



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:

Ji Li
Tyler Burgett
Bob Titterington (*arrived at 3:31pm*)
Kenneth Odom
Mickey Thomason
Noel Cooper
Loretta Shaffer
Eric Smith
Elton Holland (*Chris Zeigler arrived at 3:36pm to attend on behalf of Mr. Holland*)
Troy Slattery

Members Not Present:

Dave Herlihy

Others Present:

Rob Balmes
Shakayla Irby
Liz Mitchell
Ji Li, City of Ocala
Doug Shearer
Michelle Shearer

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mickey Thomason called the meeting to order at 3:30pm 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 May 3, 2022. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3a. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public review

Mr. Balmes presented the draft Fiscal Years 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and said that it was available for public review and comment. The draft TIP public involvement process was from May 3 to June 28, 2022. A formal presentation of the draft TIP would be provided at the May 10 meeting.

The draft would be presented again at the June 14 meeting to include a discussion regarding feedback and public comment. Included in the packet was the full draft TIP document for review of the committee.

Mr. Balmes highlighted some major highlights of the FY 2023 to 2027 draft TIP.

- **Public Review Period:** The review period was from May 3 to June 24, 2022. TPO Board adoption scheduled for June 28.
- **Performance-based Planning:** Updates were provided on pages 12 to 19 on performance-based planning and performance measures for the four core measures, including Safety; Pavement and Bridge Condition; System Performance; and Transit Asset Management and Transit Safety.
- **TIP Projects and Funding:** 60 projects, grant programs and ongoing maintenance activities are programmed, totaling \$286,940,065. A breakdown by source was provided:
 - \$152.8 million State (53%);
 - \$107.9 million Federal (38%); and
 - \$26.2 million Local (9%).
- **TIP Interactive Map:** The TPO continues to maintain a TIP online interactive map for the public to view projects with specific locations. The map may be found at:
<https://marioncountyfl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=81b909295c9447d7adf4b38bc232adcf>

Item 3b. Draft 2022 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Balmes presented the Draft 2022 LOPP. Per State Statute ([339.175(8)]), the TPO worked in close collaboration with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala, Marion County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop and submit a **List of Priority Projects (LOPP)**.

The process was undertaken annually to identify the highest priority projects to receive consideration for federal and state funding through the FDOT Work Program.

The LOPP process served as the key connection between projects identified in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Therefore, in order for a project to receive federal and state funding, it had to be in the LRTP Cost Feasible or Needs Plan, and Boxed Funds Lists.

In 2022, the TPO had developed a revised LOPP Policies and Procedures document. The document outlined a detailed annual approach, project list templates, and a prioritization and ranking process. The guidance paper was also provided for the committee to refer to.

The initial **draft 2022 LOPP** project lists were also included in the meeting packet. Based upon submissions by local partners along with follow up discussions, the following breakdown provided the initial draft lists and associated number of projects.

- Complete Project Listing (Top 20) – 20 of 74 total projects
- Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) projects – 12
- Non-SIS Capacity – 38
- Safety and Operations – 10
- Complete Streets – 0
- Trails – 10
- Bicycle/Pedestrian (Sidewalk) – 6
- Transit – 0
- Planning Studies – 16

TPO staff proposed to once again adopt an overall Top 20 to 25 List. However, all projects (74) and lists would be provided to the FDOT based on their appropriate assignment/category as outlined in the prior summary.

The committee had discussion about the LOPP and proposed a project change:

1. Combine the SR 200 Widening project (CR 484 to Citrus County) with the SR 200 Trails/Wildlife Underpass project.

3c. Florida Greenways and Trails Council Recap

Chairman Mickey Thomason attended a Paved Trails Summit hosted by the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation and gave a recap to the committee. In partnership with the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation was the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along with several represented consultant firms.

Walk-On Agenda Item: SunTran Presentation

Mr. Ji Li, Senior Transit Planner, provided a walk-on presentation to the committee on the status of a recent performance initiative for SunTran employees. He also shared information related to the recent kick-off of the Transit Development Plan Update and public outreach process. Further information on the TDP and public survey may be found on the SunTran website:

<https://www.ocalafl.org/government/city-departments-i-z/suntran>.

The presentation is provided on pages 7-16 of this set of minutes for the record and for review.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

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

Item 5. Comments by FDOT

Mr. Burgett provided the committee with an updated construction report and notified that C.R. 484 and I-75 Interchange and Roadway Improvements had an updated estimated start time of September 2022 due to longer acquisition time for construction materials.

Mr. Burgett also gave additional information to the committees:

- Project 439238-1 Resurfacing of U.S. 441 from State Road 35 (SE Baseline Road) to State Road 200 had the sidewalk underneath the CSX bridge being removed due to changes of requirements for CSX.
- FDOT District 5 had been appointed a new District Secretary, Mr. John Tyler.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes gave comments and updates to the committee.

- **Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan Update:** The Commitment to Zero Community Workshop was held on April 14, 2022 at the College of Central Florida Klein Center. Approximately 45 residents attended the workshop, including an opening welcome by Chair and Ocala City Council President Ire Bethea Sr., and Board Member Marion County Commissioner Michelle Stone. A short presentation was provided by the TPO and Consultant Team, Benesch, followed by an open house format. The next steps in the project involved a Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for May 12 at the Marion County Growth Services Training Room. Over 40 representatives from public partner agencies and non-profit groups have been invited to participate. The workshop would also be open to the public. Additionally, a workshop had been scheduled for the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) on June 16.
- **2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment Cycle:** The adopted 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) may be amended during the five-year cycle in order to add, remove or modify a transportation project in the Cost Feasible and Needs Plan elements. An amendment would be a formal revision that would require public review and comment. All changes to the LRTP must also demonstrate fiscal constraint (23 CFR 450.104). The TPO conducted a call for 2045 LRTP Amendments on April 18, 2022 to local jurisdictions and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Any proposed LRTP amendments were due to the TPO by May 13, 2022. The process involved an email notification to all four jurisdictions and FDOT. A 2045 LRTP Amendment Public Hearing was tentatively planned to take place at the TPO Board meeting on June 28, 2022, pending the outcome of the state budget process. If necessary, the Amendment Public Hearing could be held in August or September. A

proper 30-day notification would be made to the Board and public in advance of the hearing.

- **FHWA PAR Review, 2045 LRTP:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Florida Division had conducted a Program Accountability Results (PAR) review of the TPO and two other non-Transportation Management Area (TMA) Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in Florida (Indian River, Lake~Sumter) regarding federal compliance with long range transportation plans (LRTP). The purpose of the PAR reviews was to assess LRTP compliance and fiscal constraint in order to meet federal requirements. The TPO was selected in 2021 to be part of the initial round statewide PAR reviews in both Fiscal Years (FY) 2021 (2040 LRTP) and 2022 (2045 LRTP). Based upon a recent completion of the PAR for the three MPO's, the Ocala Marion TPO was recognized for full consistency with all fiscal constraint requirements. The TPO had met all requirements and is in compliance with U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. A summary of results from FHWA's was provided to the committee for review.
- **MPOAC Freight Priorities Program Update:** As discussed in March, the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Freight and Rail Committee had been working with TPO/MPO's to develop a revised freight priorities list. In the past, the process had focused exclusively on submissions of projects by TPO/MPO's for projects on the National Highway Freight Network. For Marion County, that would include I-75, US 27 from I-75 to US 301, and US 301 from SR 200 to Alachua County. The MPOAC Freight and Rail Committee was focused on expanding the process to include other projects on the State Highway System (On-System) and Off-System (Local) for projects that support freight mobility. In 2022, an emphasis was also placed on truck parking projects. Overall, projects must already be programmed with an emphasis on programming additional funds to complete projects. The statewide submission of projects for 2022 from the MPOAC Freight and Rail Committee was provided to the committee for review and one project from Ocala/Marion County was listed SR 40 from SW 40th to SW 27th was currently programmed for PE and ROW with a total estimated project cost of \$10.1 million. After coordination with Sarah Van Gundy, District 5 Freight Coordinator, the TPO submitted the project to MPOAC for construction funding totaling \$5.5 million. Moving forward, TPO staff would work in further collaboration with MPOAC and local and state partners to identify additional funding opportunities through this program for projects in Ocala/Marion County.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

There were no comments by TAC members.

Item 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Mickey Thomason adjourned the meeting at 4:45pm.

TAC Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2022
Approved – June 14, 2022

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant



SunTran Performance Initiative & TDP Update

TPO Board Meeting
May 24, 2022





Presentation Overview

- SunTran Performance Initiative
- Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update
- What is Next?



SunTran Employee Performance Initiative

Existing Issues:

- **Key positions short-staffed** (9 Vacant positions out of 32 required positions)
 - 1 open position for Dispatcher
 - 1 open position for Mechanics
 - 7 open positions for bus operators
- **Low efficiency on daily management & operation**
 - Supervisors must do bus operator's work due to shortage of bus operators
 - Mechanics cannot fulfill their required job responsibilities
- **Hard to fill open positions**
 - Inflation is skyrocketing nationwide, especially in Florida
 - Existing bus operators' wages less than **\$13** dollars, starting driver wage **\$11.68**
 - Peer agencies/businesses already increased/will increase the operator's salaries



SunTran Employee Performance Initiative

What peer agencies/businesses do?

Agencies/Businesses	Starting Hourly Rate
LYNX (Orange County Bus Provider)	\$17.00
Disney	\$17.00
Mears Taxi	\$18.25
Lake County	\$16.00
RTS	\$16.00
Marion County School District	\$17.00
PSTA	\$27.00

SunTran Proposed Hourly Rate

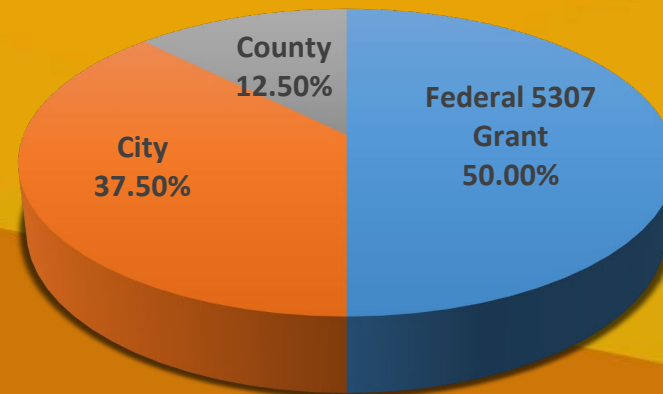
\$16.00

SunTran Employee Performance Initiative

How to pay the increased salary:

- FTA 5307 Operating Grant: 50%
- Local match 50%
 - County : 25%
 - City: 75%

SunTran Employees Salary Increase



■ Federal 5307 Grant ■ City ■ County

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update

What is a TDP?

- 10-year strategic plan for transit
 - Evaluates existing conditions
 - Determines future needs
 - Helps set transit service/capital priorities
 - Identifies available funds
 - Outlines phased service & implementation plans
- FDOT requirement
- Updated every five years
 - Due September 1, 2022
 - Covers FY 2023-2032



Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update

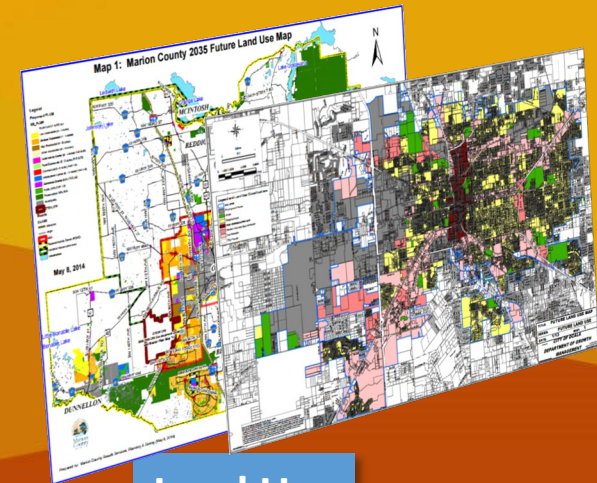
Ocala/Marion TDP Process

- **Evaluate baseline conditions***
- Assess existing transit options
- **Conduct public outreach***
- Determine transit needs
- Develop service & implementation plans
- Develop financial plan

*We are at these stages



Activity Centers



Land Use



Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update

What we need from you:

- **Attend public involvement activities as much as possible!**
 - On-line Survey (www.SunTran.org)
 - On-board Survey
 - Transfer Point Engagement
 - Public Meetings
 - Stakeholder Interviews
- **Raise the awareness of the TDP update in your community**
- **Provide your feedback & opinions when attending public involvement activities**

What is Next?

Next steps for SunTran Performance Initiative:

- Estimate the total amount of funds needed
- Seek approval from the TPO Board, County Commissioners
- Implement no later than June 30, 2022
- Every quarter there after for a year Performance based

Next steps for TDP major update:

- Continue outreach efforts to the general public throughout the whole TDP process
- Document findings/feedback/opinions
- Incorporate findings/feedback/opinions into the TDP development

Questions/Comments

