



**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:**

Jim Belonger  
Matt Fabian  
Travis Magamoll  
Suzanne Mangram  
Richard McGinley  
Nick Mora  
Steve Rudnianyn (*arrived at 1:12pm*)  
Michelle Shearer (*arrived at 1:07pm*)

**Members Not Present:**

Richard Howard

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO  
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO  
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO  
Liz Mitchell, Ocala Marion TPO  
Kia Powell, FDOT  
John Scarfe, FDOT  
Melissa McKinney, 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 a quorum was present.

### **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 November 5, 2024. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

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

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

### **Item 5a. Election of 2025 CAC Officers**

Mr. Fabian made a motion to appoint Mr. Steve Rudnianyn as the Chair. Mr. Magamoll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Magamoll made a motion to appoint Mr. Richard McGinley as the Vice-Chair. Mr. Fabian seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 5b. 2025 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. McGinley noted there had been a reduction in the number of meetings scheduled for the upcoming year and asked if this had always been the case. Mr. Balmes explained that the schedule had been developed based on a review of action items to ensure meetings remained focused and also aligned with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. McGinley made a motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Belonger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 6a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2025 to 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 Update**

Transportation Planner Sara Brown provided a brief update on TIP Amendment #2. One project was amended into the Fiscal Years (FY) 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the October 22, 2024, TPO Board Meeting. This amendment had originally been an action item for the October 8th meeting, which was canceled due to Hurricane Milton. The following summarizes the amended change to the TIP.

### **FM# 452074-2: I-75 Improvements from South of SR 44 to SR 200**

- Add auxiliary lanes on I-75
- PD&E, PE, ROW, RRU, and DSB Phases
- Funds to be added to FY 2025
- Total: \$232,191,543
  - DEM: \$250,000
  - DIH: \$615,621
  - DS: \$122,953
  - MFF: \$231,202,969

### **Item 6b. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Status Update**

TPO Director Rob Balmes provided an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), highlighting activities completed to date and upcoming milestones. He emphasized public engagement efforts, including the first open house held on September 18, 2024, where the public provided input and some citizen advisory committee members also attended.

Mr. Balmes noted that a second open house would occur in February 2025, where citizens would again be invited to provide feedback on topics such as roadwork, growth and development scenarios, and transportation needs across all modes. A public survey would also be launched around that time.

Key milestones include:

- March and May: The consultant will present the overall needs assessment, cost feasibility tied to the projected budget, and the draft plan leading to adoption.
- Ongoing: The consultant continues background work, data collection, and modeling of socioeconomic factors, population, housing, and traffic projections.

### **Public Participation Summary**

- A public survey held from spring through July 2024 garnered 293 responses, with support from local media. Key findings:
  - 63% of participants were 55 and older.
  - Top challenges identified: congestion, traffic safety, signal timing, and road conditions.
  - 70% prioritized improving and maintaining local roadways.
- An online comment map collected nearly 300 comments, with congestion, safety, and pedestrian/bicycle issues as primary concerns. Heat maps highlighted congestion hotspots, such as US 41, Highway 326, State Road 200, and I-75 interchanges, while safety concerns were more widespread.
- The September community workshop had 25-30 attendees, where participants identified congestion, safety, and road improvements as top challenges and priorities.

## **Next Steps**

- A virtual steering committee convened recently, with additional meetings planned to gather input from local planners, engineers, and stakeholders.
- In January 2025, staff will present draft goals, objectives, performance measures, and revenue projections, incorporating the newly passed penny sales tax.
- Additional public engagement and workshops will occur early next year, with ongoing opportunities for review, feedback, and collaboration.

Mr. Balmes encouraged committee members to share information and promote participation, emphasizing the importance of hearing from the entire community to address transportation challenges effectively.

Mr. McGinley asked if citizens at the community workshop suggested creating new roads and identified potential locations.

Mr. Balmes responded that there were no specific suggestions, but the next phase of public engagement would focus on identifying needs and specific areas for new roads, road widening, or connections. He noted that this would be the emphasis of the February workshop.

Ms. Shearer asked if many participants from the SR 200 area attended the workshop.

Mr. Balmes responded that survey data indicated most participants resided in the SR 200 area, specifically the southwestern part. However, he noted a lesson learned from the workshop was the need to better identify where meeting attendees live. By asking participants to share their community location, the team could pair survey results with meeting attendance to identify areas where outreach efforts need improvement.

Mr. Mora asked if Mr. Balmes was aware of the county's plans for the 484 interchange.

Mr. Balmes stated that he would need to consult with the county engineer regarding the 484 interchange. He noted that the project is a top priority for the county following the approval of the penny sales tax by voters. While discussions with the district have taken place regarding the corridor and interchange area, no specific plans have been shared.

## **Item 7. Comments by EDOT**

Ms. Powell provided an update on hurricane cleanup efforts, noting that while the overall damage in the district was less severe than in others, this was one of the largest cleanups the district had undertaken in recent years. Cleanup addressed flooding, washouts, slope erosion, retention pond, and outfall failures, with nearly 25,000 cubic yards of debris collected so far. All five operations centers worked seven days a week, supported by 61 crew members from District 2 and significant heavy equipment, including dump trucks, loaders, and grapple trucks.

She highlighted that Ocala operations maintained a 24/7 response before, during, and after the storms, clearing debris promptly, with most picked up during the first pass and the second pass now complete in Marion County. Remaining efforts continue in two other counties.

Ms. Powell invited questions about the hurricane cleanup or contact information for the Ocala operations team. She also mentioned seven active construction projects with lane closures as of the morning and offered to discuss details.

In addition, Ms. Powell discussed the 2055 transportation plan, emphasizing the importance of public engagement. She offered to share the website or QR code for accessing virtual or in-person participation options and encouraged attendees to get involved in the process.

Mr. McGinley inquired whether the additional funds used for hurricane-related efforts came from a separate state fund, such as a hurricane relief fund, allowing organizations like FDOT to be reimbursed, or if it directly impacted their normal operating budget.

Ms. Powell responded that the additional funds used for hurricane-related efforts are federal funds.

Ms. Powell also mentioned that she could share the work program public hearing details and would send an email. She noted that the hearing was on December 4th.

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

Ms. Brown shared that the TPO was still collecting public input for their transportation plan, which had been announced at the September meeting. The consultants had been onboarded in October, and the TPO was working through an existing conditions analysis. The second stakeholder meeting was scheduled for December.

She highlighted the availability of an online survey and a comment map on the project's webpage. The website included information on existing conditions, as well as field verification photos and videos. The public survey included specific questions based on responses, allowing participants to focus on topics like active transportation, including walking, hiking, horseback riding, cycling, and e-scooters. The survey aimed to gather feedback on areas needing sidewalks, crosswalks, or other active transportation improvements.

Ms. Brown encouraged participants to provide as much feedback as possible

Mr. Balmes shared that during the last week of October, Mobility Week, the TPO had distributed flyers and social media postings, which were successful in promoting mobility week events.

A visit from Secretary Tyler was highlighted, where he interacted with transit officials and viewed the city's future transit facility, including plans for electric buses in the community.

The City of Ocala also held a helmet fitting event, which the TPO participated in at the Mary Sue Rich Center, and a Try Transit Tuesday where participants could ride the bus for free. Mr. Balmes mentioned that he took the bus that day. The event was capped off with a video production for the Safety Matters series, featuring Mayor Marciano and Chief Balken, focusing on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Additionally, videos on school and bus safety, featuring Dr. Gullett, Lt. Bloom, and Dennis McFatten, were in production and would be released soon. Several more videos in the series

would follow into next year. Mr. Balmes emphasized the importance of safety in the community, especially in light of recent pedestrian fatalities reported in the news.

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

Chairman Magamoll made a comment thanking the TPO staff for their hard work throughout the year, acknowledging the great job they had done and expressing appreciation for their efforts. He also thanked all the members for showing up, donating, and dedicating their time to the community. Chairman Magamoll wished good luck to Chairman Rudnianyn and Vice Chair McGinley for 2025.

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

*There was no public comment.*

### **Item 11. Adjournment**

Chairman Magamoll adjourned the meeting at 1:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant