



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**January 24, 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:**

Robert Batsel, City of Ocala Attorney's Office  
Heather Grubert, FDOT  
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn  
Jim Wood, Kimley-Horn  
Alison Stettner  
Carlos Rodriguez, Metric Engineering  
Tom Wilder, Marion Senior Services  
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala  
Alice Mitchell  
Nate Grant  
Gordon Mueller  
Paul Marraffino  
Darren Park

Steve Sherrer, RATP Dev  
Oliver Cromwell, SunTran  
Ken Odom, Marion County  
Don Atwell, Marion County  
Karen Williams, Marion Senior Services  
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala  
Gabriela Garcia, Metric Engineering  
Doug Shearer  
Michelle Shearer

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

Chairman Moore 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.

### **Item 6a. Tentative 5-Year Work Program Presentation**

*This item was moved up on the agenda by Chairman Moore at the request of the FDOT.*

Loreen Bobo, Director of Transportation Development with the FDOT presented the Tentative 5-Year Work Program Presentation.

Ms. Bobo said the Work Program was a five-year plan that included: public transit, seaport, airport and rail projects. Transportation planning, Transportation Systems Management & Operations, engineering and design, right of way acquisition and construction activities. Also, included FDOT projects and local projects with FDOT involvement.

The total District Five Work Program funding was set at \$7,269,943,518.

Ms. Bobo talked about the Project Highlights which included Safety, Preservation, Capacity, Landscape, Bike/Pedestrian, and Miscellaneous. There was also Additions to the Five-Year Work Program in the amount of \$38,377,312.

**Item 3a. NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange Project**

Carlos Rodriguez with Metric Engineering presented the NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange Project.

Mr. Rodriguez said the purpose and need of the Interchange Project was to improve interstate and regional mobility within Marion County, accommodate future traffic growth, provide relief to existing interchanges at US 27 and SR 326 by providing alternate access to I-75, and improve economic vitality and promote job creation.

Mr. Rodriguez talked about the Phase 2C and Phase 2B of the NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street/ NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street Extension with Phase 2B in final design by Marion County.

The alternatives to I-75 at NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street included: Diamond Interchange Alternative, Single Point Urban Interchange, Partial Cloverleaf North East, and Partial Cloverleaf South East. The next steps were a Public Meeting that was to be held February 6, 2019 with ultimately final recommendations and documents in Spring 2020.

**Item 3b. TPO Organization, Formation and Modification Procedures provided at the request of the TPO Chairman**

Mr. Michael Daniels presented to the board the TPO Interlocal Agreements Summary, Potential separation of SunTran from the TPO, and MPO Voting Apportionment.

There was TPO board discussion on splitting the TPO and SunTran with the TPO having a Staff Services Agreement with Marion County and the SunTran under the City of Ocala.

There was board discussion about the responsibility of the TPO board with the TPO and SunTran under different daily management.

Mr. Bouyounes told the board that it did not matter who managed the TPO staff or SunTran that the TPO board would still be responsible for planning and projects both for the TPO and SunTran.

There was board discussion about the timeline of moving the TPO to Marion County and Mr. Bouyounes suggested that the beginning of the State's Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 would be good timing because there were many components to the move.

Mr. Zalak suggested October 1, 2018 the beginning of Marion County's fiscal year saying that he did not believe it would take more than six months to have the agreements finalized.

Ms. Stone suggested that an audit be done to see where all components of the TPO currently was. Mr. Bouyounes agreed that was a good idea when transitioning.

Mr. Daniels said that he could provide the latest audit reports on both the TPO and SunTran.

Chairman Moore entertained a motion for the presentation item.

*Ms. Stone made a motion to move forward with the SunTran under the authority of City of Ocala and bringing the TPO under the direction of Marion County. Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 3c. TPO Director Search**

Mr. Jared Sorenson, Human Resources Director for the City of Ocala presented to the board and said that Kellie Smith, who was one of the finalist for the TPO Director position with Mr. Daniels had declined the TPO Director position and that the TPO Director position had been posted to various websites for advertisement and that there were twelve applicants with five of them meeting the minimum qualifications and that Marion County had full access to view all applicants.

Mr. Sorenson had also conducted a salary survey and had looked at MPOs throughout the state that were same in size and structure of Ocala Marion and from his research suggested the board range the salary from \$100,000 to \$110,000 with have relatively three to four years of experience.

Mr. Sorenson asked for direction on how to proceed with a Selection Committee to interview the applicants.

The board decided to put together a selection committee for the interviews that would consist of Mounir Bouyounes (Marion County Administrator), Tye Chighizola (City of Ocala Growth Management Director) or Peter Lee (City of Ocala Growth Management Chief Planning Director), and a designated representative for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The board instructed that after the selection committee, had interviewed the applicants they would bring three to four candidates (or two candidates) to the TPO Board for final interviews.

### **Item 4b. Legislative Priorities**

Mr. Daniels presented the Legislative Priorities which included the following:

- Support increased funding for the transportation regional incentive program
- Support expanded availability of the charter county system surtax
- Support indexing of local option gas taxes
- Support designating texting while driving a primary offense

- Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads not designated on the SIS
- Establish predictable funding for transit projects
- Recognizes that federal MPO funds shall not be regarded as state funds
- Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions while simultaneously protecting citizens from malicious tampering

Mr. Zalak made a motion to approve the Legislative Priorities. Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4b. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Ms. Bryant made a motion to elect Ms. Hanchar as Chair and Mr. Gold as Vice-Chair. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4c. Appointment of Representatives to Central Florida MPO Alliance and MPO Advisory Council**

Mr. Zalak made a motion to appoint Ms. Stone, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Gold as members for the Central Florida MPO Alliance with Mr. Wardell, Mr. Grabelle, and Ms. Hanchar as alternates. Mr. Musleh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to appoint Mr. Moore as the member for the MPO Alliance with Ms. Stone as the alternate. Ms. Hanchar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4d. 2019 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Zalak made a motion to approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule. Ms. Stone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Musleh mad a motion to approved the Consent Agenda. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Vickie Wyche with FDOT told the board about projects that were in PD&E for fiscal year 2020 and gave information on the February 6, 2019 Public Meeting at the Ocala Police Department for the I-75 Interchange Project.

**Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Daniels gave a financial billing update to the board and also said that the TPO had been lifted from the Specific Conditions Requirements but wanted direction from the board to stay under the requirements allowing FDOT to review invoices and give comments prior to a final submittal of the invoices.

The board advised to stay under the requirements of FDOT to allow review of invoices.

**Item 8. Comments by TPO Members**

Mr. Zalak asked about the Apportionment and how to move forward.

Mr. Batsel said that the board should wait for the Census reports to come back before having the apportionment discussion.

Mr. Daniels mentioned the MPOAC Weekend Institute and asked board members to contact TPO staff if interested in attending.

**Item 9. Public Comment**

Michelle Shearer, 2301 SE 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocala, FL 34480 suggested that the TPO meeting be live streamed.

**Item 10. Adjournment**

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:17PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant