



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

September 22, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Earl Arnett, Chairman
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.
Commissioner Stan McClain

Members Not Present:

Councilwoman Penny Fleeger
Commissioner Michael Goldman
Councilman Brent Malever
Councilman John McLeod
Commissioner David Moore
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
Mary Schoelzel, FDOT
Gennie Garcia, SunTran
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Traffic Engineering
Don Atwell, Marion County Engineering
Tony Chau, City of Ocala Traffic Engineering
Darren Park, City of Ocala Public Works

Others Present (continued):

Tracy Straub, Marion County Engineering
Sean Lanier, Marion County Public Works
Wally Blain, Tindale-Oliver & Associates
Nick Mora, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Michelle Shearer, Shady Greenway Conservation Alliance

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Arnett called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll of members. A quorum was not present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

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

Item 3a. Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Mr. Slay noted that since a quorum was not present, staff would be asking for a consensus of attending members to open an official public review period for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The public review would include publication of the LRTP documents to the project website, virtual town hall meetings, and workshops to receive public input. Mr. Slay introduced Mr. Wally Blain from Tindale-Oliver and Associates to provide a presentation on the progress of the LRTP.

Mr. Blain stated that the LRTP was built on a set of assumptions. It contained goals, visions, and objectives to act as gauges. The vision statement for the LRTP was, “To develop a system to provide safe, convenient, accessible options in order to support the built environment and to preserve the natural environment.” There were six goals with associated objectives. The goals were multimodal choices, economic development and growth, a safe and secure system, local and regional cooperation, creation of quality places, and system preservation.

Mr. Blain reported that the plan contained needs for highway, transit, and multi-use trails. A recent addition to the plan was a connection on NW 44th Avenue parallel to the interstate. Mr. Slay expounded that there were two gaps that were included as needs. Mr. Hilty asked about NW 44th Avenue, and Mr. Slay said he thought some design and right-of-way acquisition were still needed.

The highway needs totaled just under \$1.4 billion in projects. Transit needs included annual operation costs and initial capital outlay for improving frequency and expanding service. Trail needs totaled around \$121 million to maintain the existing trail priorities and coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection on opportunity trails.

Mr. Blain provided a brief overview of existing and potential revenues. The cost feasible plan funded projects from the needs assessment based on priority tiers using the available revenues. Highway projects in the cost feasible plan included top tier projects and intelligent transportation system/corridor management system project. Transit projects were based on the highest performing routes and included bus shelters, continued operations of all existing transit and paratransit services, and improved frequency on four routes. Cost feasible trail projects included local priorities; DEP opportunity trails were not included in the cost feasible plan. Mr. Blain reported that the cost feasible plan came very close to funding the different types of projects at the level at which most survey respondents said they should be funded.

A public comment period on the LRTP documents was scheduled to open on October 1 and run until the adoption public hearing scheduled for November 24.

Ms. Michelle Shearer of 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, commented that in light of the interchange justification report for SW 95th Street not being approved, the project should be taken out of the LRTP. She stated that four-laning of CR 475A should also be removed.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

This item was deferred due to lack of a quorum.

Item 5. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith reported that the I-75 northbound inside lane was closed for resurfacing for four miles north of the US 27 interchange. Ms. Smith advised that there might be lane closures on US 27 west of I-75 for milling and repaving. The Department's Work Program public hearing was scheduled for Thursday, October 15, in the Deland district office and would be broadcast via webinar.

Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay reported that a proposal had been submitted to staff by a private citizen to put up thirty bus shelters at no cost to the TPO in return for selling advertising on the shelters. Staff was not making a recommendation regarding the proposal at that time, and Mr. Slay said that he hoped to have a presentation at the October meeting.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Members

There were no further comments by TPO members.

Item 9. Public Comment

Ms. Shearer referenced a flyer from Marion County explaining county taxes and revenues and suggested creating a similar flyer to explain the gas tax.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Arnett adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant