



TPO Board Public Hearing

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
November 28, 2023
4:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Craig Curry
Councilman James Hilty
Councilman Tim Inskeep
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Councilmember Kristen Dreyer
Commissioner Ray Dwyer
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilmember Barry Mansfield
Commissioner Matt McClain

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Sara Brown, TPO
Kia Powell, FDOT
Jim Wood, Kimley-Horn
William Roll, Kimley-Horn
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala
Jeff Shrum, City of Ocala
Sara Shepherd, Quest
Darren Park, City of Ocala
Eric Smith, City of Ocala
Chris Zeigler, Marion County
Kellie Smith, FDOT
Kathy Alexander-Corbin, FDOT

Steven Buck, FDOT
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala
Joe Callahan, Quest
Douglas Shearer
Mark Zivojnovich
Other members of the public not signed in.

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Craig Curry called the hearing 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 that the public hearing was published online on the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, and Marion County websites on November 21, 2023. Additionally, the hearing was featured in the October 30, 2023 edition of the Star Banner and shared on the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4a. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment #2

Mr. Balmes gave a brief presentation to the committee of the 2045 LRTP Amendment #2.

The Ocala Marion TPO announced on October 30, 2023, that the TPO would hold a public hearing on November 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Marion County Commission Auditorium, 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471. The public hearing was for an amendment to the 2045 LRTP.

The amendment was proposed to ensure appropriate consistency between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), TPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2045 LRTP. SunTran and Marion County had also requested the addition of projects. The following summary was provided for the proposed changes.

Cost Feasible Roadway Projects (FDOT)

- **I-75 at State Road 326 Interchange (FY 2021 to 2025) (FM 452072-1)**
 - Interchange Operational Analysis
 - Preliminary Engineering (PE): \$1,600,000
 - Construction (CST): \$18,000,000
- **I-75 Auxiliary Lanes (FY 2021 to 2025) (FM 452074-2)**
 - South Portion (South of SR 44 to SR 200)
 - Preliminary Engineering (PE): \$28,000,000
 - Right-of-Way (ROW): \$75,000,000
 - Construction (CST): \$246,000,000

- **I-75 Auxiliary Lanes (FY 2021 to 2025) (FM 452074-1)**
 - North Portion (SR 200 to SR 326)
 - Preliminary Engineering (PE): \$13,000,000
 - Right-of-Way (ROW): \$37,000,000
 - Construction (CST): \$90,000,000
- **I-75 at NW 49th Street Interchange, from End of NW 49th Street to End of NW 35th Street (FY 2021 to 2025) (FM 435209-1)**
 - New Interchange
 - Right-of-Way (ROW): \$20,500,000

Cost Feasible Transit Projects (SunTran)

- **Existing Maintenance Facility Expansion**
 - Add a new electric bus maintenance facility
 - Programmed in Fiscal Years (FY) 2025 and 2026
- **Red Route Modification**
 - Modify the Red route in conjunction with the implementation of Silver Springs Shores Microtransit
 - Programmed in FY 2028

Unfunded Needs Roadway Projects (Marion County)

- **CR 475A from Southwest 66th Street to .25 miles south of Southwest 42nd Street**
 - Widen roadway to four lanes

Unfunded Needs Transit Projects (SunTran)

- **Bellevue Route**
 - Add new fixed-route service from Health Department to Bellevue
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2026
- **Green, Blue, Purple, and Orange Routes Improvement**
 - Improve peak-hour frequency to 45 minutes
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2027
- **Sunday Microtransit**
 - Implement new Microtransit service to serve SunTran core service area
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2027
- **Northwest Microtransit**
 - Implement new Microtransit service to serve Northwest of City of Ocala
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2027
- **Silver Routes A & B**
 - Reorganize the existing Silver Route and Silver Express to form Silver A and B routes
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2027
- **Southwest (SW) Microtransit (North, Central, and South)**
 - Implement new Microtransit services to serve SW SR 200 areas
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2028
- **SR 200 Fixed Route 1 and 2**
 - Add two new fixed-route services connecting Marion Oaks and SW SR 200 Areas
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2028
- **Bellevue Microtransit**
 - Implement new Microtransit service to serve Bellevue area
 - Proposed to be implemented FY 2028

- **Teal Route**

- Implement a new fixed route to connect Silver Springs Shores Walmart to Belleview
- Proposed to be implemented FY 2029

Mr. Douglas Shearer, of 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, FL 34480, addressed the board with a public comment, expressing his belief that it was premature to include the four-laning of CR 475A into the LRTP. He thought it would be best to wait a few years, also noting that once 49th Street was four-laned up to 42nd, most traffic on CR 475A would likely shift. He emphasized the need to wait and see what changes would occur first.

Ms. Bryant expressed appreciation for Mr. Shearer's comments. She mentioned that, considering the traffic volume from 66 backing up onto CR 475A, the plan was to elevate CR 475A and focus on the first two lanes initially. She added that, as the project progresses, if 49th Street helps alleviate some traffic burden on CR 475A, funding could be reallocated accordingly. Ms. Bryant emphasized the importance of planning now for future needs rather than waiting for impacts to occur without a plan in place. The primary concern for CR 475A from 42nd to 66th is addressing the flooding issue that arises during heavy rainfall, leading to road closures.

Mr. Shearer expressed the view that raising CR 475A was not a suitable solution. Instead, he believed that installing retention ponds on the opposite side of the road would be a better response.

Ms. Bryant mentioned that during the last significant rain event on June 20, 2023, water came from the area of Summit to another location she couldn't recall, but noted that the water all drained down into the bowl on Hill Farm. The County has identified the source of the water and is aware that the proposed plans would address and rectify the issue. Ms. Bryant also stated that she would be willing to discuss the flooding topic further in a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Shearer since the LRTP Amendment was not specifically designed to address this particular issue.

Mr. Shearer voiced concern that a property owner in the area would lose pasture due to the proposed plans to raise the road.

Ms. Bryant reassured that the County would explore alternative locations for water retention, emphasizing that the goal is not to redirect the water solely onto that specific property.

Mark Zivojnovich, residing at 2335 SW 66th Street, Ocala, FL, addressed the board, expressing his residence in the watershed and requesting Ms. Bryant to organize a gathering with Mr. Shearer, expressing his desire to be part of the discussion.

Ms. Bryant clarified that she would not be hosting a gathering but agreed to have a one-on-one discussion with Mr. Zivojnovich after the meeting.

Mr. Zivojnovich shared that he lived east of Summit, managing stormwater from Summit down, and mentioned the split nature of the two watersheds. He highlighted the water coming down adjacent to SW 66th Street, going into a small retention pond on private property. He noted that flooding is rare due to the soil in that location, and he added further comments on the flooding issue.

Chairman Curry acknowledged that the flooding matter was separate from the LRTP public hearing. He suggested that Ms. Bryant and/or the County Engineering team could engage in discussions with Mr. Shearer and Mr. Zivojnovich regarding the flooding issue.

Ms. Michelle Shearer, residing at 2301 SW 85th Street, Ocala, FL 34480, addressed the board, emphasizing that CR 475A was still considered a scenic road.

Chairman Curry acknowledged the importance of scenic roads and stated that the County could not overlook them. However, he highlighted the current focus on addressing flooding issues. Chairman Curry said it was directed of the Engineering team to carry out emergency repairs while working towards identifying a more permanent solution.

Ms. Shearer expressed concern that the initial option seemed to involve four-laning, and she believed that many other landowners might not be aware of it. She hoped that consideration would be given to not four-lane it and preserve it as a scenic road.

Ms. Bryant addressed the three public comments, emphasizing that it was Long Range Transportation Planning. She clarified that none of the proposals would be implemented in the immediate future; instead, the planning extended out to 2045.

Mr. Bethea made a motion to approve the 2045 LRTP Amendment #2.

Mr. Hilty seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Curry closed the public hearing at 4:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant