



TPO Safety Action Plan Workshop

Marion County Growth Services Training Room and via WebEx
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470
August 24, 2021
1:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar (via WebEx)
Commissioner Michelle Stone

Members Not Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Jeff Gold
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever
Commissioner Craig Curry
Councilman Jay Musleh
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Shakayla Irby, TPO
Bart Rowland, Ocala CEP
Richard McGinley
Bob Titterington, Belleview FL
Tracey Sapp, Marion County Health Department
Nancy Smith, City of Ocala
Tracey Straub, Marion County
Joe Reiutel, Ocala CEP
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala
Darren Park *via WebEx*
Don Atwell *via WebEx*

Alexander Cappono *via WebEx*
Jim Martin *via WebEx*
Rob Kersey *via WebEx*
Sean Lanier *via WebEx*

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Michelle Stone called the workshop to order at 1:34pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Roll Call

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant called the roll and a quorum was not present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant stated the workshop was published online at the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and Marion County meeting calendars on September 20, 2021. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 4. Safety Action Plan Overview

Mr. Rob Balmes presented and said that the TPO was planning to invest in the development of a Safety Action Plan to serve as a resource to improving transportation safety throughout Marion County. The Action Plan was envisioned as a collaborative process involving citizens and stakeholders, private and public partners, and state agencies. The title of the Action Plan was **Commitment to Zero: An Action Plan for Safer Streets in Ocala Marion.**

The purpose of **Commitment to Zero** was to bring together the Ocala Marion community and collaborate in the development of an Action Plan to improve the safety of our transportation system. Also, to embrace the international approach of Vision Zero in which not a single fatality is acceptable. The Action Plan would be focused on four key areas:

- **Education and Awareness**
 - The Safety Story of Ocala/Marion County
 - Transportation Safety Infographic was presented (attached to this set of minutes on page 5)
- **Public and Partner Engagement**
 - Instrumental to Plan success
 - A great opportunity to bring the TPO board and community together to discuss safety
- **Safety Analysis**
 - Trends
 - Areas of Concern (hotspots)
 - System-wide Issues
- **Action Planning**
 - What will everyone do individually and collectively to improve safety in Marion County

- Commitments over the next 3-5 years
- **Timeframe of Plan Development**
 - Fall 2021 to Summer 2022
 - Formal launch in January 2022
 - At the TPO board meeting in October a more detailed scope of services would be presented for board review and approval

Mr. Balmes said that the Scope of Services was circulating within the technical partners (Federal Highway, Department of Transportation, and technical partners throughout the community) for feedback.

Chairwoman Stone said that the Safety Story of Ocala Marion County was most helpful document provided (for reference on page 5 of this set of minutes) and actually showed what can be done, cornerstones, and statistics that would be impacted. The public engagement would be instrumental to the plan and where the partnerships would be needed.

Item 5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Office of Safety- Loren Bobo

Loren Bobo, District Five Safety Administrator said over the last year or so FDOT had taken a new focus on safety and had spent decades working on improving safety on roadways and had some great accomplishments but numbers were just not going down. In Marion County in 2020 109 lives were lost and that was 109 family and friends that were impacted and 94% of the crashes contributing factors of human behavior (speeding, looking at phones, looking down for a second). Every approach taken was effective even if one life was saved.

Ms. Bobo said that Vision Zero was an important and exciting approach to help with safety and glad that Ocala Marion County is taking steps to improve community safety. Education and Engineering were two focal points for FDOT on both county and city roadways.

Ms. Bobo was excited about the opportunities that would be embarked upon and see the numbers move down to zero.

Mr. Balmes thanks Ms. Bobo for her time and joining the workshop and was looking forward to working with the Office of Safety.

Item 6. Public Comment

Councilwoman Hanchar asked if Hillsborough County had already completed a Safety Action Plan.

Mr. Balmes said that yes, Hillsborough had completed a Safety Action Plan two years ago and moved forward with implementation of further safety analysis in their community.

Councilwoman Hanchar inquired if there was anything that the TPO could use as a stepping stone to start the process.

Mr. Balmes said the consultant team had expertise in the area and had worked with other MPOs around the state and would bring a lot of diversity in their skill set.

Item 7. Board Member Partnership Discussion

Ms. Tracey Straub, Assistant Administrator for Marion County asked if Mr. Balmes could give examples of what Hillsborough or different communities did to make safety improvements.

Mr. Balmes said that Hillsborough had identified a series of streets through Complete Streets to help slow down traffic and looking at supporting venerable road users in the community. The consultant team had just completed work for Collier MPO and completed a local road safety plan. Through the process Ocala/Marion would look at focusing on the four corner stones and focus on the transportation network to identify areas that can use improvements.

Mr. Balmes encouraged attendees to brainstorm organizations that would need to be included in the planning process because the more partners the better. A community workshop would be planned early in the year 2022.

Item 8. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned by Chairwoman Stone at 2:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant