



TPO Board Emergency Meeting
Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
July 6, 2020
1:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Chair
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever, Vice Chair
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Commissioner David Moore
Councilman Jay Musleh

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Anton Schauerte, TPO
Vickie Wyche, FDOT
Other Members of the Public

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Due to social distancing, Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar was appointed temporary Chair for the meeting. Councilwoman Hanchar called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

Item 2. Roll Call

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director, called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director, stated the meeting was published online at the TPO website, and the City of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and Marion County meeting calendars on June 30, 2020. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages on July 2, 2020.

Item 4a. Fiscal Years 2020/21 to 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Anton Schauerte, Transportation Planner, presented the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in response to the action taken at the June 23, 2020 TPO Board meeting to differ adoption until a full set of comments from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have been received and incorporated into the document.

Mr. Schauerte provided a recap of the comments received from all key partners, including the Federal Highway Administration, City of Ocala, general public and FDOT including their corresponding checklist.

Specifically, the comments from FDOT included critical, enhancement and editorial. Critical comments must be addressed in order to meet federal, state regulations. Enhancement and editorial are recommendations only. All critical comments were addressed in the TIP document. This included the addition of two projects (FM#438171, Marion County Airport; FM#4466911, Aesthetics) that were omitted from the draft in error. However, the total funding amounts by revenue source were included in the draft TIP. Other critical comments included: the adoption date of the TIP on the cover; and FHWA/FTA Certification Statement (not included as the TPO is not a Transportation Management Area). The enhancements made by TPO staff to the TIP included: the addition of LRTP page number references to projects.

To address the two projects that were not included, the TPO will conduct an improvement to the initial database tool developed by staff that was taken over after discontinued contract with the TIP vendor. Mr. Schauerte demonstrated the new database tool and process to better track TIP projects, including conversion of the FDOT Work Program spreadsheet into the TPO TIP database and reflected in the TIP report document. The TPO will save approximately \$10,000 per year in consulting fees by fully managing the TIP in-house.

Commissioner Stone asked about the review checklist and how it is formally used with the TIP changes.

Vickie Wyche, FDOT, responded that the checklist is part of the FDOT final review of the TIP, and will be included in a formal response to the TPO.

Commissioner Stone inquired about the series of boxes on some items and why they remain unchecked.

Ms. Wyche responded that all checks will be made as part of the final review, and the TPO will received a copy of the final review packet.

Rob Balmes, TPO Director, stated that there will be improved communication in the future to the TPO Board to fully understand the two-step process of the FDOT review. He takes responsibility for not communicating that process properly to the Board.

Commissioner Stone responded that comments which were not responded to by TPO staff should be accounted for, even if enhancements. The TPO can do a better job on the TIP and to improve this process.

Mr. Schauerte stated the TPO did incorporate several enhancement comments. But did not have proper time to investigate all non-critical comments.

Commissioner Stone stated that the investment of millions of dollars in transportation is a critical component of the TPO. Looking at a consultant to support the TIP should be considered.

Mr. Balmes, stated the TPO received poor customer service from its prior vendor and had to move forward with developing the TIP in-house this year. The TPO appreciates the directions and will look at vendor options as well as further improvements to the TIP process.

Commissioner Michelle Stone made a motion to approve the adoption of the Fiscal Years 2020/21 to 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Commissioner Kathy Bryant seconded, and a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Kathy Bryant made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Carl Zalak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. Comments by FDOT

There were no comments by FDOT. On behalf of FDOT, Vickie apologized to the TPO Board for the delay in the courtesy review of the TIP document, and will ensure comments are provided in advance of a meeting when adoption is being considered.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no comments by TPO staff.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Members

Councilwoman Hanchar provided an update on the M-Cores Task Force for the Northern Turnpike extension study. The next Task Force virtual meeting will be held on July 22 with a public viewing option at the Ocala Hilton hotel.

Item 11. Adjournment

Councilwoman Hanchar adjourned the meeting at 1:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Rob Balmes, TPO Director