



TPO Board Meeting

Marion County Commission Auditorium and via WebEx
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
February 23, 2021
4:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Commissioner Craig Curry

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Jeff Gold
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman Brent Malever
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Anna Taylor, FDOT
Steven Neal, City of Ocala

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-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 16, 2021. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4a. 2021 Safety Targets

Mr. Balmes presented and said that the Performance Management was a strategic approach to connect investment and policy decisions to help achieve performance goals. Performance measures were used to evaluate progress. Performance measure targets were the benchmarks against which collected data was gauged. 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 the measures.

Every year, the Ocala Marion TPO was required to update its targets for the five Safety performance measures established under MAP-21. The TPO had to submit its Safety targets at the end of February 2021.

Safety Performance Measures Description

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

When updating its Safety targets, the Ocala Marion TPO was provided the option to either:

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

In 2020, the TPO voted to develop its own quantifiable safety performance targets, which were based on previous 5-year rolling averages.

TPO staff recommended that the board approve the 2021 Safety Targets, as presented.

An explanation of the methodologies used to develop the 2021 Safety Targets, as well as the past 2019 Safety Targets and 2020 Safety Targets methodologies, had been provided to the board.

Ms. Hanchar made a motion to approve the 2021 Safety Targets. Mr. Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4b. SunTran Bus Route Planning

Mr. Steven Neal with the City of Ocala gave a presentation to the board. The presentation provided an overview of the current process underway to assess a re-design of current bus transit service.

The SunTran Service before 2018 had the following:

- 6 Routes
- 70-minute Headway
- Interlined “Figure 8” Routes
- 17 Hours a day
- Monday to Saturday Service

The Existing Transit Network had the following:

- 6 Routes to 7 Routes (Silver Route added)
- “Two-Way” Service to “One-Way” Service
- Loss of coverage for some heavy transit-dependent population area
- Service Extension beyond US 200 & I-75

Some of the challenges that came from the route changes in 2018 included:

- Decreasing Ridership
- Route Issues
- Declining Cost Efficiency
- Additional Locations
- Customer Complaints
- Longer riding time (50% increases from before)
- Loss coverage of needed destinations
- Longer walk to bus stops
- Schedule insufficient to cover after-work trip
- Limited Shelters and Benches

New Locations to service were:

NW Ocala- FedEx Ground, Chewy, AutoZone, Greyhound Stations
W Ocala- Florida Access, the Centers
SW Ocala- Market Street at Heath Brook, New VA Clinic Facility

The Existing Project Status

- 9 new bus vehicles as of August 2020
- Developed public involvement plan

- On-board Survey (on bus and internet)
- SunTran Operator Survey
- Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire
- Coordinate with 3rd-party technical supporting platforms for the transition (Remix and Avail Technologies)

There were plans to implement the redesign system by the summer of 2021.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the SunTran Bus Route Planning. Ms. Hanchar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Walk-On Agenda Item: TPO Position

Ms. Hanchar made a motion to allow the Walk-On Agenda Item: TPO Position. Mr. Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Balmes said that due to the departure of two staff members of the TPO he had worked closely with the Human Resources Department to post a Senior Transportation Planner position. The position would support a lot of key areas of the TPO such as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with annual updates and amendments, managing the Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees, providing support with the Geographic Information System (GIS), and be involved with any future planning studies.

Mr. Bethea asked if the one position would replace both vacant positions at the TPO.

Mr. Balmes said that the TPO had went through some cuts in the 5305d grant and that the TPO faced a \$25,000 cut in funding and due to that the TPO would need to continue with a staff support of four members. The new position would combine some of the Planner position and a leadership role.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the TPO Senior Transportation Planner position.

Ms. Hanchar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5a. Congestion Management Plan

Mr. Balmes presented and said that over the next nine months, the TPO staff had been planning to conduct a major update to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) documents. The last significant development of the CMP was in 2011, which had included CMP Policy and Procedures and State of the System reports. In 2021, the TPO planned to develop one revised comprehensive Congestion Management Plan (CMP).

The CMP would outline a systematic approach for identifying and managing congestion on the major federal-aid roadway network within Marion County. That would include an assessment of current and projected traffic conditions, identification of congestion hot spots, recommended strategies and solutions to improve congestion, and planning level guidance for the top congested locations.

The process for developing the CMP would be a collaborative approach involving input and guidance from the technical staff members of the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and Ocala, Marion County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The TPO had planned for both the Technical and Citizens committees and TPO Board would be involved throughout the process to review information, draft documents and offer feedback.

The TPO would also be working with Kimley-Horn and Associates to support the completion of the CMP. Mr. Balmes provided a kick-off presentation to the board members outlining the timeline for completion by October 2021.

Item 5b. Pavement, Bridge and Reliability Targets

Mr. Balmes presented and said that every year, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) required the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and all Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Florida to adopt Performance Measure (PM) targets.

Developed in 2016 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, or MAP-21, the targets provided a way for the MPOs and the State to track performance measures and ultimately improved on these measures.

Mr. Schauerte reported on the performance measures and provided tables to outline the targets that had been set by the Florida Department of Transportation and adopted by the TPO.

Item 6. Senate Bill 62 and Regional Planning Councils

Mr. Balmes informed the board of the Senate Bill 62 and Regional Planning Councils that stated “Regional Planning Councils; Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc.”

Mr. Balmes provided the board with a list of 40th Anniversary items for the TPO.

Item 7. Consent Agenda

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

Item 8. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Anna Taylor with FDOT provided the board with an updated construction report.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes provided the board with a MPOAC Legislative Newsletter and highlighted some activities pertinent to the TPO.

- Pete Buttigieg was confirmed as the U.S. DOT Secretary of Transportation
- State Regular Legislative Session convenes March 2
- State Regular Legislative Last Day of Session April 30
- SB 62 – Elimination of advisory role of regional planning councils and shifting duties to state office. Bill now in Judiciary committee.
- SB 140 – Fees for Electric Vehicles. Creating additional fees for electric vehicles, license tax and fees for plug-in hybrids
- SB 1030/HB 763 – Repeal MCORES program and funding

Item 10. Comments by TPO Members

Mr. Curry informed the board that he had attended the MPOAC meeting and said that there had been discussions on SB 138- “Revising the Department of Transportation's goals relating to mobility; requiring the department to establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program; providing for the distribution of grants to certain entities to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure; specifying that certain rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may not require specific methods of sale for electric vehicle charging equipment used in, and services provided in, this state, etc.”

There had also been discussion on ways to gain revenue to support the growing electric vehicle market instead of relying on a motor fuels gas tax. Also, ways that the MPOAC and partners could be proactive in the area and to work with the state to find other alternatives to the gas tax.

Item 10. Public Comment

Melba Smith, 1310 W Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34475 addressed the board and spoke about the changes that took place with the SunTran bus routes in 2018.

Ms. Smith said that buses had been running late, only able to go down one side of the road and not the other side, long waits at the Health Department, and also inconveniencing changes to the Purple Route.

Ms. Smith was in favor of making the bus routes the way they were prior to the major changes in 2018.

Joseph Morah (no address was stated) addressed the board and said he would like to see Sunday Service added to the SunTran for those that work during the week and have time to do other

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activities on the weekend but have no way around.

Item 11. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Bethea adjourned the meeting at 5:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant