



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**May 24, 2016**

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Earl Arnett  
Commissioner Gary Ernst  
Councilman Brent Malever, Chairman  
Councilman Jay Musleh  
Commissioner David Moore  
Commissioner Carl Zalak  
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.  
Mayor Nathn Whitt

#### **Members Not Present:**

Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Councilman Rick Hancock  
Mayor Kent Guinn  
Commissioner Stan McClain  
Councilwoman Mary Rich  
Commissioner Ron Livsey

#### **Others Present:**

Gennie Garcia, SunTran  
Darren Park, City of Ocala Public Works  
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala Engineering  
Sean Lanier, Ocala Public Works

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

Chairman Malever called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Secretary Shakayla Jacobs called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

### **Item 2. Proof of Publication**

Secretary Shakayla Jacobs stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website and Facebook page and on the city of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

### **Item 3a. SR 40 – Silver Springs Corridor Plan**

Presentation presented to the Board on Silver Springs Corridor Plan. This study began a year ago. This is corridor that extends one and half miles on State Road 40 and also encompasses NE 24<sup>th</sup> St., NE 25<sup>th</sup> St., and a portion of Baseline Rd. This project was a collaboration between the TPO, DEP, DOT, City of Ocala and Marion County Board of Commissioners. This has been a blighted area for quite some time. There is very little pedestrian activity in this area. Any of the alternatives we have looked at in this study are all contingent on the DEP shutting down Wild Waters. We looked at where we could improve asset management, addition of turn lanes, spot medians, etc. Also, what transit facilities are available in the area and what type of street amenities are in the area, benches, illumination and trash receptacles. Looking at the existing conditions, we moved ahead and looked at different alternatives that could be developed in four different areas.

There is a very low service for pedestrians in the Silver Springs Blvd. and Baseline Rd. area because of the great distances that have to be crossed from the north to the south and the west to the east. The first thing we looked at was a traditional four way location. This would involve moving this intersection quite a bit to the east in order to accommodate that kind of geometry. We also looked at a traditional roundabout and then we looked at what is known as the “peanut” which is a double roundabout. Pedestrian overpasses would be installed at a later date.

Northeast 24<sup>th</sup> St. has two different alternatives. One is called a bulb median this other is medians with less landscaping and then you have the actual turn lanes. These are only conceptual not actual design level. We would be recommending spot medians which would go into the center lane which is the “suicide” lane of the double turn lane, it would keep that lane from becoming an acceleration lane or deceleration lane. Another thing that was looked at that we are not recommending, is closing off the location of 24<sup>th</sup> St. What we are recommending is straightening this intersection up to a 90 degree angle and possibly having a deceleration lane for the eastbound traffic. One alternative looked at and we are not recommending, was closing the connection at 24<sup>th</sup> St. and SR 40. There has been no support for this alternative. There was discussion about moving the Silver Springs State Park entrance location. So there would be one on SR 40 and one on SR 35.

Cost Estimates for the construction of the things we have looked at would be about \$3 - \$3.5 million. Surveying and Engineering about \$700,000 essentially what you would look

at for a Phase I would be about \$4- \$5 million. If you wanted to do different enhancements, i.e., burying the utilities, you're looking at \$2 -\$3 million. Pedestrian bridges would be about \$1 - \$1.5 million per bridge. Enhanced landscaping at several hundred thousand each not including maintenance. A complete remill of the roadway in order to change the types of medians would be an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000.

The next step would be the finalizing of the report.

Final Recommendations for the Board is asked for their direction on these four different areas:

1. Intersection on SR 35 and SR 40. We are recommending a roundabout in the area.
2. SR 40 Management – What type of medians the Board would recommend. Staff recommends Spot Medians.
3. Multi Modal Alternatives – Expanding sidewalks in all locations. Adding transit stop amenities, bus shelters, benches, and enhanced illumination.
4. Preference on the 24<sup>th</sup> St. Alignment - Prefer to keep the road as is or recommend change of the intersection at 24<sup>th</sup> St. with SR 40.

*A motion was made and seconded to go with an oval roundabout single and get rid of the peanut design. On SR 40 Access Management, we are willing to look at certain medians and how they want to set those up from a design standard. Accept the Multi Modal Amenities from the design concept but not the change of the 24<sup>th</sup> St. alignment. Want to see the slip lane stay there and make sure the medians don't encumber the left hand lanes. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Item 3b. SunTran MyStop Smartphone Application**

Request proposed to the Board for a texting service. No new hardware is required. This application would allow trip planning. The download of this app is free to the user. It will show real time bus location. You can receive text alerts. The maintenance cost for this year is included because we already have a maintenance agreement in place with Avail on the other software and hardware we have. The maintenance support would go through 2019. SunTran receives approximately 60-80 phone calls per day in reference to bus locations.

*A motion was made and seconded for the approval of the SunTran MyStop Smartphone Application. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Item 3c. TPO Staff Services Agreement**

*A motion was made and seconded for approval. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Item 3d. TPO Director Transition**

The Board was given a packet outlining the job description, salary and executive benefits. Recommending that this be advertised in the National Publications and Websites for the APA, ITE as well as in the State level the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. It's about \$900 between the three of those for a 30 day posting. Recommending a selection committee comprising of the TPO Chairman and one additional member, Marion County Administrator and Ocala City Manager. Another recommendation is whether or not the new Director should have a contract. Throughout the State the last dozen or so Directors have been contracted employees.

Selection Committee - Chairman of the Commission Kathy Bryant, Zobler and Mounir.

### **Item 4a. FY 2022 Project Priorities**

The Board has received a list to review for a month. No action needed today. There has only been one significant change in the order of the list which was a project from last year, a US-441 corridor study in Belleview. That project was completed two weeks ago. That is no longer on the list. This was item number seven so any items below number seven have moved up.

Priority Project #1 - The Northwest 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange on I-75. \$3.5 million has been allocated for design.

Priority Project #2 - State Road 40 at the US 441 intersection operational improvements from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Broadway Avenue. There is a change in the construction funding it was \$1.7 million it is now \$1.5 million which will be FY 2021.

Priority Project #3 - US-441 intersection operational improvements at State Road 464 addition of turn lanes at that location. Fiscal Year 2019 should have a listing of \$670,000 added to it and remove the funding for FY 2021 at this time.

Priority Project #12 – This is a phase project NE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This will be split into several separate sections because the bridge funding actually came in before the rest of the funding for the project came in. The construction on this project will be \$10.4 million. This will be for the bridge over the railroad tracks on 36<sup>th</sup> only.

Priority Project #13 – This is project is State Road 40 east. This project begins where the four lane section ends near Silver Springs and extends all the way to County Road 314. We are showing \$108 million, there will be an adjustment of \$96 million to that for the construction. There is a very large bridge that needs to come down and two bridges to be constructed.

### **Item 5. Comments by FDOT**

Kelly Smith, FDOT presented the Board with a packet containing the Construction Report. The SR 40 Construction Project is completed it is going through the final acceptance process now. The SR 200 at SW 60<sup>th</sup> St. has started construction on the traffic operations

project. The other side of the turn lanes for the eastbound dual lefts will be included in a resurfacing job. Also included in the packet is the I-75 Relief Open House for the Community, the future Task Force Meetings and the future Agency Coordination Meetings.

A question was raised about the new section on SR 40 pertaining to a friction course being laid. Are they going to fix it or leave it? Ms. Smith responded that it will not be done they will be leaving it as is.

**Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff**

Introduced Mayor Nathan, Dunnellon alternate member.

**Item 7. Comments by TPO Members**

Requested information on the updates of the bus shelters. City survey crews have been looking at the different locations. We have had two meetings. We have about 15 different sites surveyed. Spoke with the gentleman who has offered to put up the shelters and his indication is that he is looking to put the shelters on sites that don't require an easement where there is already an adequate right of way.

Thanks given to the TPO Staff for all their hard work on the trail system.

**Item 8. Public Comment**

None.

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Chairman Malever adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Administrative Assistant