



Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Marion County Library Headquarters – Meeting Room C

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

& Virtual Meeting via WebEx

1:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Andrea Lemieux
Michelle Shearer
Paul Marraffino
Richard Howard
Richard McGinley

Members Not Present:

Clark Yandle
Davis Dinkins
Joe London
Steve Rudnianyn
Suzanne Mangram
Travis Magamoll

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Derrick Harris, TPO
Anton Schauerte, TPO
Karen Snyder, FDOT
Amy Windom, FDOT
Anna Taylor, FDOT
Poorna Bhattacharya, FDOT
Franko Scaraceno, Kittelson

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Richard McGinley called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and called the roll, there was a quorum present.

Item 2. 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 October 6, 2020. The meeting had also been published to the Star Banner news calendar, and the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3A. I-75 & NW 49th Avenue PD&E Update

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez, Consultant Project Manager with Metric Engineering gave a presentation.

The Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) was gearing up for the conclusion of the section of the development phase for the new interchange project located at I-75 & NW 49th Avenue.

Mr. Rodriguez gave a presentation highlighting the key purposes and needs for the proposed interchange.

- Improve interstate and regional mobility within Marion County
 - Support a long range vision for a new east-west corridor parallel to US 27 and SR 326
- Accommodate future traffic growth
- Provide relief to existing interchange at US 27 and SR 326 by providing alternate access to I-75
- Improve economic vitality and promote job creation
 - Support viability and continued development of the Ocala 469 Commerce Park

There was a Phase 2C and Phase 2B presented:

- Phase 2C (part of the project)
 - New I-75 Interchange
 - Extension of NW 49th Street
- Phase 2B
 - Extension of NW 35th Street to Phase 2C
 - Currently in final design by Marion County

Mr. Rodriguez presented five interchange alternatives that included a Diamond, SPUI, Diverging Diamond, Partial Cloverleaf NE, and Partial Cloverleaf.

An Alternatives Evaluation was conducted and the preferred alternative was a Diverging Diamond which would provide two directions of traffic crossover to the opposite side at the on/off ramps. The advantage would be avoiding long left turns, facilitating operational maneuvers, and increasing safety.

The interchange justification report showed that a new interchange would attract approximately 26,500 vehicles per day. A new interchange would also operate at acceptable Level of Service (LOS).

A Categorical Exclusion Type II Report (environmental summary report) was prepared and was available for review and no significant environmental impacts were anticipated as a result of the project.

The Public Involvement portion of the project included:

- Ocala / Marion County February 06, 2019
Transportation Planning Organization
(TPO) Presentations
- Ocala 2035 Leadership
- West Ocala Community
Redevelopment Agency (CRA)
- Alternatives Public Meeting
- Public Hearing – November 18, 2020

Final recommendations and documents for the project were expected Fall of 2020.

Item 3B. Mobility Week

Ms. Poorna Bhattacharya presented and said that Mobility Week was a statewide celebration of making smart, efficient, and safe transportation choices. There had been participation increase in Mobility Week in the years 2016-2019.

For the year 2020 Mobility Week would be virtual. Meeting rooms on virtual based platform were created for each region in FDOT District to feature their own room with local projects.

Encouraging Behavior Change

- Each year, Mobility Week has included the Mix-It-Up Challenge
- The goal of the challenge is to encourage people to try a new transportation option through friendly competition
- In previous years, each District hosted their own version of the Mix-It-Up Challenge

What's new this year?

- New name: Love to Ride Florida Challenge
- New platform: LovetoRide.net/Florida
- New timeframe: October 30 – November 30
- New ways to participate

Mr. Harris asked if Mobility Week was exclusively for bicyclist.

Ms. Bhattacharya said that for the year was exclusive to bicycling.

Item 4A. 2045 DRAFT Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Assistant Director, Derrick Harris introduced Franco Saraceno with Kittelson and Associates to give a presentation to the committee.

Six Goals and Objectives were presented.

Goal 1: Promote Travel Choices that are Multimodal and Accessible

Goal 2: Provide Efficient Transportation that promotes Economic Development

Goal 3: Focus on Improving Safety and Security of the Transportation System

Goal 4: Ensure the Transportation System meets the Needs of the Community

Goal 5: Protect Natural Resources and create quality places

Goal 6: Optimize and Preserve existing infrastructure

The Plan Process included public and stakeholder involvement from the TPO committees, Business stakeholders, Cities of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon, Public at large, and Neighboring Lake/Sumter MPO.

Another piece of the plan process was the Needs Assessment which included the following key components:

- Performance-based analysis to implement Goals and Objectives
- Used over 20 data sources
- Evaluated over 500 roadway segments
- Overlaid datasets to determine level of need
- Applied process to projects with added elements

Transportation Revenue Forecasting was anticipated at \$758 million (not inc. SIS) in available State/Federal revenues and \$278 million in available Local revenues.

- Sales Surtax
 - 1% during 2026-2045 yields \$380m in Present Day \$
- Impact Fees
 - Increasing rates to 100% of recommended rates yields \$320m
- Up to \$700 million of untapped potential from the sources only

Projects identified in the Cost Feasible Plan for the years 2021-2025 include:

- 3 safety projects- SR 40, US 41, and SR 25
- 3 trail projects- Pruitt, Indian Lake, and Downtown Ocala
- 4 sidewalk projects- SR 40, Marion Oaks, Saddlewood, Legacy Elementary
- 8 new roads/added lanes- US 441, SR 40, Emerald Road, 49th Street, 49th Ave, 90th Street
- 9 intersection/interchange improvements- I-75, US 441, Abshier Road, CR 42, SR 40, SW 60th Ave, CR 484

Cost Feasible Plan summary included roadway capacity projects at 82%, roadway operational projects at 2%, corridor studies boxed fund 0.3%, multimodal projects boxed fund 10%, and ITS projects boxed fund 6%.

The LRTP was the foundational planning document that guides the TPO in all its projects, plans, and priorities for the future. It lists all of the TPO's goals and objectives, including which revenues would be utilized to fund the projects listed in the LRTP. The TPO was welcoming any and all comments on the LRTP until November 6th as the document was in DRAFT form.

The TPO planned to hold a public hearing on October 27th at 4:00 p.m. in the Marion County Commission Auditorium located at 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471 for anyone who wanted to provide comments in person, to the TPO Board.

Plan adoption was scheduled for November 2020.

Mr. Marraffino inquired about the East Pennsylvania Avenue project.

Mr. Harris said that the project would be added as a “roadway project” and the project would go to the unfunded list however, the project was listed as a trail project. The changes would be reflected on the final document.

Ms. Lemieux asked about the best way in helping creating awareness for public comments.

Mr. Harris said that the LRTP had been advertised in the Star Banner, posted on the website, project website, and social media platforms. Public Involvement Officers in each municipality had been contacted to advertise for public awareness also. Anyone with comments or questions could also reach him directly via phone or email.

Item 5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Marraffino seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Anna Taylor with FDOT gave comments.

The construction report was provided in the meeting packets.

FDOT had resumed public meetings in a hybrid platform for both in-person and virtual.

The District had not received allocations for the upcoming Work Program Cycle.

Work Program meeting dates were forthcoming.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Assistant TPO Director Derrick Harris said the Governors Executive order expired on October 31st for virtual meetings and quorums. November meetings would resume fully in-person.

Item 8. Comments by CAC Members

Mr. Marraffino made comments about a Solar Farm in Dunnellon and options for roadway access.

Mr. Harris said any roadway would come down to ownership and maintenance and whoever would want to pay for the road. Most likely the discussion would fall on the developer and Marion County. The TPO would not be included in the conversation due to the road being a local road and the TPO being federally designated.

Item 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman McGinley at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant