



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ocala Citizens Service Center  
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34478

**November 10, 2015**

### MINUTES

#### Members Present:

Mike Daniels, Chairman (*arrived 10:06 am*)  
Eddie Esch, Vice-chairman  
Gennie Garcia  
Dave Herlihy  
Masood Mirza  
Winston Schuler  
Kellie Smith  
Kevin Smith

#### Members Not Present:

Sue Farnsworth  
Mickey Thomason

#### Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director  
John Voges, TPO Staff  
Ken Odom, TPO Staff  
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff  
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff  
Mike McCammon, FDOT  
Bob Wallace, Tindale-Oliver and Associates

#### Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Vice-chairman Eddie Esch. Mr. Esch turned the meeting over the Chairman Mike Daniels with his arrival at 10:06 am. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

## **Item 2. Proof Of Publication**

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton 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. Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Final Draft**

Mr. Slay reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) had been under development for the last eighteen to twenty-four months. Staff was seeking approval of the final draft of the LRTP for transmittal to the TPO board. Mr. Slay introduced Mr. Bob Wallace from Tindale Oliver and Associates to present the LRTP final draft.

Mr. Wallace advised that the LRTP had included a robust public involvement program that utilized digital polling, stakeholder interviews, grassroots meetings, informal presentations, and a telephone town hall meeting. The LRTP contained a vision statement, needs assessment, and available revenue data. This information was utilized to develop the cost feasible plan.

Mr. Wallace advised that the LRTP built on projects already included in the Transportation Improvement Program. Transit projects in the cost feasible plan were based on the highest performing routes. Locally funded projects were influenced by the impact fee district. The majority of gas tax revenue was applied to maintenance projects. Mr. Wallace mentioned that MPOs across the state were struggling with pavement management and a lack of funding. Trails in the cost feasible plan included the TPO trail priorities. The majority of funding in the cost feasible plan was for highway projects; there were also intelligent transportation system (ITS), transit, trail, and maintenance projects.

Mr. Wallace stated that the public comment period for the LRTP was currently open. The TPO had hosted a telephone town hall meeting, at which digital polling was done and poll results and other information was documented. Mr. Wallace stated that over fifty percent of the telephone town hall participants said that they were support a 10-year sales tax for transportation improvements, and over sixty percent said that they would support a 5-year sales tax.

Mr. Schuler asked about I-75 at SR 200, and Mr. Slay advised that FDOT had a project going into design to add dual left turn lanes on SR 200 at the interchange, dual left and right turn lanes on the northbound off-ramp, and additional changes to the southbound off-ramp. Mr. Schuler wondered about ITS improvements on SR 40, and Mr. Slay said there should be some included in the plan. A typographical error was noted on Table 3-4.

Mr. Schuler asked about improvements on SR 35 between NE 35<sup>th</sup> Street and CR 326, and Mr. Slay stated that traffic did not warrant anything at that time. Mr. McCammon mentioned that Baseline Road was a county road, not a state road, through that section. Mr. Slay added that there was discussion about improvements north of SR 40. The TPO had a corridor study on SR 40 in Silver Springs, and Mr. Slay said that a presentation on the study would be scheduled.

Mr. Chau asked about signalization near the Ocala airport, and Mr. Slay said that any signals would come from a warrant. Traffic projections did not show the need to four-lane in that area. There was discussion regarding cost of the needs versus the cost feasible plan. Mr. Slay commented that the main function of the LRTP was to identify projects. The Transportation Improvement Program was where projects got funded, and Mr. Slay noted that local governments were struggling under the decreasing buying power of the local option gas tax. Mr. Slay said that as time went on, virtually all of the gas tax would go to fund road maintenance.

Mr. Chau asked about the potential of passenger rail in Ocala, and Mr. Slay said that it did not look feasible in terms of density during the LRTP timeframe. The LRTP did identify tracks for the purpose of future preservation for light rail or paved trails.

Mr. Schuler moved approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan with the noted corrections. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Item 3b. Legislative Priorities**

Mr. Slay presented the legislative priorities, which he said were essentially unchanged from the previous year. They included increasing funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program, expansion of the charter county and regional transportation surtax, indexing of the local option gas tax, and making texting while driving a primary offense.

Mr. Esch made a motion to approve the legislative priorities as presented. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Item 3c. Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Odom presented the Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP was a five-year document that anticipated the phases and funding of transportation project. It was developed consistent with MAP-21 legislation. The roll-forward version of the TIP was produced because of the difference between the state and federal funding cycles. Mr. Odom mentioned that resurfacing funding was down a little from previous years and reviewed highlights from the TIP. Mr. Slay asked about the resurfacing on I-75, and Mr. McCammon answered that the bid had come in around twenty-six or twenty-seven million.

Mr. Esch moved approval of the Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program with the noted funding corrections. Mr. Schuler seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Item 3d. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman**

Mr. Herlihy nominated Mr. Esch for chairman and Mr. Schuler seconded. The nomination carried unanimously.

Mr. Esch nominated Mr. Smith for vice-chairman. Mr. Schuler seconded and the nomination was unanimously approved.

#### **Item 4a. FDOT Five Year Work Program Presentation**

Ms. Smith presented the FDOT Five Year Work Program. The Work Program included projects from the TPO's trail priorities and off-system priorities, as well as roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects.

Mr. Daniels asked if the Ocala sidewalk project included facilities downtown and Mr. Slay answered that it did. Ms. Smith added that there were some plan issues that still needed to be worked out.

Mr. Esch asked about a delay on the Pruitt Trail project, and Mr. Slay said that FDOT was working on the property issue that was causing the delay. Mr. Slay added that staff would probably ask the TPO board to draft a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding putting the trail on its priority list. Mr. Esch asked about alternative routes for the trail, and Mr. Slay said that there had been some discussion and that if the issue could not be resolve, alternatives would need to be developed.

Mr. Mirza asked about the timeline for the NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, and Ms. Smith said that FDOT would work with the County to move the project ahead.

Mr. Smith asked what improvements were planned for the I-75 interchange at CR 484, and Mr. Slay advised that the interchange was being reconfigured and turn lanes were being added. Mr. McCammon noted that there were constraints under the overpass. Also, widening the road would require a new signal at the intersection.

#### **Item 4b. Annual Traffic Counts and Trends Manual**

Mr. Odom presented the Traffic Counts and Trends Manual. The manual included statistical data such as county population, licensed drivers, registered vehicles, and fuel sales. There were also county road maps with geo-located count station points and corresponding count data tables with five year trends. Mr. Odom advised that some of the counts were being transitioned to a three year cycle to reduce the number of counts taken annually in low count areas where counts remained fairly consistent.

Mr. McCammon reported that he had seen some of the numbers from 2015 and they were definitely up.

Mr. Odom reviewed SunTran ridership and operations data that was also included in the manual. There was also information on accident locations and traffic fatalities.

### **Item 5. Consent Agenda**

*Mr. Herlihy made a motion to approve the August 11 and September 8, 2015, meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Item 6. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Smith reported that I-75 resurfacing on the southbound inside lanes would require lane closures. A flyer for the Florida Transportation Plan was included in the meeting packet, and Ms. Smith mentioned that the comment period for the plan would end on November 14. Ms. Smith also introduced Ms. Deborah Tyrone, who was the new FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for District 5.

### **Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Slay advised the committee that an I-75 Relief Task Force had been formed to look at making connections between Tampa and Jacksonville. The task force was comprised of representatives from the various counties that would be effected and other stakeholders such as the Audubon Society. The first meeting was happening shortly and a report was due in October 2016.

Mr. Voges asked about the timeline for resurfacing on US 27, and Mr. McCammon said that currently the friction course was being put down west of I-75. The section east to US 441 would be done afterward.

### **Item 8. Comments by TAC Members**

Mr. Mirza mentioned that the County had advertised for a traffic engineer.

Mr. Herlihy said that Marion County Public Schools were going through open enrollment for school choice applications.

### **Item 7. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

### **Item 8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Daniels at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant