



TPO Board Meeting

Marion County Commission Auditorium and via WebEx
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
May 25, 2021
4:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Jeff Gold (*arrived at 4:08pm*)
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Commissioner Craig Curry
Commissioner Michelle Stone

Members Not Present:

Councilman Justin Grabelle
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Rakinya Hinson, FDOT
Elton Holland, Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Don Atwell, Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Tracy Straub, Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Doug Shearer
Michelle Shearer

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Michelle Stone called the meeting to order at 4:03pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Roll Call

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant stated the meeting was published online at the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and Marion County meeting calendars on May 18, 2021. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4a. Consent Agenda

Ms. Hanchar made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5a. 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

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had approved the amendment on May 5, 2021.

Mr. Curry made a motion to approve the Fiscal Years (FY) 20/21 to 24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1. Mr. Bethea seconded, and a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6a. Draft Fiscal Years (FY) 21/22 to 25/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Balmes presented and said that the draft Fiscal Years 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program was available for public review and comment. The draft TIP public involvement process was from May 4, 2021 to June 22, 2021. A formal presentation of the draft TIP had been provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings on May 11, 2021.

Some of the major highlights of the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 TIP included:

- **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 which included \$147,649,148 Federal; \$153,742,613 State; and \$33,775,949 Local funding investments.
- **TIP Document Organization:** To continue our 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 contains summary pages for each of the 71 projects. These projects may be found on pages 5-5 to 5-82. Projects would continue 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)
 - ITS and Maintenance (14 projects)

Mr. Balmes stated that at the June TPO Board meeting he would provide a summary of all the comments received from the public and partner agencies and request Board adoption of the TIP.

Item 6b. Draft 2021 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Balmes presented and said 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 a 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 this process, the Ocala Marion TPO List of Priority Projects (LOPP) was a prioritized list of projects that were identified and selected from the TPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The project list that come out of the LRTP process was also known as the Cost Feasible Plan.

The LOPP was taken from the projects listed in LRTP Cost Feasible Plan section of the LRTP and TIP evaluated on an annual basis. The process was first done by TPO staff consulting with planners and engineers from both Marion County and the Cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and Ocala. After direct consultation with technical staffs at the local jurisdictions, the LOPP was then discussed with the TPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) before being submitted to the TPO Board for final approval.

TPO staff submits a Top 20 project list from the LOPP and presents to the TPO Board for discussion before being voted on and submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for their funding and programming process. In the current year, the TPO would submit a full list of all projects in the LOPP.

Chairwoman Stone inquired why some of the projects from Marion County were on the last page of the LOPP even though they scored higher.

Mr. Balmes said that projects listed on the last page of the document were identified in the Unfunded Needs List of the LRTP and grouped for Future Consideration.

Chairwoman Stone also asked for clarification of the projects with checked boxes identified in the TIP or Cost Feasible Plan vs unchecked projects in the Needs Plan or Locally Funded.

Mr. Balmes stated that projects with checked boxes are in the current draft TIP and/or in the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan or LRTP Boxed funds list. Projects not checked are in the Unfunded Needs List.

Chairwoman Stone asked for an explanation of the Coast Feasible Plan of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Balmes provided a presentation on the Cost Feasible Plan and Budget for FY 2026 to 2045 the Cost Feasible Plan was the anticipated Federal and State funding for transportation in Marion County. Based on the Cost Feasible Plan, the TPO anticipated \$2.08 billion in federal and state revenues for transportation from FY 2026 to FY 2045. From a local 'Off-System' standpoint, this would include approximately \$90 million to other arterial road funding.

It was also mentioned that the LRTP could have amendments to move projects.

Chairwoman Stone made a recommendation that all projects should be placed on the LOPP based on score and should not be tiered per the staff and committee recommendations.

Chairwoman Stone requested that Mr. Balmes follow up with the board and send to them a more in depth summary of the LRTP process and Cost Feasible Plan that tied to the LOPP.

Ms. Rakinya Hinson addressed the board and said that the LOPP was a moving document and not to focus on just the three pages that listed the LOPP and that as long as the projects were listed, if money was available a project could still be funded.

Chairwoman Stone thanked Ms. Hinson for the clarification.

Chairwoman Stone also requested Mr. Balmes continue work with the staff of the four jurisdictions and committees and bring back a revised LOPP at the June Board meeting for further review.

Item 7. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Rakinya Hinson addressed the board and provided an updated construction report.

Ms. Hinson also notified the board of the High Visibility Enforcement grant program for law enforcement which was designed to increase awareness of, and compliance with, traffic laws and regulations that protect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists on Florida's roads.

Ms. Hinson said that she would gather additional information on the High Visibility Enforcement grant program and send to the board.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes provided the board with the Florida Transportation Legislative Newsletter and mentioned that the Senate developed a reauthorization bill with around \$300 million for highways. The FAST act was set to expire September 30th.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Members

Mr. Curry mentioned that while attending the MPOAC there had been mention of freight funding and inquired about funds that may be used near some of the existing and newly developed distribution hubs in Marion County for improvements. He also inquired when it was allowable to start applying for the funds.

Mr. Balmes said that three applications had been submitted last year and that money had been shifted to help with local and state match. At the time, he had not heard from FDOT any updates on the applications.

Ms. Hinson said that she had no additional information at that time but would make a note and provide the board with updates when she received information.

Item 10. Public Comment

Mr. Douglas Shearer, 2301 SW 85th Street, Ocala, FL 34480 addressed the board concerning project #18 on the LOPP- Pruitt Trail (Pruitt Trailhead to Bridges Road Trailhead Segment) and stated he would like to see it a high priority mentioning that Pruitt Trail should be completed prior to the tunnels being finished due to busy traffic across SR 200.

Mr. Shearer also inquired about the priority of NW 49th and SW 66th.

Marion County Engineer, Ms. Tracy Straub addressed the board in response to Mr. Shearer saying that staff had been working on the project and at the time there was no federal funding on the project and that there was still a lot of coordination that needed to take place.

Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Stone at 5:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant