



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

September 8, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Renee Blaney, Chairwoman
Richard McGinley

Members Not Present:

Davis Dinkins
Ed Kelly
Joe London
Suzanne Mangram
Michelle Shearer
Robert Sulzer
Clarke Yandle

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT
Wally Blain, Tindale-Oliver & Associates

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chairwoman Renee Blaney. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was not 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. Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Mr. Wally Blain from Tindale-Oliver and Associates stated that though there was no way to know for certain what the future would look like, there were tools that could be used as guides to build the community. Mr. Blain reviewed the vision statement for the LRTP. The plan goals were to provide multimodal choices, foster economic growth, improve safety and security, ensure cooperation among partners, create quality places, and preserve the existing transportation system.

Since the presentation of the draft needs assessment in August, a new project – construction of NW 44th Avenue from SR 200 to SR 40 – had been added. Mr. Blain advised that other than that addition, the highway, transit, and trail needs were much the same in the final assessment as they had been in the draft.

Projects in the cost feasible plan has been broken into Priority 1 and Priority 2 groups. Priority 2 projects were unfunded. There were also future intelligent transportation system/congestion management projects identified. Mr. Blain explained that local projects were broken down into impact fee districts. All Priority 1 projects were funded and Priority 2 projects, with the exception of extending Marion Oaks Manor, were unfunded. Widening I-75 was the funded state Priority 1 project.

Cost feasible transit projects included bus shelter improvements, continuation of the existing routes and paratransit service, and improved frequency on four of the routes. Mr. Blain said that there was some flexibility with regards to the cost feasible trail projects; at present, there was \$29 million identified for trail priorities.

Mr. Blain reviewed results from polling questions that asked participants about funding projects and compared the trends with the structure of the cost feasible plan. The cost feasible plan allocated about 78% of its budget to highway improvements, 12% to transit, 5% to bicycle and pedestrian safety, and about 5% to intelligent transportation system/congestion management projects.

The cost feasible plan was scheduled for presentation to the TPO board at its September meeting, which would open a public comment period. Adoption was scheduled for November.

Ms. Blaney said she was pleased to see the top priority sidewalk project and mentioned that she had seen a number of kids walking along county roads in the dark. Mr. Slay mentioned that Mr. Odom had done significant work with the Marion County School Board on Safe Routes to Schools projects. There was discussion regarding sidewalks to schools.

Mr. McGinley asked whether the funding ratios were standard, and Mr. Blain said that bicycle and pedestrian funding was higher than some in some other areas because Ocala and Marion County recognized the importance of trails.

Item 4. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith announced that there was a public hearing that evening for the NE 25th Avenue and NE 36th Avenue PD&E.

Item 5. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no further comments by TPO staff.

Item 6. Comments by CAC Members

Ms. Blaney asked about taking applications for committee members, and Mr. Slay said that there were about six openings that could be filled. The bylaws stated that the committee should be geographically and technically diverse.

Item 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Blaney at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant