



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Marion County Library Headquarters – Meeting Room C
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
August 10, 2021
10:30 AM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steven Neal
Dave Herlihy
Rakinya Hinson
Kenneth Odom
Nancy Smith
Mickey Thomason
Eric Smith
Loretta Shaffer
Elton Holland (*arrived at 10:51am and departed at 11:22am*)

Members Not Present:

Bob Titterington

Others Present:

Rob Balmes
Liz Mitchell
Shakayla Irby
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn
Anthony Nosse, FDOT

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting-Chairwoman Nancy Smith called the meeting to order at 10:33am and Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll, there was a quorum 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 August 3, 2021. The meeting had also been published to the Star Banner news calendar, and the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Walk-On Item. Amendment (FY) 20/21 to 24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Rob Balmes presented and per the request of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), one transit project was proposed to be added to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2020/2021 to 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

FM# 449238-1 Marion-Ocala SunTran Section 5307 ARP Small Urban Area

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) project
- Total: \$783,759
- New transit project Capital Grant

Mr. Odom made a motion to accept the Walk-On Amendment FY 20/21 to 24/25 TIP.
Mr. Herlihy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Neal said that the SunTran had received the grant application a month prior and funding was a part of the Covid Relief. The grant was at 100% no match but had to be included to the TIP for the funds to be awarded to the City and County.

Mr. Neal said that local funds were not applied for.

The total grant funding would be \$627,007.

Mr. Odom made a motion to approve FM449238-1 for supplemental SunTran funding.
Ms. Shaffer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Odom made a motion to approve FM449238-1 Ocala SunTran Section 5307 American Resuce Plan (ARP) Small Urban Area supplemental funding for the 22/26 TIP.
Ms. Shaffer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3A. Fiscal Years (FY) 21/22 to 25/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Roll Forward Amendment

Mr. Balmes presented and said that the on an annual basis, the TPO worked in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through a roll-forward process. The process was undertaken because in some cases project phases that were programmed in the previous fiscal year (FY) of the prior TIP were not authorized and encumbered by June 30. The projects must then roll-forward to the new FY in July of the FDOT Work Program and also be included in year one the TPO's recently adopted TIP (FY 2021/2022 to 2025/2026). Therefore, a TIP amendment was necessary to ensure full consistency with the FDOT Work Program.

A total of \$25,605,946 in funding had been proposed to be rolled forward to projects in the FY 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 TIP. Some of the notable projects included:

- SR 40 from end of 4 lanes to east of CR 314 (Right-of-Way, PE): \$818,427
- SR 40 intersections at SW 40th and SW 27th (Right-of-Way, PE): \$550,709
- US 441 from SR 40 to SR 40A (Right-of-Way, PE, and Construction): \$402,469
- SR 25/SR 200/US 301 from CR 25A to US 301/US 441 (Resurfacing): \$3,399,470
- SunTran Capital and Operating: \$17,472,315
- SunTran Block Grant Operating: \$523,310
- SunTran Small Urban Capital: \$808,794
- Silver Springs State Park Pedestrian Bridges (PE, Environmental): \$148,616

Mr. Herlihy made observation that totals provided had seemed to be at half the total amount and also inquired about the reason for deferrals and delays.

Mr. Balmes responded with a walk through of the Roll-Forward report showing projects that had funding rolled forward. Regarding deferrals and delays, in some cases projects had a lapse in schedule and also flexibility by FDOT to roll funding forward to get projects completed.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve the FY 21/22 to 25/26 TIP Roll Forward Amendment.
Mr. Odom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4A. Draft Congestion Management Plan

Mr. Balmes said that the TPO had been undertaking a major update to the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The updated included full revisions to the current Policy and Procedures and State of System documents last completed in 2011. In addition, public outreach took place through an online survey conducted in March.

Ms. Amber Gartner with Kimley-Horn provided a presentation to the Committee.

The CMP process was updated every 5 years

1. Develop Regional Objectives
2. Define CMP Network
3. Develop Multimodal Performance Measures

Frequent Updates (every two year process)

4. Collect Data/Monitor System Performance
5. Analyze Congestion Problems and Needs

6. Identify and Assess Strategies
7. Program and Implement Strategies
8. Evaluate Strategy Effectiveness

Step 1: Recommended CMP Goals

- Monitor System Performance
- Improve Safety
- Congestion Reduction
- Engage the Public

Step 2: A map of the Congestion Management Network was displayed.

Step 3: Performance Measures

Safety Performance Measures (5-Year Rolling Average)

- Number of Fatalities
- Fatality Rate
- Serious Injuries
- Serious Injury Rate
- Non-Motorized Safety (Fatalities + Serious Injuries)

Roadway Capacity Performance Measures

- Percent of VMT and Roadway Miles below adopted Level of Service Standard
- V/C Ratio
- V/MSV Ratio

Reliable Travel Time Performance Measures

- Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable
- Percent of Person Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable

Goods Movement Performance Measures

- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Below LOS Standard on Designated Truck Routes
- Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index
- Percent of the Interstate System Mileage Uncongested
- Number of Crashes Involving Heavy Vehicles

Public Transit Performance Measures

- Percent of Congested Roadway Centerline Miles with Transit Service
- Passenger Trips per Revenue Hour
- Average Peak Service Frequency
- On-Time Performance
- Annual Ridership

Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Facility Performance Measures

- Percent of Congested Roadway Centerline Miles with Bicycle and/or Sidewalk Facilities
- Miles of Multi-Use Trails

TDM Performance Measures

- Number of Registered Carpools or Vanpools

System Preservation (Optional – Non-CMP)

- Percent of pavements on the Interstate System in Good condition
- Percent of pavements on the non-Interstate NHS in Good condition
- Percent of pavements on the Interstate System in Poor condition
- Percent of pavements on the non-Interstate NHS in poor condition
- Percent of NHS Bridges classified as in Good condition
- Percent of NHS Bridges classified as in Poor condition

Public Engagement

- Was a survey of provided to the public to identify congestion and safety issues?
- Were CMP materials provided for review by the public?

Step 4: Collect Data/ Monitor System Performance map was shown.

Step 5: Analyze Congestion Problems & Needs

Step 6: Identify and Assess Strategies

Step 7 and 8: Program Strategies and Evaluate Effectiveness

Summary and Next Steps

1. Ongoing monitoring of the transportation system
2. Monitor availability of traffic data and travel time reliability from FDOT
3. Monitor Federal and State requirements for CMP and setting of performance targets
4. Program 2 to 3 corridor / intersection studies per year based on the results of the congestion analysis and mitigation strategy identification
5. Perform State of the System update every two to three years to monitor system performance and effectiveness of strategy implementation
6. Publish an online interactive map and CMP resource page on the TPO's website

There was committee discussion regarding the congestion maps.

Mr. Odom mentioned the data for Roadway Characteristics and said that function classification for the corridor needed to be included and within the DOT level of services add the signal type.

Item 5A. Traffic Counts Report

Mr. Balmes said the TPO published the 2021 Traffic Counts Report and Online Map in June to serve as a resource to citizens, elected leaders and professionals in Marion County. The report was a compilation of traffic counts taken and administered by professionals at Marion County, City of Ocala and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Provided to the committee in the meeting packet was a 2021 Traffic Counts report.

The information was also accessible at the TPO's Website Transportation Statistics Page:
<https://ocalamariontpo.org/transportation-statistics>

Traffic Counts Online Map

<https://marioncountyfl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=684f763711d742f893a1271ab346c28c>

Traffic Counts Story Map

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6190ad2ad11c4e99a0d149c9dff71488>

Item 5B. Safety Action Plan

Mr. Balmes reported that the TPO is planning to invest in the development of a Safety Action Plan to serve as a resource to improving transportation safety throughout Marion County. The development of an Action Plan is envisioned to be a collaborative process involving citizens and stakeholders, private and public partners, and state agencies. The proposed title of the Action Plan is **Commitment to Zero: An Action Plan for Safer Streets in Ocala Marion**.

Nationally, safety has been a priority of federal planning and policy-making for decades. However, with the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the role of safety at MPO/TPO's has been expanded in both planning and reporting. All MPO/TPO's are required to expand upon past work performed in transportation safety, such as meeting annual performance targets and integrating safety into the project prioritization process.

Additionally, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had adopted Vision Zero into their practices of advancing safety in the state of Florida. At the FDOT District 5 level, an Office of Safety was established in 2021 placing safety at the forefront of transportation activities in the central Florida region.

The purpose of Commitment to Zero will be to bring together the Ocala Marion community to collaborate in the development of an Action Plan to improve safety on our transportation system. The Action Plan will serve as a guidance document to help propel community partners and stakeholders toward reaching the ultimate vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries on the streets. The Action Plan will also serve as a source of inspiration by honoring local leaders and organizations devoted to safety.

Furthermore, a major theme of the Action Plan will be an emphasis on the implementation of agreed-upon specific action steps, including shared responsibility to support building a stronger safety culture in the community.

A draft scope of work will be provided to the committee at the September committee meeting.

Item 6A. Consent Agenda

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

Item 7. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Rakinya Hinson provided an updated construction report as of July 28, 2021 and highlighted the following projects:

Current

- Resurface U.S. 441 from State Road 35 (SE Baseline Road) to State Road 200 (FDOT Financial Information Number 439238-1)
- Widen Northeast 36th Avenue to four lanes and construction of bridges over CSX rail line (FDOT Financial Information Number 431798-3)
- Converting full median openings to directional medians, closing three of the existing full median openings, and extending some of the turn lanes between Northwest 27th Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Ocala. These modifications reduce traffic conflict points and separate turning movements along this section of S.R. 40. (FDOT Financial Information Number 441366-1)

Upcoming

- Mill and resurface U.S. 441 from County Road 25A in Ocala north 8.8 miles to the U.S. 441/301 split. This project will also change the configuration of the roadway at the US 441/301 split to allow both lanes of traffic on northbound US 441 to turn left onto US 301. Currently, only vehicles in the right lane may turn onto US 301. This change is being made to alleviate significant backups of trucks stacking in the right lane awaiting their opportunity to turn onto US 301. (FDOT Financial Information Number 441136-1)

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes provided a Senate update regarding the Infrastructure bill package that called for \$550 billion in new spending over five years.

A summary breakdown of the package thus far includes:

- \$110 billion for roads and bridges
- \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail
- \$39 billion for public transit
- \$11 billion for safety
- \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations
- \$5 billion for purchase of electric school buses and hybrids
- \$17 billion for ports
- \$25 billion for airports
- \$46 billion for infrastructure resiliency
- \$55 billion for water and wastewater
- \$65 billion for broadband access
- \$21 billion for superfund and brownfield cleanup
- \$73 billion for the nation's electrical grid modernization

The pay-for, as currently estimated, will potentially come from a variety of sources, including COVID-19 unspent relief, unemployment insurance aid, delaying Medicare rebates, 5G service auctions, and tax on chemical manufacturing, tax enforcement and future economic growth.

The Senate was set to make a decision on passing the bill later in the day.

Item 9. Comments by TAC Members

Mr. Herlihy said the County had a Community Meeting and for the first time and free of charge the School District provided a venue at Liberty Middle School for SW 49th project. Also, a couple weeks prior there had been another Community Meeting at West Port High School for the SW 80th Ave project.

Mr. Herlihy said that he was proud to see the County and School District working together.

Item 10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 11. Adjournment

Acting-Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:41am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant