



**TPO Board Meeting**

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471  
May 26, 2020  
4:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Commissioner Jeff Gold  
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar  
Commissioner Ronald Livsey  
Commissioner David Moore  
Commissioner Michelle Stone  
Commissioner Carl Zalak

**Members Not Present:**

Mayor Kent Guinn  
Councilman Justin Grabelle  
Councilman Brent Malever  
Councilman Jay Musleh

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, TPO  
Derrick Harris, TPO  
Elizabeth Mitchell, TPO  
Shakayla Irby, TPO  
Anton Schauerte, TPO  
Vickie Wyche, FDOT  
Kellie Smith, FDOT  
Mounir Bouyounes, Marion County Administrator

Ken Odom, Marion County Growth Services  
Don Atwell, Marion County Office of County Engineer  
Elton Holland, Marion County Office of County Engineer  
Tracy Straub, Marion County Office of County Engineer  
Dawn Bowne, City of Dunnellon

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Gold called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. TPO Director, Rob Balmes called the roll and a quorum was present.

### **Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Gold led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

TPO Director, Rob Balmes stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites on May 19, 2020. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter page.

### **Item 4a. Florida Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Judy Pizzo with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented to the board and said that the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) was the single overarching statewide plan guiding Florida's transportation future. It was a plan for all of Florida providing direction to FDOT and all organizations that were involved in planning and managing Florida's transportation system, including statewide, regional, and local partners.

The FTP provided policy guidance and established the policy framework for allocating the state and federal transportation funds which flowed through FDOT's 5-year Work Program. The FTP was important because it not only set a long-range vision for the future but it guided transportation decision making. It considered how to:

- Attain the goal of zero fatalities on Florida's transportation system.
- Provide a more efficient and mobile transportation system.
- Meet the needs of a growing and changing population.
- Make the economy more competitive.
- Enhance the quality of life and environment of Florida's communities.
- Increase opportunities for access to transit and other modes of transportation.
- Address emerging issues such as the rapid changes in technology.

The FTP was updated every five years. The 2020 update was being led by a diverse steering committee with over 30 members from the public, private, and civic sectors. The Metropolitan

Planning Organization Advisory Council was among the organizations represented on the steering committee.

The FTP update was focused on four cross-cutting topics:

1. Technology
2. Resilience
3. State/ Interregional
4. Regional/ Local

FDOT's presentation covered the purpose of the FTP and why it mattered and shared ways to provide input on the FTP update. There would be a focus on the cross-cutting topics and obtaining responses to online polling questions.

The board was presented with a slideshow presentation and the information was also included in the committee meeting packet. The committee was also given the opportunity to answer questions via a web-based app provided by the FDOT.

#### **Item 4b. Draft Fiscal Year 2020/21 to 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Anton Schauerte presented the Draft Fiscal Year 2020/21 to 2024/25 TIP to the board and said that the listed scheduled projects in the document were pulled from the Florida Department of Transportation's Tentative Work Program.

Notable changes to the year's update included:

- 435209-1: I-75 at NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street from end of NW 49<sup>th</sup> St. to end of NW 35<sup>th</sup> St. – Interchange (addition of \$57.1 million)
- 238648-1: US 41 from SW 110<sup>th</sup> St. to N. of SR 40 – Add Lanes and Reconstruct (reduction of \$10.4 million)
- 410674-2: SR 40 from end of 4 lanes to east of CR 314 – Add Lanes and Reconstruct (Construction delayed, estimated to begin in 2029)

In addition to the notable changes outlined, the TPO staff had created a new layout to the TIP, reclassified projects, developed an interactive map of projects included in the TIP, and rewrote the entirety of the text. The modifications had been made to improve the readability of the document by the user and to encourage greater participation by the public in the transportation planning process. The addition of the interactive map was anticipated to better understand the status and location of planned transportation projects in Marion County.

#### **Item 4c. TPO Budget Status Update**

Liz Mitchell presented the board with a brief budget status update for the TPO. On a quarterly basis the TPO updated the TPO Board to ensure they remain informed of funding status and the financial outlook throughout the year. A summary of the TPO funding through the end of the third quarter for the fiscal year 2020 and an estimate of fourth quarter expenses were presented.

### **Item 5a. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Selection**

Liz Mitchell presented to the board and said that every five years, it was the responsibility of the Local Planning Agency to arrange for a selection of the CTC for their designated planning area. To complete the task, the Ocala Marion TPO staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), soliciting proposals from any and all interested professional firms to perform the functions of the CTC for Marion County.

The process began with Marion County Procurement working closely with staff to acquire the details and verbiage in order to accurately convey all the components necessary for the RFP. Staff along with Marion County Procurement then put together a Selection Committee comprised of three members, Andrea Melvin with the Centers for Independent Living, Jeffrey Askew with Marion County Veterans Office, and Liz Mitchell with the TPO. The Selection Committee along with Marion County Procurement on April 3, 2020 held a Kickoff Meeting to review the final draft, assure the submittal requirements were accurate, and scoring criteria. Committee's responsibilities and general instructions were also discussed. Later that afternoon the RFP was released advertising it on \*DemandStar for broadcast to applicable firms. Legal Ads to the Ocala Star Banner and Marion County Public Information Office was also sent as well as notifying applicable firms, the incumbent firm, and Solicitation Board for Procurement Services.

On April 6, 2020 the RFP was advertised on the Ocala Marion TPO website and social media platform. There were fourteen days provided to any potential respondents for any questions. April 17, 2020 ended the question and answer period and none had been pursued.

The deadline for the RFP was May 4, 2020 at 1:00pm and two submittals were received. Marion County Procurement prepared a Respondent List, notice of the Selection Committee Meeting and posted on DemandStar. Procurement also provided the Selection Committee members instruction for pick-up of "hard" copies along with score sheets, and scoring instructions.

The Selection Committee meeting was held at the Marion County Procurement office at 9:00am on May 11, 2020. Each Committee member reviewed their scoring and notes by category. Scores were finalized and totaled by Procurement determining that Marion Transit Services was the candidate selected for the CTC position. Marion Transit Services provided a very precise and thorough RFP complying with all requirements set forth in RFP 20P-128 advertised on April 3, 2020.

The CTC Selection was being submitted to the Board for review and approval. Board approval was need for Marion Transit Services to continue to serve as the CTC for Marion County beginning the new contract on July 1, 2020.

*Ms. Hanchar made a motion to approve the CTC Selection. Ms. Bryant seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 5b. Fiscal Years 2019/20 to 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment**

Anton Schauerte presented and said that the Florida Department of Transportation requested the following changes be made to Ocala/Marion County TPO Adopted Fiscal Years 2019/2020 – 2023/2024 TIP in coordination with the corresponding changes to the Department’s Adopted Work Program.

**MARION COUNTY**

**FM#447491-4 CARES ACT 5311 Marion Senior Services DBA Marion Transit – Transit Project - Sponsor: Marion County**

**Current TIP Status:**

Project phase is currently not in the TIP for Fiscal Years 2019/2020 – 2023/2024.

**Current TIP:**

Phase	Current Funding Type	Current Amount	Fiscal Year
Operations Grant	None	\$0.00	2020
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

**Proposed Amendment:**

Phase	Proposed Funding Type	Proposed Amended Amount	Fiscal Year
Operations Grant	DUCA (Federal)	\$2,668,689.00	2020
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,668,689.00</b>	

**Difference: \$2,668,689.00**

**Explanation:** The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided funding to transit agencies to help to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Hanchar asked how the funds would be used.

Mr. Harris responded that it would ultimately be up to Marion Transit on how the funds were spent, however they would need to meet federal requirements.

Ms. Hanchar asked was the spending of the funds being reported.

Mr. Harris said that Marion Transit would be responsible for tracking the funds spent.

Mr. Gold said he would like to have Marion Transit come to the next board meeting and do a presentation on how they planned to spend the money.

Ms. Stone said that money did not come at the request of Marion Transit and they may not know how they will spend the money and did not want to hold approving funds for the next meeting.

Ms. Stone made a motion to accept the Fiscal Years 2019/20 to 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. Ms. Hanchar seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 5c. List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026**

Mr. Harris presented the LOPP and said that at the May 2019 TPO Board Meeting, staff received direction regarding how to formally proceed with ranking of LOPP. It was determined that staff should use a ranking system that was developed by TPO staff.

The ranking criteria developed was grouped into the following six categories:

1. **Multimodal:** The ranking criteria looked at whether a project incorporated different modes of transportation into the project or was it multimodal. Therefore, if a project incorporated bike lanes, sidewalks, transit options, or offered a new alternative, such as a trail, it received one point for being multimodal.

2. **Performance Measure:** Based on the latest federal transportation legislation, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law on December 4, 2015, which required MPO/TPOs to measure the performance of projects. This was done by measuring projects on safety, system performance, pavement/bridge condition, and transit asset management. Therefore, the LOPP gave weight to any project that met one of the performance measures, and an additional point if the project met two. Note: most projects could only obtain one point for a performance measure, as most performance measures required a project to either be on or demonstrate how it would improve the performance of a corridor on the National Highway System (NHS). Therefore, most projects that obtained two points in the category were a part of the NHS.

3. **Project Development:** The ranking criteria looked at where the projects were in their development.

For example, if a project was in the Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) stage it would receive one point, and it received an additional point for each stage the project was in up until construction, which would be four points. Note: projects could only qualify for one of the phases, with one to four points possible.

4. **Funding Availability:** FDOT had mentioned on several occasions, funding is limited. Therefore, if a project had a lower cost associated with it, and/or a lower cost needed for completion, the project could receive one additional point.

5. **Local Revenue/Funding Source:** An additional category that staff thought was pertinent to the ranking system was local revenue. Therefore, if a project had local revenue being added to the project it received an additional point.

6. **Local Partnership:** The ranking criteria considers whether a project had a formal partnership between two agencies. For example, a project could be a Local Agency Program (LAP) project, or a project that FDOT managed or helped manage for another jurisdiction. In the case, the project would receive an additional point.

The ranking criteria developed by TPO staff was based on several discussions with FDOT, various staff from local municipalities, and internal discussions. These discussions helped create a ranking criteria that was narrowed down based on the adopted 2040 LRTP and Objectives. The Goals from the 2040 LRTP which was focused on were Multimodal Choices (Goal #1), Economic Development and Growth (Goal #2), Safety and Security (Goal #3), Cooperation (Goal #4), and System Preservation (Goal #6).

TPO staff spent the month of April coordinating with both the City of Ocala and Marion County Engineering staff to revised/modified the list since last year's adoption. In addition, staff presented to both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on May 12th, where a formal recommendation for approval was made by both committees. Therefore, TPO presented and recommended the Top **20** projects from the list be transmitted to FDOT as the current list of the TPO's Top Priorities. It was requested for the TPO board to take action for the ultimate approval of the list or some modification thereof.

Councilwoman Hanchar described the importance and economic benefit of the CR 484/ Pennsylvania Avenue project to not only the City of Dunnellon, but Marion County as well. She requested that all parties (City of Dunnellon, Marion County, & TPO) continue to work together to find a way to move the project forward. Extensive discussion took place involving Marion County planning and engineering staff, TPO staff and FDOT staff. No outcome was determined, but that staff of both the City of Dunnellon and Marion County would continue to work together to move the project forward in the future.

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the top 20 LOPP for FY 2026 as presented. Mr. Moore seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 6. Consent Agenda**

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

*There were no comments by FDOT.*

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

Mr. Balmes said the FDOT Office of Inspector General had contacted him and planned to conduct some interviews- conference call meetings and he would keep Chairman Gold posted and give another update to the TPO board at the next board meeting.

Mr. Balmes said that the TPO had also completed an inventory list that listed all assets of the TPO.

Mr. Balmes mentioned the LOPP could benefit from the Federal Stimulus for Infrastructure and monitoring the discussion in D.C.

Mr. Balmes said that he had done some research on comments that were given at the last board meeting by Mr. Barber. The rail company stated they had no interest at the time in selling or donating their right-of-way property neither were they interested in a rail with trail. Further coordination will take place with Mr. Barber and the City of Ocala to determine if interest in moving forward.

**Item 9. Comments by TPO Members**

Councilwoman Hanchar attended the online MCORES meeting and there had been established an interactive map where important areas can be prioritized. The meeting included a lot of technical education. A lot of public feedback received at the meeting were negative and not in favor. June 3, 2020 was the next MCORES meeting and for public comment registration was needed one day prior to the meeting. Still no lines on a map at the time.

**Item 10. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 11. Adjournment**

Chairman Gold adjourned the meeting at 5:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant,