



**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**

Marion County Library Headquarters – Meeting Room C  
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470  
May 11, 2021  
1:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Davis Dinkins (*via WebEx*)  
Michelle Shearer  
Paul Marraffino  
Richard Howard  
Richard McGinley  
Steve Rudnianyn  
Suzanne Mangram  
Travis Magamoll

**Members Not Present:**

Clark Yandle  
Joe London

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes  
Liz Mitchell  
Shakayla Irby  
Rakinya Hinson, FDOT (*via WebEx*)

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

Chairman Steve Rudnianyn called the meeting to order at 1:06pm and 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 4, 2021. The meeting had also been published to the Star Banner news calendar, and the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 3A. Fiscal Years (FY) 20/21 to 24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment**

Per the request of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), two projects were proposed to be amended to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2020/2021 to 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

#### **FM# 448170-1: Section 5339 Small Urban Capital Fixed Route**

- Total: \$470,711
- New transit project – Capital Grant
- Funds to be added to FY 2021/22
- SunTran facility improvements

#### **FM# 447603-1: NW 10th/NE 14th Street (SR 492) to NE 25th Avenue**

- Total: \$1,258,199
- New project - Preliminary Engineering Funds (ACSL)
- Funds to be added to FY 2020/21, 2021/22, 2023/24
- Implementation of recommendations for crash reduction countermeasures

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the Fiscal Years (FY) 20/21 to 24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. Mr. Marraffino seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 4A. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 21/22 to 25/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Balmes presented a formal presentation of the draft TIP to the committee and said that the draft Fiscal Years 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program had been available for public review and comment. The draft TIP public involvement process would be from May 4, 2021 to June 22, 2021.

The draft would be presented again at the June 8 committee meeting to include a discussion regarding feedback and public comment.

Mr. Balmes gave an overview of some major highlights in the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 TIP document.

- **Performance-based Planning:** Updates were provided on pages 2-2 to 2-8 on performance measure targets for the four core measures, including Safety; Bridge and Pavement Condition; System Performance; and Transit Asset Management and Transit Safety.

- **Performance Targets and Projects:** A new summary was provided on pages 5-2 to 5-4 highlighting the TIP project investments and how they support meeting federally required performance targets on the National Highway System (NHS) and local transit programs.

- **TIP Interactive Map:** A new online interactive TIP map was available to view projects with specific locations. The map could be found at:

<https://marioncountyfl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e2c53a700817427f82b12b9833800168>

- **TIP Projects and Funding:** A total of 71 projects with \$335,167,710 of funding were programmed in the draft TIP. That included \$147,649,148 Federal; \$153,742,613 State; and \$33,775,949 Local funding investments.

- **TIP Document Organization:** To continue the progress toward making the TIP document a more public-friendly resource while not compromising the importance of meeting federal and state requirements, the document this year once again contained summary pages for each of the 71 projects. These projects may be found on pages 5-5 to 5-82. Projects continued to be organized by the following major categories for ease of reference by the general public.

- Interstate (I-75) (6 projects)
- U.S. Routes (9 projects)
- State and Local Routes (13 projects)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian (11 projects)
- Aviation (Airport) (8 projects)
- Transit, Funding, Grants (10 projects)

Mr. Rudnianyn inquired why the local numbers in FY 22/23 and 23/24 dropped so significantly.

Mr. Balmes responded that there was about \$10.2 million in FY 22 that Marion County was providing to the 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange project for right-of-way acquisition. In terms of FY 24/25 it also had related to the Interchange and other projects that were local investments.

Ms. Shearer asked what would be the design of the Interchange.

Mr. Balmes responded that the FDOT had been working on the design and presented the possibility of a Diverging Diamond Interchange that would eliminate a lot of safety hazards when turning left at an interchange.

Mr. Marraffino asked when the US 41 project would begin construction.

Mr. Balmes responded that US 41 was currently in the TIP for FY 24 to begin construction.

Mr. McGinley shared concerns 475A going south at 484 because it backed up three quarters of a mile daily with no right hand turn lane.

Mr. Balmes said the point of the process was to document all comments and feedback, and place them into the TIP and inform FDOT and Federal Highway.

There was further committee discussion.

Mr. McGinley inquired if there had been discussion on adding an additional lane in each direction on I-75 from the County line to the County line.

Mr. Balmes responded that the FDOT was in the process of conducting the project development environment PD&E studies and since the pandemic there had not been any updates but the TPO had inquired on a status but had not heard anything at the time.

Mr. McGinley inquired about 40 and the construction of new bridges that had been placed on a postponement period in 2020. He also inquired about the four laning of SR 200 from 484 south to the bridge at the County line.

Mr. Balmes responded that 40 had been funded for \$405,000 of right of way and the project had been pushed out to FY 28/29.

There was further committee discussion.

Ms. Shearer mentioned that the tunnel under SR 200 was needed.

Ms. Shearer inquired about bike lanes at SR 464 from SR 500 to SR 35.

Mr. Balmes said that FDOT had planned to narrow the travel lanes possibly 1ft and there would be 11ft travel lanes and enough space for a 3 or 4ft bike lane. Also, east of 25<sup>th</sup> FDOT had plans to add paved shoulders and filled in missing sidewalk pieces.

Ms. Shearer mentioned that bike lanes were good but with the distraction of texting she wondered if FDOT had thought about having some kind of buffers in place so people could hit the buffer instead of cyclist.

#### **Item 4B. Draft 2021 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)**

On an annual basis, 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 the List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The process was undertaken to identify the highest priority projects to receive consideration for federal and state funding through the FDOT Work Program. To further explain the process, there was provided a one page fact sheet on the LOPP and a three page LOPP summary document.

Mr. Balmes said that 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 must be in the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan or Boxed Funds List and TIP.

The initial draft 2021 LOPP was included for the committee to view in the May 11, 2021 CAC Meeting Agenda Packet (reference page 329). The TPO proposed to once again adopt a Top 20 List. Additionally, a second tier of projects 21 to 41 was also proposed, along with other high priorities (Future Consideration) currently listed in the 2045 LRTP Needs Plan (unfunded needs). In 2019 the FDOT requested the TPO consolidate three separate priority lists (On-System, Off-System, Trails) into one comprehensive list.

Mr. McGinley asked if the top 20 projects on the LOPP had a higher probability of going into effect.

Mr. Balmes replied that some of the projects in the top 20 were already funded but the projects were kept on the list because of the construction dates and high emphasis on the completion of the projects.

Mr. Howard suggested a traffic study on Highway 27 at NW 27<sup>th</sup> Ave to 35<sup>th</sup> because of the highly congested traffic.

Mr. McGinley suggested 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue four lanes be extended to 484.

Mr. Balmes said that the discussion could be raised to the Marion County Engineers Office to find out any plans for four laning.

Ms. Shearer mentioned that a new Publix was being built by Cherry Wood and sometimes when you have many popular stores near communities that it could cut down trip travel.

#### **Item 5A. National Bike Month**

Shakayla Irby, Admin Specialist/ Social Media Coordinator presented and said the week of May 17 to 23, it was encouraged that everyone Bike Safe. During the week the TPO had plans to host a virtual Bicycle Safety Course taught by ReThink Your Commute, highlight some beautiful trails in Marion County, inform how to Bike on Bus with SunTran, provide information on trail enhancements and connections in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and provided information for Brick City and Santos Bicycle Shops.

Ms. Irby provided a flyer to the committee and said to follow the TPO for upcoming dates and more information @Ocalamariontpo on both Facebook and Twitter. Emails would also be sent out to the committees.

The hashtag #BikeSafeOcalaMarion would be used for participants to share photos of their solo or family rides on social media using the hashtag.

#### **Item 6. Consent Agenda**

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

### **Item 7. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Rakinya Hinson with FDOT stated the Construction Report was included in the meeting packet for the committee. There were no further comments.

### **Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Balmes provided the committee with the Florida Transportation Legislative Newsletter and mentioned the Senate Bill 100 that had passed April 26, 2021.

*SB 100: Highway Projects – (General Bill by Appropriations - Harrell) – Repealing provisions relating to applications for funding for technical assistance relating to areas in and around a proposed multiuse corridor interchange; requiring that \$35 million transferred to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise be used for a specified purpose beginning in a specified fiscal year and annually for up to 30 years thereafter; requiring that certain increased revenues be used to fund specified projects beginning in a specified fiscal year and annually thereafter; requiring the department, in coordination with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, to evaluate certain roadways for development of specific controlled access facilities and to include such projects in the work program, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations. Favorable by Transportation; YEAS 5 NAYS 3, Now in Appropriations. CS by- Appropriations; YEAS 17 NAYS 2. Passed the full Senate; YEAS 39 NAYS 1. To be sent to the House. In the House the bill was referred to Appropriations Committee, passed Appropriations Committee and is now on 2nd reading on the House Floor.*

Mr. Balmes said that there would be some changes to the MCORES project significantly the southwest corridor from Polk County to Naples that would be eliminated and also the Suncoast extension from the end of Suncoast to Georgia would become more of an improving US 19 as best as possible (possible overpasses and modifications to improve mobility).

Mr. Balmes also mentioned that the Turnpike extension would remain with the PD&E funded and the project would move ahead so the TPO would keep track of the process for any alternatives for the extension.

### **Item 9. Comments by CAC Members**

*There were no comments by CAC members.*

### **Item 10. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

CAC Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2021  
Approved – August 10, 2021

**Item 11. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rudniansyn at 2:11pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant