



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Marion County Library Headquarters – Meeting Room C
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
May 11, 2021
10:30 AM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Ji Li (*arrived at 11:05am*)
Kenneth Odom
Nancy Smith
Eric Smith
Jessica Heller (*for Loretta Shaffer*)
Elton Holland

Members Not Present:

Dave Herlihy
Bob Titterington
Loretta Shaffer

Others Present:

Rob Balmes
Liz Mitchell
Shakayla Irby
Anthony Nosse, FDOT
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala
Michelle Shearer

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Elton Holland called the meeting to order at 10:34am 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. Odom inquired about what was being done at SR 492.

Mr. Balmes referenced the description of work provided by the FDOT and said that some safety study work had been completed by a consultant (Traffic Engineering Data Solutions, Inc.) a year ago and some components were traffic signal installation and mast arm upgrades.

Tony Nosse with FDOT said that the project would be completed with federal safety funds and there were plans to do signal improvements and he could forward the concept to anyone interested.

Mr. Odom mentioned the Center for the Blind and also a service school for the blind that was located north of SR 492 and west of 25th avenue and there were audible detection crossing signals and wondered if those type signals would be expanded.

Mr. Nosse said that all of the intersections were Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) ready and he would double check and inform the committee.

Mr. Neal mentioned that the SunTran had made a modification to one of the bus routes and would be stopping in front of the Center of the Blind location with a bus.

Mr. Odom made a motion to approve the Fiscal Years (FY) 20/21 to 24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. Mr. Neal 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)

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 TAC 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. Holland asked if a project at local municipalities was on the LRTP as an unfunded needs plan and it became a priority project and received funding then would it have the ability to move to a higher ranking on the LOPP list because of the increase in scoring.

Mr. Balmes said that if the cost feasible or box fund was selected that then a project could move forward in the scoring process.

Mr. Smith asked if the positioning of projects #2 (NW 44th Avenue (SR 40 to 10th Street), New 4-lane, connection to US 27) and #3 (SW 44th Avenue (SR 200 to SR 40), New 4-lane, Widen Existing 2-lane) mattered because he believed they were backwards from the City of Ocala's priorities.

Mr. Balmes said that Noel Cooper at the City of Ocala had discussed that there was more emphasis on the northern portion of the project.

Mr. Cooper confirmed that the numbering of projects #2 and #3 on the LOPP was indeed correct.

Mr. Cooper inquired about the status of project #5 (SR 40 Downtown Operational Improvements (US 441 to NE 8th Ave)).

Ms. Rakinya Hinson with FDOT responded that she would do some internal research on project #5 and would provide a response to the committee on the status.

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

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Odom 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.

Looks like there would be a pot of money of around \$20 million dollars a year for roadway widening's in rural areas with a stipulation that the roadway would have to have high truck traffic at around 15%.

Mr. Odom mentioned that 301 might be a candidate although they did not have high volume they may have had high percentage of truck traffic.

Item 9. Comments by TAC Members

Ji Li with the City of Ocala mentioned that he City of Ocala was holding three community meetings to solicit input on plans for significant changes to the SunTran bus routes.

The meetings would be held on Thursday, May 13 at 533 NE First Ave:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For individuals unable to or uncomfortable with attending meetings in person, comments could be submitted by phone 352-629-8286 or email sneal@ocalafl.org. Written comments could be mailed to Steven Neal, Transit Manager, 201 S.E. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Ocala, Florida 34471.

Item 10. Public Comment

Ms. Michelle Shearer, 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, FL 34480 gave a comment that she was glad to see that the 95th Street Interchange was not on the LOPP.

Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holland at 11:32pm.

TAC Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2021
Approved – June 8, 2021

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant