



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**April 28, 2015**

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Earl Arnett, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael Goldman  
Mayor Kent Guinn  
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.  
Councilman Brent Malever  
Commissioner Stan McClain  
Councilman John McLeod  
Commissioner David Moore

#### **Members Not Present:**

Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Councilwoman Penny Fleegeer  
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  
Darren Park, City of Ocala Traffic  
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Traffic  
Kevin Smith, Marion County Growth Services  
Elton Holland, Marion County Engineering  
Michelle Shearer, Shady Greenway Conservation Alliance

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

Chairman Arnett called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

**Item 2. Proof of Publication**

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

**Item 3a. Review and Approval of Local Off-system Priorities**

Mr. Odom explained that the off-system priority projects were not associated with federal or state facilities but were locally significant. The projects were of varying types, including drainage, multimodal, resurfacing and bus replacements for the SunTran system. Several projects from the previous priority list had been funded. The funded projects were resurfacing on SW 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SR 40 storm water mitigation, replacement of seven transit buses, and construction of a four-lane road on SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There were no additional changes to the priority list.

*Mr. Hilty moved for approval of the local off-system priorities. Mr. McClain seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Mr. Guinn asked about right-of-way acquisition on SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Mr. Slay reported that the City of Ocala was negotiating with the property owner and lien holder regarding a missing piece of right-of-way.

**Item 3b. Review and Approval of Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

There were nine proposed amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The first three were at-grade railroad crossing improvements related to the SunRail project. There was also the addition of funding for audible pavement markings on US 441 and reorganization of funding for the Land Bridge Trail Gap, the Santos Trail Gap, and NE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue projects.

*Mr. Hilty made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Mr. Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 3c. Community Transportation Coordinator Recommendation**

Mr. Slay advised that every five years, the TPO was required to make a recommendation to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). In late February, staff had issued a request for proposals and had

received one response by the April 1 deadline. The single respondent was Marion Senior Services, which had been the CTC since 1992. Staff and the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board were recommending that the TPO board recommend Marion Senior Services to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged.

Mr. Hilty asked about the cost for escort riders, and Mr. Slay reported that Ms. Donna Hersom from Marion Transit Services was working on getting all of the information together. Mr. Hilty noted that while the numbers might turn out to be insignificant, it was important to have the information before signing a five-year contract that they could not change. Mr. Slay clarified that the contract would be between Marion Senior Services and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, not the TPO. Mr. Odom advised that the current rate was \$8.00 base charge and \$2.77 per mile. Rates changed annually based on a formula from the Commission. Mr. Arnett asked about multiple transports, and Mr. Slay replied that Marion Transit multi-loaded as much as possible.

Mr. McLeod made a motion to recommend Marion Transit to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the Community Transportation Coordinator. Mr. McClain seconded and the motion passed by a vote of seven to one. Mr. Hilty cast the dissenting vote.

#### **Item 4a. Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan Presentation**

Ms. Smith provided a presentation on the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan. The FTP was the state's long range transportation plan, serving all of Florida and providing a framework for funding. The SIS involved major air, space, water, and road facilities. The SIS plan included criteria, needs assessment, and financial strategies. Both plans were scheduled for adoption in 2015.

FDOT was meeting with partner groups to talk about the plans and gather feedback. There had been a summit meeting in 2014, and regional meetings were being held in 2015. Ms. Smith reported that the plans would be available to view and comment on in the fall of the year. More information was available at the project website that had been set up for the plans. A workshop was taking place on June 25 in The Villages. FDOT was presently taking comments on the plans.

#### **Item 5. Consent Agenda**

Mr. McClain moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Item 6. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Smith reported that there would be lane closures on the urban section of the US 27 resurfacing from 6:00 pm to 7:00 am during work. Lane closures on the rural section

would depend on the contractor. Information on the district-wide pivotal hangar project was available on the cflroads.com website. The pull-off and virtual scale might have intermittent closures from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm depending on the contractor.

### **Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Slay reported that the Florida House had adjourned its session without taking action on a bill that would require local municipalities to pay for utility relocations. Mr. Slay said that staff was going to ask the board's pleasure regarding drafting a letter of opposition to the bills. Mr. Guinn advised that the City had discussed the issue and suggested that a letter from the TPO would be a good idea. Mr. Moore also voiced support for drafting a letter.

Mr. Arnett asked about a bill requiring sidewalks, and Mr. Slay advised that there were Senate and House versions of a bill that would require governments to add sidewalks around schools based on different criteria. Mr. Slay said that the TPO had been successful in years past getting sidewalks installed under the Safe Routes to Schools program. Mr. Arnett said that the new criteria would be different from Safe Routes to Schools criteria, and Mr. Slay said that staff would work with the school board staff to identify students within walking distance.

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

Mr. Guinn asked about bus stop shelters, and Mr. Slay said that a list of potential locations had been submitted to the Public Works department to look at right-of-way availability. The list contained the fifteen most heavily used stops. Staff wanted to identify hurdles and get funding in place to install shelters. Mr. Slay estimated that within six months, shelters could start being installed.

Mr. Arnett mentioned an issue that had been run into with people reselling SunTran passes and asked about photo ids for the passes. Mr. Slay said that a representative from the local homeless coalition had been at the last Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board meeting and that staff had received a visit from a local veterans group regarding passes. Mr. Slay said that most organizations were buying tokens, not passes, to give out. Mr. Slay commented that photo ids might be cost prohibitive. Mr. Guinn reported that he had talked with Hank Whittier from Vets Helping Vets regarding reduced fares for veterans and suggested that one of the bus wrap advertisers could be approached about including, "Veterans Ride Free," on their wrap. Mr. Hilty commented that photo ids would be useful but might be difficult to work out. Mr. Arnett noted that tokens were reusable, whereas passes were not.

### **Item 9. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 10. Adjournment**

Chairman Arnett adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

  
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Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant