at the County Road 44 and I-75 interchange, as well as I-75 resurfacing from the Sumter County line to State Road 200. The contractor had been working on curb, gutter, and sidewalk grading within the project limits. However, utility conflicts had delayed drainage installation, though these issues were being resolved.

Another project update involved the resurfacing of State Road 464 from US 301 to State Road 35. Progress includes curb and gutter installation, siding, and gravity wall construction, with signal work continuing as planned.

Ms. Powell also reminded the board about the ongoing Florida Transportation Plan, an 18-month process, and encouraged participation via the website or QR code that had been provided at previous meetings. Lastly, she mentioned that Mobility Week would begin on October 25th, with handouts left at the meeting, and encouraged everyone to get involved.

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

Mr. Balmes TPO Director, shared that on September 18th, the TPO, in coordination with the Kimley Horn Consultant team, had hosted a successful workshop for the Long Range Transportation Plan at the CF Webber Center. The event had been well-attended, with 25 to 30 members of the public participating, including the mayor. The workshop featured a presentation and display boards, along with sticky note boards to collect feedback from the public. Mr. Balmes expressed his gratitude to the TPO staff for their contributions, and commended the Kimley Horn team for their excellent work in kicking off the public engagement phase.

Mr. Balmes informed the board that he planned to provide a full presentation on the project next month, including the results of survey work conducted to gather public input. He emphasized that the project was still in the data collection and public engagement phase, with more developments, including project lists, expected next year. The consultant team would deliver presentations, allowing opportunities for board input and approvals.

In addition to the public workshop, Mr. Balmes had been meeting with stakeholders and community partners. Earlier in the spring, he had delivered presentations to the Belleview City Commission, Ocala Silver Springs Rotary, and the Florida Wildlife Workshop. He also met with the CEP, the school district, SunTran, and shared the project information with the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB). An upcoming workshop at the Florida Center for the Blind would engage visually impaired members of the community to gather their perspectives.

Mr. Balmes welcomed suggestions for other stakeholders or partners to meet with, noting the importance of gathering feedback during the initial phases to identify community needs.

Mr. Balmes also shared that the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Noteworthy Practices Showcase would take place on October 15th. He was pleased to announce that Sara Brown had been selected as one of the panelists, alongside colleagues from the Broward MPO and MetroPlan. She would be presenting on the TPO's Traffic Counts report, the Congestion Management Dashboard, and the Commitment Zero Dashboard.

#### **Item 9. Comments by TPO Board Members**

*There were no comments by TPO Board Members.*

#### **Item 10. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

#### **Item 11. Adjournment**

Chairwoman Dreyer adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant