



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

November 28, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant (*arrived 4:15pm*)
Commissioner Jeff Gold
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Councilman James Hilty, Sr.
Commissioner Ron Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever (*arrived 4:21pm*)
Commissioner David Moore
Councilman Jay Musleh (*arrived 4:01pm*)
Councilman Matthew Wardell
Commissioner Carl Zalak (*arrived 4:02pm*)

Members Not Present:

Councilwoman Mary Rich
Commissioner Michelle Stone

Others Present:

Carlos Rodriguez, Metric Engineering
Jamie Kersey, FDOT
David Cooke, FDOT
Don Atwell, Marion County
Masood Mirza, Marion County
Carlos Zambrano, SunTran
Doug Shearer
Michelle Shearer
Bill Sowder
Marguerite Sowder

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 on the City of Ocala, Marion County, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

Item 3a. Trail Priority Project Amendment

Mr. Odom presented the Trails Priority Project Amendment and said that the Department of Environmental Protection had requested that a new trail section be added to the Trails Priority Projects list in order to be eligible for a grant allocation from the Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trails program. The proposed addition was the Baseline to Santos section that would extend approximately four and one-half miles from the Baseline Trailhead to the Santos Trailhead.

Mr. Wardell made a motion to approve the Trail Priority Project Amendment. Mr. Gold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3b. Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Odom presented the Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program and said that the document had been prepared from the latest draft of the Florida Department of Transportation's Tentative Work Program.

Mr. Odom said that he would present all significant changes which included the following:

Capacity Projects at \$275.4 Million

NE 36th Avenue Bridge
SR 40: From End of 4-Lanes to CR 314
SW 49th Avenue: SW 42nd Street to SW 95th Street

Resurfacing Projects at \$61.5 Million

US 441: From US 301 to SR 200
US 27: From Levy CL to CR 326
SR 200: From SW 60th Avenue to CR 484
SR 492: From SR 40 to US 441

Transit at \$47.4 Million

SunTran and Marion Transit

Bike/Pedestrian/Multi-Use

Silver Springs Bikeway Phase I
SR 40 Black Bear Trail
Legacy Elementary Sidewalks
Osceola Trail

Aviation- Ocala International and Marion County

Taxiway 'A' Rehabilitation
New Land Acquisition
Taxiway Construction Runway 5-23

Mr. Musleh made a motion to approve the Roll-Forward Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Wardell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3c. Legislative Priorities

Mr. Daniels presented the Legislative Priorities which included the following:

- Support increased funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program
- Support expanded availability of the charter county and Regional Transportation System surtax
- Support indexing of local option gas taxes
- Support reduction of distracted driving by designating texting while driving a primary offense

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Legislative Priorities. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3d. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Ms. Bryant made a motion Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar to be Vice-Chair. Mr. Zalak seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to keep Commissioner David Moore as Chair. Mr. Musleh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3e. Appointment of Representatives to Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) and MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)

Mr. Zalak made a motion to appoint Commissioner Michelle Stone, Commissioner Ronald Livsey, Councilman Brent Malever for the CFMPOA, and Commissioner David Moore to be an alternate. Ms. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zalak made a motion to appoint Mayor Kent Guinn for the MPOAC and Commissioner Jeff Gold to be an alternate. Mr. Wardell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. I-75 at NW 49th Street Interchange Program Development and Environmental Study (PD&E)

Mr. Daniels introduced Carlos Rodriguez with Metric Engineering who presented to the board.

Mr. Rodriguez talked about the studies that were conducted for NW 49th Street Interchange which included:

- Improving economic vitality and promote job creation
- Improve Interstate and Regional mobility within Marion County
- Provide relief to existing Interchanges at US 27 and SR 326 by providing an alternate access to I-75
- Accommodate future traffic growth (2045)

Ms. Bryant recommended taking the bike lanes off of the roadway and adding sidewalks on one side and paved multimodal on the other side.

Mr. Rodriguez said that they were still too early in the study to make those changes but would take the comments back to Metric.

Mr. Rodriguez then talked about some of the concepts that were being looked at for the interchange design and they included:

- Diamond Interchange (IJR Concept)
- Modified IJR Concept
- Modified T-Diamond Interchange
- Diverging Diamond Interchange
- Single Point Urban Interchange
- Partial Cloverleaf Interchange

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned after discussion about the designs that all designs were just concepts and not official designs they were just ideas of improvements.

Mr. Moore asked that Mr. Rodriguez note that he was not a fan of the roundabouts.

Mr. Zalak said to keep in mind that the semi-trucks would need enough room to get up to speed to get onto the highway and that was an issue that he had known of at the time.

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that some of the other components in the study was Utilities and Environmental in the area and also public involvement.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Musleh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Kersey with FDOT said the only thing she had to present to the board was the updated construction report and asked the board for any questions.

There were no questions from the board.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Daniels updated the board on the mobility week events.

Mr. Odom gave an update on the Walk Your Kids to School event and showed a video clip that was posted by the Ocala Star Banner regarding the event.

Mr. Daniels introduced Desi Leibfried, the new TPO Part-time Grants Coordinator and said he wanted to leave the planner position open to be able to hire for that position with new upcoming projects and would be announcing that in the January meeting.

Mr. Odom gave an update on the CR 484 and said he would email the plans to the TPO board.

Mr. Daniels let the board now about the 2018 MPOAC Weekend Institute if any of the board members were interested.

There was a presentation to Commissioner Hilty for his years of service on the TPO board.

Mr. Daniels also mentioned there would not be a December TPO meeting.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Members

There were no comments by TPO members.

Item 9. Public Comment

Mr. Douglas Shearer, 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, FL presented a slideshow presentation to the board about the paved trail that went through the Florida Greenway and said he had the chance to read the bid but not the contract that was split half and half between DBA and CIC.

Mr. Shearer expressed concerns that there were no 25' asphalt aprons on site as referenced in the bid. Also, there was some erosion issues that created dangerous conditions and especially at the 49th Street tunnel where there was some concrete reinforced where the horses would be on the trail on occasion and one side was hydroseeded.

Mr. Shearer said that the bid was accepted but what was stated in the contract was not preformed and created dangerous conditions for bikers as well.

Mr. Shearer also stated that there was a signage, striping issues, and cross walk markers, stating that the order of yield signs was not properly placed and was thrown to the side.

Mr. Shearer said the contracts should be looked at to see why the bids were low because there was not much included in the contracts saying half of the trails looked great and the other half was “pretty poor”.

Mr. Don Atwell, Deputy County Engineer responded to Mr. Shearer's comments saying part of the trail was under construction and some repairs still had to be made because of the erosions that took place. Also, with a design build project it was used to get the project expedited quickly.

Mr. Atwell said that the contractor would go out and take care of the issues and the striping would be worked on as well. Also, the signs would be put out as well.

Commissioner Bryant asked Mr. Atwell to check with the contractors and make sure there was consistency in the signage. Mr. Atwell said that he would speak with Mickey Thomason with Florida Greenway and Trails because they were their trails.

Mr. Odom said that he had the opportunity to go out with both the County and Florida Greenway and Trails and both sides were observed and there were some variations and the trails are not open yet and there was a problem with one side sodded and the other hydroseeded. Also, the signage was an issue and not consistent and some of the areas had lots of metal poles and were looking into removing them.

Mr. Odom said there was some intersections of the paved trail and the horse trails and they were unable to tell that there was an intersection ahead and were looking into that also.

Mr. Zalak asked Mr. Atwell to check with the County Commissioners before signing off on the work completed.

Ms. Michelle Shearer, 2301 SE 85th Street, Ocala, FL addressed the board as the Secretary of Greenway Equestrians and also a biker, hiker, and mountain biker and said that safety was going to be the “big thing” and you want to keep it green but she did not believe that the signage would be overkill.

Ms. Shearer said that some of the trails come down and if there were mountain bikers and people from out of town road biking in groups of twenty or thirty and drafting they would get in a zone and need to be able to have the time to stop and be well aware even when playing music on their electronic devices and said that by putting the paved trail in the greenway has been urbanized and the safety signs should be there to avoid accidents.

Ms. Shearer also said to Mr. Odom that the next time Walk Your Kids to School Day takes places there should be a puppy there.

Mr. Odom said that one of the participants did have a dog leash and their dog as well.

Item 9. Adjournment

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Jacobs, TPO Administrative Assistant