



TPO Board Meeting

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
February 22, 2022
4:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Craig Curry
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman James Hilty
Commissioner Ron Livsey
Councilmember Barry Mansfield
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Mayor Bill White

Members Not Present:

Councilmember Kristen Dryer
Commissioner Jeff Gold
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Anna Taylor, FDOT
David Bottomley
Other members of the public not signed in.

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ire Bethea called the meeting to order at 4:02pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Roll Call

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant stated the meeting was published online at the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and Marion County meeting calendars on February 15, 2022. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

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

Item 5A. Performance Management Safety Targets

Mr. Balmes presented and said the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) required State DOTs and TPOs/MPOs to conduct performance-based planning by tracking performance measures and setting data-driven targets to improve those measures. The first of the performance measures that had become effective in 2016 was assessing the conditions of roadway safety – PM1.

By May 2018, all TPO/MPO's were required to establish safety targets and approve or update on an annual basis. Specifically, the Ocala Marion TPO was required to update and adopt **Targets** for **five** required **Safety Performance Measures** established under MAP-21. This year, the TPO must submit Safety targets to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) no later than February 25, 2022.

Mr. Balmes mentioned the five required safety performance measures.

1. Fatalities - Total number of fatalities involving a motor vehicle crash
2. Fatalities (Rate) - Rate of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Serious Injuries - Total number of serious injuries involving a motor vehicle crash
4. Serious Injuries (Rate) - Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
5. Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries - Number of non-motorized fatalities and number non-motorized serious injuries involving a motor vehicle crash

On an annual basis, the TPO had the opportunity to select one of two options regarding updating and submission of safety targets.

1. Adopt the state targets established by FDOT.
2. Develop its own quantifiable safety performance targets.

If the TPO adopts state targets, it was required to annually adopt the same targets until changes were made by FDOT. Presently, the FDOT had adopted 0 for each of the five safety targets.

In 2018, when the process became a federal requirement, the TPO Board adopted its own specific safety performance targets to better track progress and reflect more accountability to the public. The targets reflect specific crash data for Marion County. For the past four years, the TPO Board has opted to follow the same approach of reviewing prior year target results, and adopting revised targets tied to a specific methodology involving five-year rolling averages and projected vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

The methodology was explained in more detail in a memo provided to the TPO board.

Following the same methodology used in 2021, the TPO conducted an analysis of the five safety targets for 2022 using data and information provided by FDOT and the University of Florida Signal Four Analytics online database. The methodology of developing targets for 2022 involved calculating the average percent change of three periods of five-year rolling averages for each of the five targets, and projecting VMT based on historic trends. The three five-year rolling averages included 2015 to 2019; 2016 to 2020; and 2017 to 2021. The aggregate percent change of the three rolling averages was then applied to the third rolling average period to calculate the proposed 2022 targets.

Based upon the analysis, the proposed 2022 safety targets (not exceed) were as follows:

Fatalities – **98**

Fatalities per 100 Million VMT – **2.08**

Serious Injuries – **3778**

Serious Injuries per 100 Million VMT – **8.02**

Number of Non-Motorized (bicycle, pedestrian) Fatalities and Serious Injuries - **57**

Two options were provided to the board:

Option A. Continue using the methodology for developing annual safety targets.

Recommend to the TPO Board adoption of the proposed safety targets for 2022. As part of the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan, staff recommended the consideration of crash reduction factors and corresponding strategies to improve safety in Ocala/Marion County for 2023 target setting.

Option B. Adopt 0 for all five safety targets to reflect the statewide/FDOT targets, and the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan goal of moving toward 0 Fatalities and 0 Serious Injuries.

The board had discussion on the safety targets and methodology.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that the Ocala Marion TPO had made a choice to set its own targets since mandated to do so in 2018. There was a choice to set the state targets of zero but if the TPO decided to go with the state targets of zero there could not be a change to go back and set targets.

Approved –

Commissioner Stone shared her concerns of at some point being penalized by the state with dollars that would get allocated. The state has said they would not penalize however she preferred to set targets to be able to see real data numbers.

Commissioner Bryant said that zero was probably an unrealistic goal but everything that could be done to reduce accidents should be done. She agreed with setting realistic goals and remaining consistent with what had already been done.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to adopt Option A for the Performance Management Safety Targets. Mr. Hilty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5B. TPO Travel Policy

Rob Balmes presented to the board and said that the TPO maintained a Travel Policy to establish formal procedures for the reimbursement or payment of expenses incurred when staff and board members were on official TPO business.

Based on a recent internal review of the Travel Policy, the following changes were proposed as updates or clarifications:

- **Page 3: 1.7 Letter of Agreement.** This section was updated to match the current Marion County Human Resources advanced-level training policy and threshold (\$2,000). The prior amount of \$1,000 had corresponded to the City of Ocala Human Resources policy when the TPO was hosted by the City.
- **Page 4: 2.1 General Principles.** An updated reference to the new sub-section 2.4.3 was made, which provides more clarification regarding same-day travel meals.
- **Page 7: 2.4 Meals and Incidentals.** Sub-section 2.4.4 was created to provide clarification regarding General Service Administration (GSA) Allowable Travel Expenses. When a staff or board member is on TPO business, he/she can claim a meal allowance at an event/conference/meeting when a meal(s) is included as part of registration, if special conditions or circumstances are warranted. These conditions are highlighted on page 7.

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the TPO Travel Policy. Mr. Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5c. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Application

Per the Bylaws of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), all membership nominations required TPO Board review and approval.

Mr. Balmes said that TPO staff received an application for membership to the CAC by Matt Fabian. Mr. Fabian was an active member of the community and was currently serving as a professional developer in Ocala. He had expressed an interest in transportation issues in the Ocala/Marion County area, and serving on the CAC.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve Matt Fabian as a member of the CAC. Ms. Stone seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

In the prior week an MPO workshop was hosted at the District Five office and thanked TPO Director, Rob Balmes for participating in the successful workshop and for the continued partnership.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes told the board a Community wide workshop for the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan was planned for April 14, 2022 at the College of Central Florida – Klein Center from 5:30pm – 8pm. Electronic and hard copy fliers would be distributed to the board upon completion.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Board Members

Mayor Bill White gave a report that Inglis had a kick-off meeting with FDOT regarding the improvements of US 19 from the red level area up to Chiefland. With the intension of the Suncoast Parkway hooking into US 19 there was anticipation to improve US 19.

Mayor White said Dunnellon was interested in the project because anything that would attract traffic into US 19 would attract pass-through traffic in Dunnellon. FDOT said that the project was in the planning phase, possibly five years out.

Chairman Bethea gave comments about serious traffic issues in Marion County. He gave thoughts about the City of Ocala, Marion County, TPO, and FDOT have conversations about the traffic congestion and how to work together to make things better for the citizens.

Commissioner Stone mentioned that a workshop was being developed at the request of Marion County with the City to talk about economic development both residential and commercial. She also told the board to study the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) where the roadway projects were listed.

Commissioner Bryant said the workshop that the County was developing would be an opportunity for the City and County to discuss the growth currently and the growth to come. Also, identify different corridors that can be expanded to make a difference.

Commissioner Stone mentioned the Congestion Management Plan (CMP) being developed by the TPO.

Mr. Balmes said that the CMP had been adopted in 2021 and would be revisited every one to two years.

Mr. Balmes also mentioned that the TPO looked at projects that were federalized or received state funding so a workshop that included local projects as well would give the TPO a great picture.

Commissioner Bryant said that all municipalities would be invited to the workshop.

Mayor Guinn mentioned that population in the City with business growth was not going to stop.

Item 10. Public Comment

Mr. David Bottomley, 305 Woodbury Pines Circle, Orlando, FL 32828 addressed the board with comments about the Silver Springs State Park and the importance of LED lighting. He also gave comments about the importance of preserving Silver Springs and the uniqueness of Marion County parks.

Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bethea at 5:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant