



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

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steven Neal  
Dave Herlihy  
Anna Taylor (*via WebEx*)  
Kenneth Odom  
Nany Smith  
Mickey Thomason (*via WebEx*)  
Eric Smith (*via WebEx*)  
Elton Holland

**Members Not Present:**

Bruce Phillips  
Loretta Shaffer

**Others Present:**

Matt Leibfried, City of Dunnellon  
Rob Balmes  
Liz Mitchell  
Anton Schauerte  
Shakayla Irby

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

Chairman Elton Holland called the meeting to order at 10:33am and called the roll, there was no 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 February 2, 2021. The meeting had also been published to the Star Banner news calendar, and the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 3A. Election of Officers**

Per the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) bylaws, members were to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve a one year term. In 2020, the officers were:

- Chair, Elton Holland, Marion County
- Vice-Chair, Nancy Smith, City of Ocala

The newly elected officers would begin their terms as Chair and Vice-Chair effective February 9, 2021.

*Mr. Odom made a motion to nominate Mr. Holland as Chairman. Mr. Neal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Odom made a motion to nominate Mr. Herlihy as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Smith seconded, and the motion passed with Mr. Herlihy opposing.*

### **Item 3B. TAC Bylaws Update**

In an effort to streamline the annual process of appointments to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the following changes were proposed to the bylaws.

#### **Appointment & Terms of Office**

- ❖ Each member requires consent from either the governing body, administrator, director or a supervisor from ~~of~~ the jurisdiction in which they represent. All members appointed shall have an alternate if desired. If an alternate is determined the governing body must formalize in writing to the TPO. Alternate members may only vote in the absence of the official member.

*Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the TAC Bylaws Update. Mr. Neal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 3C. Safety Targets**

Mr. Schauerte 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 committees support the recommendation of the 2021 Safety Targets, as shown in the table provided in the meeting packet.

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 committee.

*Mr. Odom made a motion to approve the Safety Targets. Ms. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 4A. Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Tentative Work Program**

Ms. Anna Taylor with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provided a presentation covering the Tentative Five-Year Work Program for fiscal years 2021/22 through 2025/26 in Marion County. The FDOT District 5 2021 Work Program Public Hearing Week took place from

January 11 to 15, and had included a Public Hearing Workshop meeting held both virtually and in DeLand on January 14.

The Five-Year Tentative Work Program could also be accessed by web at [www.d5wpph.com](http://www.d5wpph.com).

#### **Item 4B. SunTran Bus Route Discussion**

Mr. Steven Neal with the City of Ocala gave a presentation to the committee. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-party technical supporting platforms for the transition (Remix and Avail Technologies)

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

#### **Item 4C. 2020 TPO Annual Report**

In December 2020, the TPO developed an annual report to showcase the major activities accomplished throughout the calendar year by the TPO. Specifically, the 2020 Annual Report highlighted the following major topics:

1. Adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
2. Redevelopment of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and creation of the interactive map of TIP projects
3. Major projects and studies that are planned, currently under development or recently completed
4. Re-appointment of Marion Transit as Marion County's Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)
5. Creation of the TPO's new website and social media platforms

#### **Item 4D. 2021 TPO Major Activities**

To start the new calendar year, a summary presentation was provided by Mr. Rob Balmes to highlight major upcoming TPO activities, including milestones and new planning studies.

#### **Item 4E. 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 committee members outlining the timeline for completion by October 2021.

#### **Item 4F. Pavement, Bridge and Reliability Targets Presentation**

Mr. Schauerte 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4G. AMPO Member Spotlight**

Ms. Shakayla Irby, Social Media Coordinator for the TPO presented and said that at the start of 2021, The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) launched their “aMPO Spotlight” social media campaign and the Ocala Marion Transportation Organization had been scheduled for the first quarter January 11th-15th! The aMPO Spotlight highlighted a different member each week by using AMPO’s social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to retweet/repost content; boosting the Organizations social media outreach.

Ms. Irby provided a summary to the committee of the week of highlighted information.

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

*Mr. Odom made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

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

Ms. Anna Taylor with FDOT provided the construction report and said that the document had recently been updated to better understand the progress of projects under construction. FDOT was looking for feedback on the updated report.

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

Mr. Balmes provided the committee with an upcoming 2021 meeting calendar.

Mr. Balmes also provided information to the committee on the 2045 LRTP Transportation Plan- Executive Summary and said that on November 24, 2020, the TPO Board adopted the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and it had been posted to the TPO website. An Executive Summary had been developed. The TPO would be developing an online interactive map to display all the projects from 2021 to 2045 as a resource to the public. The map would be similar to the current Transportation Improvement Program online version that had been on the TPO website.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that 2021 marked the Ocala Marion TPO 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There would be more information to come on Anniversary ideas and events.

Mr. Schauerte provided an updated to the committee that he had accepted a new position and would be moving back to his hometown.

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

*There were no comments by TAC members.*

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

*There was no public comments.*

### **Item 10. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holland at 12:14pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant