



**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**  
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B  
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470  
1:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Matt Fabian  
Travis Magamoll  
Suzanne Mangram (*arrived at 1:09pm*)  
Nick Mora  
Steve Rudnianyn  
Michelle Shearer (*arrived at 1:02pm*)

**Members Not Present:**

Richard Howard  
Richard McGinley

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO  
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO  
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO  
Kia Powell, FDOT

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

Chairman Travis Magamoll called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

### **Item 2. Roll Call**

Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll, and initially, a quorum was not present. A quorum was achieved at 1:02 PM with the addition of Ms. Michelle Shearer, and further strengthened at 1:09 PM with the inclusion of Ms. Suzanne Mangram.

### **Item 3. 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 7, 2024. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 4. Consent Agenda**

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

### **Item 5a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4**

Ms. Brown presented and said there had been one project proposed to be amended to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The following summarizes the proposed changes to the TIP.

#### **FM# 454488-1 5310 Transit Project for Arc Marion, Inc**

- Capital funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through the 5310 program
- Funds to be added to FY 2024
- Total: \$471,442

*Mr. Rudnianyn made a motion to approve the FY 2024 to 2028 TIP Amendment #4.*

*Ms. Shearer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 6a. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 2025 to 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Ms. Brown presented the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and said it was made available for public review and comment. The TIP public involvement process would be from May 7, 2024 to June 14, 2024. The TIP would be presented again at the joint CAC and TAC meeting on June 11 to include a summary of the public and partner feedback on the projects and document received up to June 11. A full draft of the FY 2025 to 2029 TIP was provided in the agenda packet for the committee to review.

The following provides key highlights of the FY 2025 to 2029 draft TIP.

- **Public and Partner Review Period:** The review period would be from May 7 to June 14, 2024. TPO Board adoption was scheduled for June 25.
- **TIP Projects and Funding:** The draft contained 59 projects, grant programs and ongoing maintenance activities, totaling \$624.6 million of funding. The breakdown by source:
  - \$365.8 million State (58.6%);
  - \$225.5 million Federal (36.1%); and
  - \$33.2 million Local (5.3%).
- **TIP Interactive Map:** The TPO continued to maintain a TIP online interactive map for the public to view projects with specific locations. The map could be found at: <https://ocalamariontpo.org/plans-and-programs/transportation-improvement-program-tip/>
- **TIP Document Organization:** To TPO invested in the development of a TIP document that is a public-friendly resource while not compromising the importance of meeting federal and state requirements. The TIP again this year contains summary pages for each programmed project. The project summaries may be found on pages 41 to 106 of the TIP document. Projects continued to be organized by the following major categories for ease of reference by the general public.
  - Interstate (I-75) (10 projects)
  - U.S. Routes (7 projects)
  - State and Local Routes (16 projects)
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian (4 projects)
  - Aviation (Airport) (7 projects)
  - Transit, Funding, Grants (7 projects)
  - ITS and Maintenance (8 projects)

Mr. Rudnianyn inquired about the interchange at NW 49th Street, questioning the logic of truck traffic leaving the industrial park, getting on the interchange, and then immediately exiting at 326 to head to Jacksonville. He asked if there had been any consideration of constructing a road directly from the industrial park to connect to 326, which would prevent truck traffic from using the new interchange only to exit shortly afterward.

Mr. Balmes said he could inquire with the Office of the County Engineer, as he knew they had been looking at North-South connectivity and were currently developing their transportation improvement program. He also mentioned the upcoming sales tax initiative this fall and noted that he would check if this project was on their radar.

Ms. Shearer referenced the Pruitt Trail from SR 200 to the Pruitt Trailhead project and asked if there would be a tunnel underneath 200, reminding the group of previous discussions about implementing tunnels to address the danger of people crossing the road.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that planning and coordination were currently taking place between Marion County, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with Mickey Thompson, to explore options for a safe crossing at 200, aiming to have it built to coincide with the project.

Mr. Balmes added that they obviously couldn't just terminate a trail at the roadway and have a beautiful paved trail across the street. Therefore, there would be an effort to create a safe crossing to ensure full connectivity once the project goes to construction. He also mentioned that the vision still included having

a tunnel or multiple tunnels for both wildlife and actual trail users once the four lanes were built out so there would be ongoing coordination.

Ms. Powell chimed in, mentioning that FDOT had implemented a couple of safety improvements. She noted that there were many crosswalks and crossings being installed, especially on State Road 200. Despite its size, numerous safety improvements were being made. She was happy to discuss with Ms. Shearer further after the meeting and providing a list of current and future improvements and crosswalks, noting that as of July, three crosswalks were planned for the area.

### **Item 6b. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 2026 to 2030 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)**

Mr. Balmes presented and explained that on an annual basis, per State Statute (F.S. 339.175(8)), the TPO collaborates with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala, and Marion County to submit a List of Priority Projects (LOPP) to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The purpose of the LOPP process is to prioritize projects for federal and state funding consideration within the Fiscal Years (FY) 2026 to 2030 FDOT Tentative Work Program and the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The LOPP process bridges projects identified in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Projects must be included in the LRTP Cost Feasible or Needs Plan and Boxed Funds Lists to qualify for federal and state funding. The annual development of the LOPP follows TPO Board adopted Policies and Procedures Guidance.

The draft FY 2026 to 2030 LOPP project lists were presented for the committee's review. The lists included Top 20 Priorities, Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), NON-SIS Capacity, Safety and Operations, Trails, Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Planning. Formal recommendations on the LOPP would be heard at the June 11 joint CAC-TAC meeting.

Chairman Magamoll asked Mr. Balmes to explain the purpose of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to the new committee member.

Mr. Balmes explained that the SIS was Florida's high-priority network aimed at focusing on facilities most significant for interregional, interstate, and international travel. It was an effort between Tallahassee and the district. The district asks the TPO for feedback every five years as they develop their SIS cost-feasible and needs lists. The TPO provides local perspectives, and the district takes it from there.

Chairman Magamoll said a citizen inquired with him about Project #2, the SR 40 at SR 35 intersection on the 2024 Safety and Operations Priorities list, and asked for a status update.

Mr. Balmes said the project was a high priority for the county. He noted that Commissioner Zalak, in particular, had made it a point of emphasis. The county had been developing a CRA plan, which emphasized the roundabout as not only an accessibility and safety feature but also a gateway feature for the community in their draft plan. It was on the list for informing DOT that they wanted to see this move forward at some point. Obviously, it needed some environmental engineering work and right-of-way considerations, being near the state park, but it certainly was still a high priority.

Ms. Shearer inquired about Project #11, CR 475 at SE 80th Street on the 2024 Safety and Operations Priorities list, and asked what the intersection improvements included.

Mr. Balmes said the project was added last year at the request of the County, aiming to improve the movement of traffic at the intersection. However, he did not have details beyond that but mentioned he could inquire with the County for specifics.

The committee continued discussion and ultimately had the following recommendations:

- NW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road connection to the North-South Connectivity from the 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange to SR 326
- Talked about future mobility and growth – Marion Oaks Extension and Flyover
- Consider the Marion Oaks Extension/Flyover and future Interchange for the future and current 2050 LRTP process
- Talked about the importance of completing SW 49<sup>th</sup> projects in the County
- Interest in the design of the CR 475A Project
- Interest in project improvements of CR 475 at SE 80<sup>th</sup>

#### **Item 6c. Draft 2024 List of Regional Priorities**

Mr. Balmes presented, in collaboration with the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA), the TPO developed annually a list of regionally significant transportation priority projects. The following proposed lists required TPO committee comments and recommendations. Included with this memo were the approved 2023 regional priorities. A revised listing of projects became part of the 2024 CFMPOA priorities, with an anticipated approval by Alliance members in October 2024. The CFMPOA regional priorities were annually transmitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five in October.

Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP): The purpose of TRIP was to encourage partnerships for transportation projects that were regionally significant. TRIP funds were awarded by FDOT and were used to match local or regional funds up to 50% of the total project costs. To be eligible, there had to be a 50% local match commitment and a formal endorsement of the project by three contiguous counties (2 in addition to Marion).

#### **TRIP Projects**

The proposed TRIP list, as follows, is based on two regional unfunded needs.

- County Road 484 – Marion Oaks Boulevard to CR 475, Widening to Six Lanes
- Marion Oaks Manor Extension – Marion Oaks Manor to CR 42 Flyover at I-75

The committee talked about traffic and semi concerns at I-75 and CR 484 making it hard to cross for long periods of time.

Mr. Rudnianyn commented that if a flyover at CR 42 going south were planned, it might make sense to reroute truck traffic through the industrial park to Marion Oaks Manor before accessing I-75 via an interchange at CR 42 going south, rather than directing it all to CR 484. He did not believe a Flyover at CR 42 would do anything to eliminate traffic.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that currently in the LRTP, the two TRIP projects were listed. However, there could be consideration of including an interchange in the 2050 plan as an unfunded needs project. Mr. Balmes believed, the county potentially had the projects listed on their sales tax project list they planned to present to voters in the fall, earmarked for implementation in the distant future.

Ms. Shearer inquired what exactly was being done at CR 484 to improve it.

Mr. Balmes explained that the current project DOT was working on was primarily focused on improving the operational turn lanes. He noted that ultimately, the County's vision was to expand the facility to six lanes. The plan included having the I-75 bridge support a six-lane facility due to the significant demand and necessity for such improvements.

Ms. Powell stated that she was not aware of any existing plans but expressed her intention to investigate further and provide any information she could gather.

### **Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Highway Projects**

The proposed SIS Needs list is based on funded and unfunded needs identified in the draft 2024 LOPP and/or by the TPO Board in a formal letter to FDOT in 2023.

- I-75 at NW 49th Street Interchange (funded)
- I-75 from SR 44 to SR 200, Moving Florida Forward, auxiliary lanes and bridges (funded)
- I-75 from SR 200 to SR 326, Moving Florida Forward, auxiliary lanes, bridges and interchange operational improvements at SR 40 (funded)
- I-75 at SR 326, Moving Florida Forward, interchange operational improvements (funded)
- I-75 Future Master Planning from SR 91 (Turnpike) to SR 200 with the interchanges (CR 484, SR 200) (unfunded)
- I-75 Future Master Planning from SR 200 to CR 234 Alachua County with the interchanges (SW 20th, SR 40, U.S. 27, SR 326, CR 318) (unfunded)
- SR 40 from end of Four Lanes to CR 314 (unfunded)
- SR 40 from CR 314 to CR 314A (unfunded)
- SR 40 from CR 314A to Levy Hammock Road (unfunded)
- SR 326 from US 301 to old US 301 (unfunded)
- SR 326 from CR 200A to NE 36th (unfunded)

### **Tier 3 SunTrail Projects**

The proposed Tier 3 SunTrail regional list contains four projects.

- Santos to Baseline Trail – Santos to Baseline Trailhead – Part of Heart of Florida Loop (funded)
- Pruitt Trail – Pruitt Trailhead to Bridges Road Trailhead – Part of Heart of Florida Loop (unfunded)
- Silver Springs to Mount Dora – Part of Heart of Florida Loop (unfunded)

- Nature Coast Connector – Dunnellon to Chiefland – Part of the Nature Coast Trail (unfunded)

### **Transportation System Management and Operations (TSM&O) Projects**

The proposed regional TSM&O list contains three projects.

- SR 40 at SW 40th/38th Avenue Intersection – Safety/operational, intersection alignment
- SR 40 at SR 35/Baseline Road Intersection – Construction of a roundabout
- SR 35 (Baseline Rd) intersections at CR 25A, Foss Road, Robinson Road – Rail, safety/operation improvements

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

Ms. Kia Powell provided the construction report and reminded the committee that they could visit [www.cflroads.com](http://www.cflroads.com) for additional information. She reported seven lane closures reported in the area.

Ms. Powell also gave the following updates:

- Intersection Improvements had started at S.R. 492 (NE 14th Street) and NE 25th Avenue- The purpose of the project was to improve the intersection of Northeast 14th Street (State Road 492) at Northeast 25th Avenue. The improvement would include reconstruction of the signal to increase the safety of the intersection.
- FDOT would be hosting a Safety Summit at Sea World on May 17, 2024 – the Summit would be to get feedback on the Draft Safety Plan.
- FDOT will have a public meeting regarding plans to resurface Silver Springs Boulevard (State Road (S.R.) 40) from Pine Avenue (U.S. 441/U.S. 301) to NE 25th Avenue (FPID No. 450952-1) and from NE 25th Avenue to NE 64th Avenue (FPID No. 450951-1) in Ocala on Thursday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the time the location had not been confirmed. More information was to come.

Mr. Mora inquired about the Safety Summit, and Ms. Powell explained that it involved going through a draft safety plan. The Secretary would be speaking, and they would be gathering feedback from partners, including MPOs. The event would include discussions and information gathering from attendees.

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

Mr. Balmes provided an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation (LRTP) Update.

On April 23, 2024, the TPO hosted a formal kick-off meeting for Navigating the Future, the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, held at the Marion County Commission Auditorium. Attached to this memo is a one-page fact sheet outlining the project timeline.

A project website page had been published and is located on the TPO's website under Plans and Programs, specifically the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The address is also available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c88b20f1d8e74c5f96dd7fdc9f98a5c3>

On the webpage, citizens and partners have opportunities for ongoing involvement through a web-based survey and public comment map. Additionally, the first community open house was scheduled for September 2024, and an introductory video for the project was available on the webpage. Regular updates would continue to be posted throughout the entire plan development process.

Ms. Shearer mentioned that she believes rumble strips are needed at SE 25th Avenue for the safety of horse crossings, pedestrian crossings, and bicyclists.

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

Ms. Shearer commented that she believed CR 475A should be raised and not four-laned, especially with 49th Avenue nearing completion. She also inquired about the timeline for completing 49th Avenue. Chairman Magamoll requested Mr. Balmes to investigate the matter and provide the committee with an update.

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

*There was no public comment.*

### **Item 11. Adjournment**

Chairman Magamoll announced that the June CAC meeting would be held jointly with the TAC in Meeting Room C at the Marion County Library at 1:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant