



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

February 26, 2019

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant (*arrived at 4:33pm*)
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever
Commissioner David Moore
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak (*arrived at 4:10pm*)

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Jeff Gold
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Mary Rich

Others Present:

Tom Wilder, Marion Senior Services
Ken Odom, Marion County
Oliver Cromwell, SunTran
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala
Kevin Williams
Darren Park, City of Ocala
Sam Martsolf, Marion County
Don Atwell, Marion County
Karen Williams, Marion Senior Services
Tracy Straub, Marion County

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairwoman Hanchar called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website and on the City of Ocala, Marion County, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

**Items 4c-4h were moved up on the agenda by Chairwoman Hanchar.*

Item 3a. Central Florida MPO Alliance Meeting Report

Ms. Stone gave the board a brief update on the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) Meeting that had taken place on February 15, 2019 and provided a summary in the meeting packet for the board members.

Ms. Stone said that the CFMPOA saw self-driving autos that would be utilized in the Villages and talked about PSA's that had been put together in Polk County for pedestrian and bike safety.

The next CFMPOA meeting would take place on May 31, 2019.

Item 4c. SunTran Route Change

Mr. Daniels presented the SunTran Route Change and said that minor route alignment changes were proposed to address concerns that were raised by the riders of the SunTran since the route alignment changes went into effect November 12th.

The changes included:

- Revisions to the schedule to go back to 70-minute headways
- Revisions to the purple route to allow additional two-way access
- Revisions to the silver route to include the area around Howard Middle School
- Revisions to the blue route to include access on SE 17th Street and SE 36th Avenue
- Revisions to the red route to include access into the Silver Springs Shores Wal-Mart on both inbound and outbound trips.

Mr. Daniels told the board a final set of recommendations had been compiled and additional public outreach was underway to inform transit riders of the planned changes. SunTran drivers would begin training on the proposed routes in the coming weeks. The changes were expected to start on an unselected date in September.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the SunTran Route Change. Ms. Stone seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4d. SunTran Interlocal Agreement

Derrick Harris, Fiscal Manager/Transportation Planner for the TPO presented the SunTran Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Harris said that per the direction of the TPO Board's decision at the January 24th meeting to have the City of Ocala take over the operation and maintenance staff was recommending that the Interlocal Agreement be amended to acknowledge that the City of Ocala would be taking over the responsibility of operating the public transportation system and thus, would be the main policy board for the SunTran. In addition, there was a modification to the financial matching requirements proposed.

Mr. Moore said he was under the impression that the City of Ocala would take over the day to day operations of SunTran but the policy board would still be the TPO Board due to there being more than the City of Ocala that had services within their jurisdiction.

Ms. Rich said that if the City of Ocala was going to take over the day to day operations, provide housing, and pay for maintenance needs that the City of Ocala should be the policy board.

Ms. Bryant said that she was under the same impression as Mr. Moore and thought that the SunTran policy board would still be the TPO Board.

Tye Chighizola, City of Ocala Growth Services Director addressed the board and said that he believed with the SunTran under the City of Ocala Growth Services Department it would help with a lot of outreach that had been currently taking place within the City of Ocala's communities with the most of the routes located in the City of Ocala. It would also help with the City of Ocala's Strategic Plan.

There was additional board discussion on rather or not the City of Ocala should be the policy board.

Mr. Moore made a motion to table the SunTran Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Zalak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4e. Interlocal Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation (ICAR) Agreement

Mr. Harris provided the board with a revision to the Interlocal Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation (ICAR) Agreement that acknowledged the City of Ocala and not the TPO would be operating and maintaining the SunTran Bus System.

Mr. Moore made a motion to table the Interlocal Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation (ICAR) Agreement. Mr. Zalak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4f. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Harris presented the Unified Planning Work Program Amendment that eliminated the SunTran related functions as part of the UPWP or TPO related functions.

Mr. Moore made a motion to table the Unified Planning Work Program Amendment. Ms. Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4g. Staff Services Agreement

Mr. Harris presented the Staff Services Agreement that was revised to establish Marion County as the host agency.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to approve the Staff Services Agreement. Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4h. Interim Director

Chairwoman Hanchar said that March 6th was Mr. Daniels' last day with the TPO and that an Interim Director would need to be appointed. Ms. Hanchar said that Derrick Harris who was currently employed by the TPO had discussion with Mr. Daniels and the City of Ocala and was willing to be Interim Director.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to appoint Derrick Harris as Interim Director. Mr. Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Daniels said that with him leaving the TPO would be short staffed to three employees. Mr. Daniels said after discussions with City of Ocala Staff that Ms. Kristen Woodruff who was currently an Interim with the City of Ocala would work for the TPO as a Planner I for 32-hours a week for seventeen weeks.

Mr. Zalak said there would need to be coordination of funding between the City of Ocala, Marion County, and the FDOT for the hiring of a new TPO Director because of the transition to Marion County and the new TPO Director going through the Marion County hiring process.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to approve Kristen Woodruff as a Planner I for 32-hours a week for seventeen weeks. Mr. Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bouyounes said that it had been a City process in hiring the new TPO Director and if moving forward it would be the County process he needed direction from the board.

Kellie Smith with FDOT said that FDOT would have to get their legal staff to look at all agreements and that FDOT would look at it from a compliance prospective.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to hire the new TPO Director under the County employment. Mr. Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Daniels presented the Safety Performance Measures and said Nationally, state-specific, and locally, transportation plans existed to enhance safety for all users of the transportation system. A coordinated effort to connect all the safety plans had long been in effect in the transportation realm, but over the last three years, a system of Performance Management, had led to a greater push for comprehensive and coordinated transportation and safety planning. Performance Measures for Safety have been developed by the FHWA, for which targets were being established cooperatively between the FDOT and MPO's within the State of Florida (as well as nationally). Through the coordinated effort, the goals of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Highway Safety Plan (HSP), Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), and region specific safety and transportation plans could be shown to guide and support one another. In August of 2018, the FDOT adopted a target of "Zero" for the five (5) safety performance measures adopted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for all public roads.

The Performance Measures, along with a brief description of each were provided to the board.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Gold seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4b. CR 484 Pennsylvania Avenue Study

Amber Gartner with Kimley Horn presented the CR 484 Pennsylvania Avenue Study and said that one of the key recommendations of the City Dunnellon Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was the redesign of Pennsylvania Avenue with a bike (shared-use) path that connects the downtown area to Blue Run Park. Which ultimately connects to the future Cross Florida Greenway Trail and the Withlacoochee Trail. In addition, in 2013 Marion County and the City of Dunnellon started developing conceptual plans for Pennsylvania Avenue (CR 484) for corridor improvements.

Pennsylvania Avenue existed as a two-lane roadway facility with a posted speed limit of 35 mph. Overhead utility lines were located on the north side of the roadway and the land adjacent to the roadway had been extensively developed. The roadway was characterized by closely spaced driveways between short block lengths with the intersecting local roadway network. Pennsylvania Avenue had free-flow traffic to the traffic signal at US 41. There were no all-way stop-controlled or signal controlled intersections within the study area.

The existing typical section had the following geometric features:

- 13-foot travel lanes
- 7-foot on-street parking on both sides of roadway
- 5-foot concrete sidewalk on both sides of roadway

- No turn lanes along the roadway

Ultimately, throughout the stakeholder engagement process, it was clear that the City Council, business owners and the residents that participated in the process were in favor of an alternative that provided a safe and efficient transportation facility for both motorized and non-motorized users and promoted enhanced aesthetics and economic opportunity with the downtown Dunnellon area. There are still some residents who desire for the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor to remain as was, but there was also significant support for the project and recognition of the benefits to the community.

The recommended concept includes reducing the pavement width to an 11-foot travel lane in each direction, a center two-way left-turn lane to provide for improved traffic operations, and removal of the existing on street

parking. Improved multi-modal connectivity would be achieved by providing a 12-foot trail/multimodal path on the south side of the roadway with designated mid-block pedestrian crossings along the corridor to promote bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety. Selective landscaped islands would provide improved aesthetics, promote slower travel speeds, and allow for refuge for pedestrian crossings along the corridor.

A new pedestrian/bicycle bridge would be constructed over the Rainbow River to provide for a safe crossing for bicycles and pedestrians separate from the vehicular traffic. This would also serve as a gateway feature to the entrance to the City of Dunnellon.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the CR 484 Pennsylvania Avenue Study. Mr. Gold seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Musleh mad a motion to approved the Consent Agenda. Ms. Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Vickie Wyche with FDOT provided the board with an updated construction report in their meeting packets. There were no questions for Ms. Wyche by the board.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Daniels thanked the board and staff for the opportunity to work for the TPO as it was his last board meeting.

Mr. Daniels also provided the board with a monthly financial update.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Members

There were no comments by the TPO Members.

Item 9. Public Comment

Shauma Robinson 621 NW 2nd St, Apt 305, Ocala, FL 34475 addressed the board and said she would like to see the SunTran silver route expanded to Department of Children and Families and the Centers. Ms. Robinson also expressed concerns she had about a driver that has been causing problems for some years and said that she had complained to SunTran and nothing had been done.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:28PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant