

TAC Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

Approved – February 14, 2023



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room C
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
3:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steven Neal (*alternate for Ji Li*)
Dave Herlihy (*arrived at 3:41pm*)
Bob Titterington
Kenneth Odom
Mickey Thomason
Noel Cooper
Loretta Shaffer
Eric Smith
Elton Holland
Anna Taylor

Others Present:

Rob Balmes
Elizabeth Mitchell
Shakayla Irby
Jonathan (Jon) Scarfe, FDOT
Kathy Alexander-Corbin, FDOT

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 3:34pm 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 January 3, 2023. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3a. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5 Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Tentative Work Program

Ms. Kathy Alexander-Corbin, with FDOT District 5 provided a presentation to the committee covering the Tentative Five-Year Work Program for fiscal years (FY) 2024 through 2028 in Marion County.

The FDOT District 5 Work Program Public Hearing Week took place from December 5 to 9, including a Public Hearing Workshop meeting held both virtually and at the District Headquarters in DeLand on December 6, 2022.

Ms. Alexander-Corbin talked about some of the project impacts in a review of the year 2022.

- Cost increases; material and labor shortages, premium pricing for certain materials (i.e., electrical, steel) and augmented project unknowns
- Limited competition; single bids at significant high costs, selective pursuits
- Dynamic cost estimation and predictions; forecasting of ongoing/future projects in the pipeline
- ROW Impacts Included: Approximately 15% increase on land prices, and higher severance damage and appraisal costs

The presentation covered how FDOT went about Building and Balancing the Tentative Work Program.

According to the Five-Year Work Program, Marion County was on track to receive \$368,163,260 in funding.

Ms. Alexander-Corbin highlighted the following Key Projects:

FM# 435209-1:

TPO Priority #1, SIS #1

I-75 (S.R. 93) at NW 49th Street, from end of NW 49th Street to end of NW 35th Street
New Interchange

Construction funded in FY 24/25

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$33,565,826

FM# 238648-1:

TPO Priority #14, Non-SIS #8

S.R. 45 (U.S. 41), from SW 110th Street to north of SR 40

Add lanes and reconstruct

Construction funded in FY 27/28

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$62,027,312

FM# 410674-3:

SIS #11

S.R. 40, from east of C.R. 314 to east of C.R. 314A

Future Capacity

Right of Way funded in FYs 23/24 and 24/25

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$25,293,495

FM# 450637-1:

U.S. 27, from Sumter County Line to U.S. 301 / Abshier (Bellview)

Resurfacing

Design funded in FY 23/24 and Construction funded in FY 25/26

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$21,434,383

FM# 450948-1:

S.R. 40, from NE 64th Avenue to west of NE 60th Court

Resurfacing

Design funded in FY 23/24 and Construction funded in FY 25/26

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$24,831,080

FM# 451253-1:

S.R. 200 (SW College Road) at SW 60th Avenue

Safety Project

Design funded in FY 23/24 and Construction funded in FY 25/26

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$723,118

FM# 451251-1:

S.R. 40 (W. Silver Springs Boulevard) at SW 27th Avenue

Safety Project

Design funded in FY 24/25 and Construction funded in FY 26/27

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$1,595,576

FM# 439238-2:

Trail Priority #1, Bike/Ped Priority #3

S.R. 25 (S.R. 500/US 441) from SE 102nd Place to SR 200/SW 10th Street

Bike Lane/Sidewalk

Construction funded in FY 24/25

Funding in Tentative Work Program: \$3,972,004

The committee had some discussion on the different types of improvements and phases of the key projects.

Ms. Alexander-Corbin provided the committee with contact information for any questions regarding the Work Program.

Phone: (386) 943-5168 Email: Katherine.Alexander@dot.state.fl.us

Item 3b. 2020 U.S. Census Update

Mr. Balmes gave the committee a brief update on the 2020 U.S. Census and provided the listing of the 2020 Urban Areas.

On December 29, 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau had released only the listing of 2020 Urban Areas. Maps would not be available until January 2023 according to the U.S. Census webpage and press release. The listing was based on the 2020 Final Urban Area Criteria, published in March 2022.

According to the U.S. Census, the population of the 2020 Ocala Urban Area was set at 182,647.

Additionally, the U.S. Census designated other Urban Areas in Marion County, including: Marion Oaks with a population of 19,077; Rainbow Springs with a population of 4,667; and Lake Bryant with a population of 3,632.

Without maps, Mr. Balmes had no further insights as to other Urban Areas in Marion County, in particular, the southeast including Belleview (The Villages-Lady Lake) and southwest impacting Dunnellon (Beverly Hills-Homosassa Springs).

In order to be part of a Transportation Management Area (TMA), an Urban Area must have a minimum population of 200,000. Until maps were made available, it was uncertain what the Urban Areas would look like in Marion County and why the Ocala Urban Area was not part of the Villages-Lady Lake Urban Area and/or Marion Oaks Urban Area.

Mr. Balmes made mention that per 49 U.S. Code Section 5303(k), TMA's may also be designated by the U.S. Transportation Secretary by request of the MPO and Governor.

More information on 2020 U.S. Census results would be forthcoming.

Mr. Herlihy asked how would the County benefit from having a TMA status.

Mr. Balmes said that being a TMA does not mean more funding would be coming to the County but more of how the funding would be distributed. The TPO as an organization would be able to get a sub-allocation of Service Transportation Block Grant SU to help with meeting additional planning requirements so there could be a boost in funding for the TPO. Also, available funding Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) for projects where the TPO as an organization could work with FDOT and would be able to allocate funding specifically for projects.

Ms. Taylor said that with the change in methodology there were some areas that fell short of the threshold for TMA status.

Mr. Balmes asked about the access of SL funding for smaller MPO's for planning studies.

Ms. Taylor said that in the past the MPO's just make a request and if funds were available FDOT would reward the funds. She said that FDOT would be open to having that conversation if the TPO was interested.

Item 3c. 2023 TPO Major Activities

On an annual basis the TPO provided the board and committee members with a summary listing of the anticipated program activities to meet organization goals and state and federal requirements.

Mr. Balmes presented the following 2023 upcoming major activities:

- Title VI Plan Update (January)
- Safety (PM1) Targets (February)
- FDOT/TPO Joint Certification (Feb/March)
- List of Priority Projects (LOPP) (April, May)
- Pavement & Bridge (PM2), System Performance (PM3) Targets (May)
- FY 24 to FY 28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (May, June)
- 2022 Traffic Counts Report (May)
- Commitment to Zero Dashboard (May)
- GPC Planning Consultants (June)
- TDSP Annual Update (June) – TDLCB
- Congestion Management Plan – State of System Report Update (September)
- Roll Forward TIP Amendment (September)
- 2045 LRTP Amendment (if necessary)
- 2050 LRTP RFQ Process (October)
- Census Urban Areas – December 29, 2022
- Urban Area Maps - TBD
- Functional Classification and Urban Boundary process

Item 4a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3

Mr. Balmes presented and said per the request of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), one project had been proposed for amendment in the Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The current I-75 Rest Area project (FM 438562-1) was receiving federal funding from the Carbon Reduction program and additional state funding to ensure completion. The original and proposed project pages along with the complete TIP document was provided to the committee.

FM# 438562-1: I-75 (SR 93) Rest Area Marion County, from North of CR 484 to South of SR 200

- Funds to be added: \$12,437,031
 - Federal: \$6,524,619
 - State: \$5,912,412
- FY 23 Construction (CST) phase
- Total TIP Funding: \$42,379,024

Mr. Neal asked if a separate section of the rest area could be used for SunTran buses for parking buses overnight or electrical charging.

Ms. Taylor responded that it would have to be coordinated because it was not something that FDOT would usually do. However, there was a very large truck parking shortage across the state so taking away spots may raise some red flags but FDOT could have the conversation to see what options maybe available.

Mr. Herlihy made a motion to approve the FY 2023 to 2027 TIP Amendment #3.

Mr. Thomason seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4b. TPO Title VI Plan Update

Ms. Mitchell presented the Title VI Plan Update and said that the TPO had currently updated the plan to ensure that the TPO complied with the Title VI/ Nondiscrimination 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Ms. Mitchell explained that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the Federal law that protected individuals and groups from discrimination based on their race, color, sex, age, disability, income and national origin.

All Recipients of federal funding must comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, does not permit discrimination on the basis of religion or family status.

All of the nondiscrimination statutes, rules, regulations and authorities were required and had to take place in the TPO's employment, transportation programs, services, events or activities.

Ms. Mitchell highlighted the following updates to the plan:

- Added clarity to the CAC, TAC, and TPO Board membership representation and the guidance they provided.
- Instituted a robust but easy to follow complain procedure, with blank forms attached and various Civil Rights Certifications and Assurances.
- 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, Assessment of Investments in Environmental Justice Areas
- The plan also provided updated graphs, demographics, and population tables to reflect the new 2020-21 Census data.

The TPO continued to accommodate anyone with disabilities such as, blind and hearing impaired, as well as any language barriers through our Website, Social Media Platforms or as requested.

The TPO Title VI Plan encompasses all of the rules and regulations required to ensure that all members of the community are involved and participation was solicited throughout the planning process.

Ms. Mitchell ended her presentation saying, the TPO actively ensured that diversity and equality was at the forefront of all its actions. Completely committed to making sure everyone had an equal footing to the TPO's plans, programs, meetings, activities and events.

Mr. Thomason made a motion to approve the TPO Title VI Plan Update.

Mr. Neal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

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

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Taylor provided the following comments from FDOT:

- The monthly construction report was provided to the committees with a highlight on the CR 484 and I-75 Interchange Roadway Improvements that had been began construction at the beginning of the year. There would be some nightly lane closures and FDOT would keep updated. Also, the Baseline Road Project and the NW 20th Street project were wrapping up with some delays due to outside temperatures.
- Mobility Week Bike Lane Design Contest: The TPO staff had been supporting and participating with FDOT. In Marion County, Oakcrest Elementary School had been the selected participating school in the Bike Lane Design Contest. Winners were to be selected January 16-18. Once a design was selected FDOT would work with the school to get the bike lane design installed.
- CSX had an ongoing project that would be updating railroad crossings in both Marion and Sumter counties. All lanes of South Pine Ave. (U.S.441/301) between SW 17th Street and SE 32nd Street would be closed from 5 a.m. Tuesday, January 17 to 5 a.m. Wednesday, January 18 for railroad reconstruction work.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no comments by the TPO Staff.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

Mr. Noel Cooper said the City of Ocala was almost completed with the evaluation of all the sidewalks and roadways in the city. The City of Ocala was also in the process of training on a software that would help better manage and program repairs for city roads.

Mr. Cooper also mentioned that 44th Avenue was a big push for the City and recently they had submitted a justification supporting a signal at SR 40 and NW 46th Avenue, next steps were to design and permit the signal at that location.

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Item 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Kenneth Odom adjourned the meeting at 4:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant