

2022

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Message from the Chair



As a leader and elected official of Ocala, it was my honor in 2022 to serve as Chair of the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). The Ocala/Marion community is blessed with many amazing people and our lifestyle is one of the best in the entire country. I know with all these gifts also come many challenges that remind us of the hard work that lies ahead. The TPO serves as the lead agency to bring the community together to meet these challenges and plan for our transportation future.

In 2022, the TPO worked with our federal, state and local partners to complete several transportation initiatives on behalf of the Ocala/Marion community. These accomplishments deal with some of the most important issues such as safety, mobility, the transportation disadvantaged, funding and resilience. The TPO also further connected with the community through our public participation process, social media platform and by attending events.

As I think about the future of our community, it's going to take all of us as elected leaders, citizens and partners to work together. We must continue to build on our partnerships through the TPO to accomplish our vision – “A transportation system that supports growth, mobility and safety through leadership and planning.” When we come together and collaborate, I believe we will be highly successful for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ire Bethea, Sr.
President, Ocala City Council
2022 TPO Board Chair

Boards and Committees

Our Governing Board

The TPO Board is the governing body responsible for the overall guidance of the transportation planning process in Marion County. This includes providing leadership and oversight for the development of transportation policies, plans, programs and strategies. The Board is comprised of 12 voting members including the City of Ocala Mayor and four members of the City Council; all five Marion County Commissioners; and one representative each from the Belleview City Commission and the Dunnellon City Council. The Florida Department of Transportation District V Secretary serves as a non-voting member.

Our 2022 Board members included Chair and City of Ocala Council President Ire Bethea, Sr.; Vice-Chair and Marion County Board of County Commissioners Craig Curry.



Ire Bethea, Sr., Chair
City of Ocala



Craig Curry, Vice-Chair
Marion County



Kathy Bryant
Marion County



Kristen Dreyer
City of Ocala



Jeff Gold
Marion County



Kent Guinn
City of Ocala



James Hilty
City of Ocala



Ronald Livsey
City of Belleview



Barry Mansfield
City of Ocala



Michelle Stone
Marion County



Bill White
City of Dunnellon



Carl Zalak, III
Marion County





Our Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board

The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) coordinates transportation needs of the disadvantaged in Marion County, including individuals with physical and economic challenges and senior citizens facing mobility issues. Members in 2022 included:

- Commissioner Michelle Stone, *Chair*
- Andrea Melvin, *Vice-Chair*

Jeff Aboumrad	Keith Fair	Glorybee Perez
Tracey Alesiani	Ronald Graham	Anissa Pieriboni
Jeffrey Askew	Susan Hanley	Iris Pozo
Carlos Colon	Carissa Hutchinson	Tracey Sapp
Lauren Debick	Steven Neal	

Regional and State Leadership

The TPO participates in regional and statewide transportation planning and policy organizations. Representatives from Ocala/Marion County in 2022 included:



Central Florida MPO Alliance

Marion County
Commissioner
Michelle Stone, *Chair*

Marion County
Commissioner
Craig Curry

City of Ocala Council
President
Ire Bethea, Sr.

Director
Rob Balmes
Staff



Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC)

Marion County
Commissioner
Craig Curry, *Member*

Staff Director, Freight
and Rail Advisory
Committees
Rob Balmes, *Director*

City of Ocala
Councilmember
Kristen Dreyer, *Alternate*

Our Committees



Citizens Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of citizens that reside in Marion County and the three municipalities. CAC members advise the TPO Board on transportation programs and projects as part of the TPO planning process. All recommendations by the CAC are presented to the TPO Board. Members of the CAC in 2022 included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Richard McGinley, <i>Chair</i> | Matt Fabian |
| Michelle Shearer, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Richard Howard |
| Chris Arroyo | Travis Magamoll |
| Brandon Cave, Sr. | Suzanne Mangram |
| Davis Dinkins | Steve Rudnianyn |

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of professional staff members from local and state agencies. The TAC advises the TPO Board on transportation programs and projects from a technical and subject matter expert perspective. Recommendations by the TAC are also presented to the TPO Board. Members of the TAC in 2022 included:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mickey Thomason, <i>Chair</i>
Florida Park Service | Ken Odom
Marion County |
| Elton Holland, <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Marion County | Loretta Shaffer
Marion County Tourism
Development |
| Noel Cooper
City of Ocala | Troy Slattery
City of Dunnellon |
| David Herlihy
Marion County School Board | Eric Smith
City of Ocala |
| Rakinya Hinson
Florida Department of
Transportation (non-voting) | Bob Titterington
City of Belleview |
| Ji Li
SunTran, City of Ocala | |

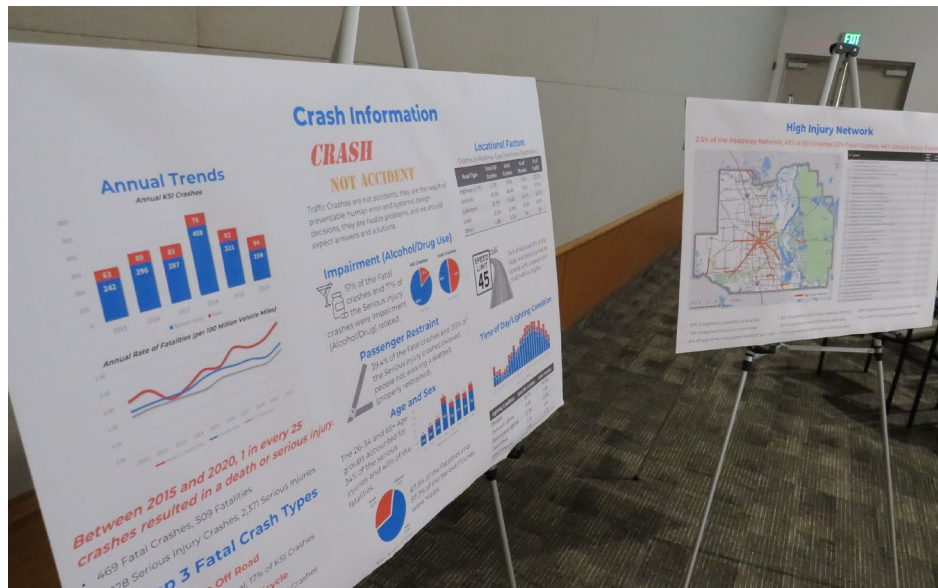
TPO Adopts Commitment to Zero



Commitment to Zero

On November 29, 2022, the TPO Board adopted Commitment to Zero: An Action Plan for Safer Streets in Ocala Marion. This milestone marked a year-long process of partner agency and community engagement to develop the TPO's first Vision Zero safety plan. The goal of Commitment to Zero is the elimination of fatalities and serious injuries on the roadways throughout Marion County.

The kick-off of Commitment to Zero was held on January 12 and led by Marion County Commissioner and Immediate Past TPO Chair, Michelle Stone. The event brought together citizens and partner agencies from elected officials, law enforcement, fire rescue, local governments, the Florida Department of Transportation, the School Board and members of the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). Local and regional media coverage captured the focus of the meeting, which was to shine the spotlight on traffic safety in our community.



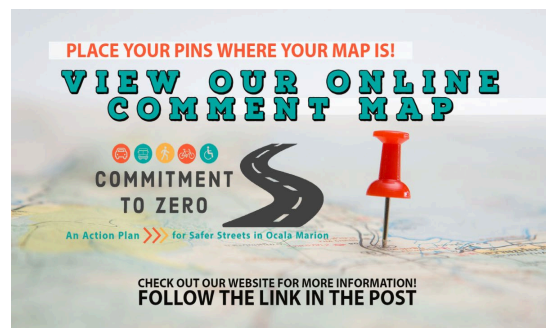
Community Workshop

A series of outreach efforts were conducted throughout the development of Commitment to Zero. This process was highlighted by a Community Workshop on April 14 held at the College of Central Florida. The TPO formed a Working Group of local and state safety experts through the CTST. The Working Group met three times to review safety statistics, discuss opportunities and challenges, and identify strategies for the reduction of fatalities and serious injuries. Key stakeholder events included workshops with partner agencies and the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) on May 12 and June 16.



Survey

The TPO also engaged with the public through an online survey and interactive comment map. Both tools helped generate important feedback regarding key safety issues and specific locations with safety concerns. This information helped guide the TPO in the development of the Action Plan strategies in addition to support future safety planning.



Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan

The project culminated with a release of the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan on September 20. The Action Plan provides an in-depth assessment of the safety challenges and opportunities in Marion County, with an emphasis on recent crash trends. A major focal point of the Plan is a set of specific strategies based on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe System Approach:



Moving forward, five major Emphasis Areas were outlined in the Action Plan for citizens and partner agencies to work together on over the next five years to make a significant impact on improving safety in our community.

- 1 Developing a Culture of Safety
- 2 Speed Management
- 3 Non-Motorized Users
- 4 Run-Off Road Crashes
- 5 Intersection Operations

The Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan can be accessed at: <https://ocalamariontpo.org/safety-plan>

Transportation Improvement Program

Fiscal Years 2023 to 2027

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the TPO's annually adopted short-term funding plan for transportation projects that receive federal and state and local match funding in Marion County. The TIP consists of projects programmed for funding over five years. This TIP cycle included fiscal years (FY) 2023 to 2027.

When adopted on June 28, the FY 2023 to 2027 TIP included a total investment of \$287.9 million (53% state; 38% federal; 9% local).

TIP 5-Year Investment Breakdown



I-75 Projects
\$90,682,909



Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects
\$9,960,897



U.S. Route Projects
\$31,783,730



Aviation Projects
\$17,875,000



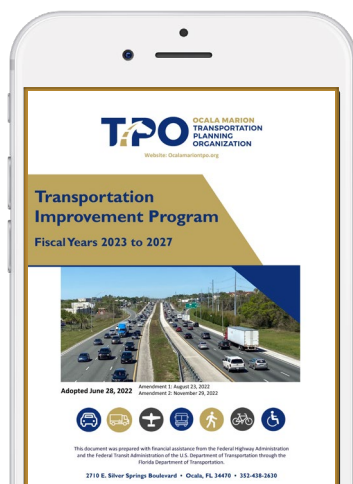
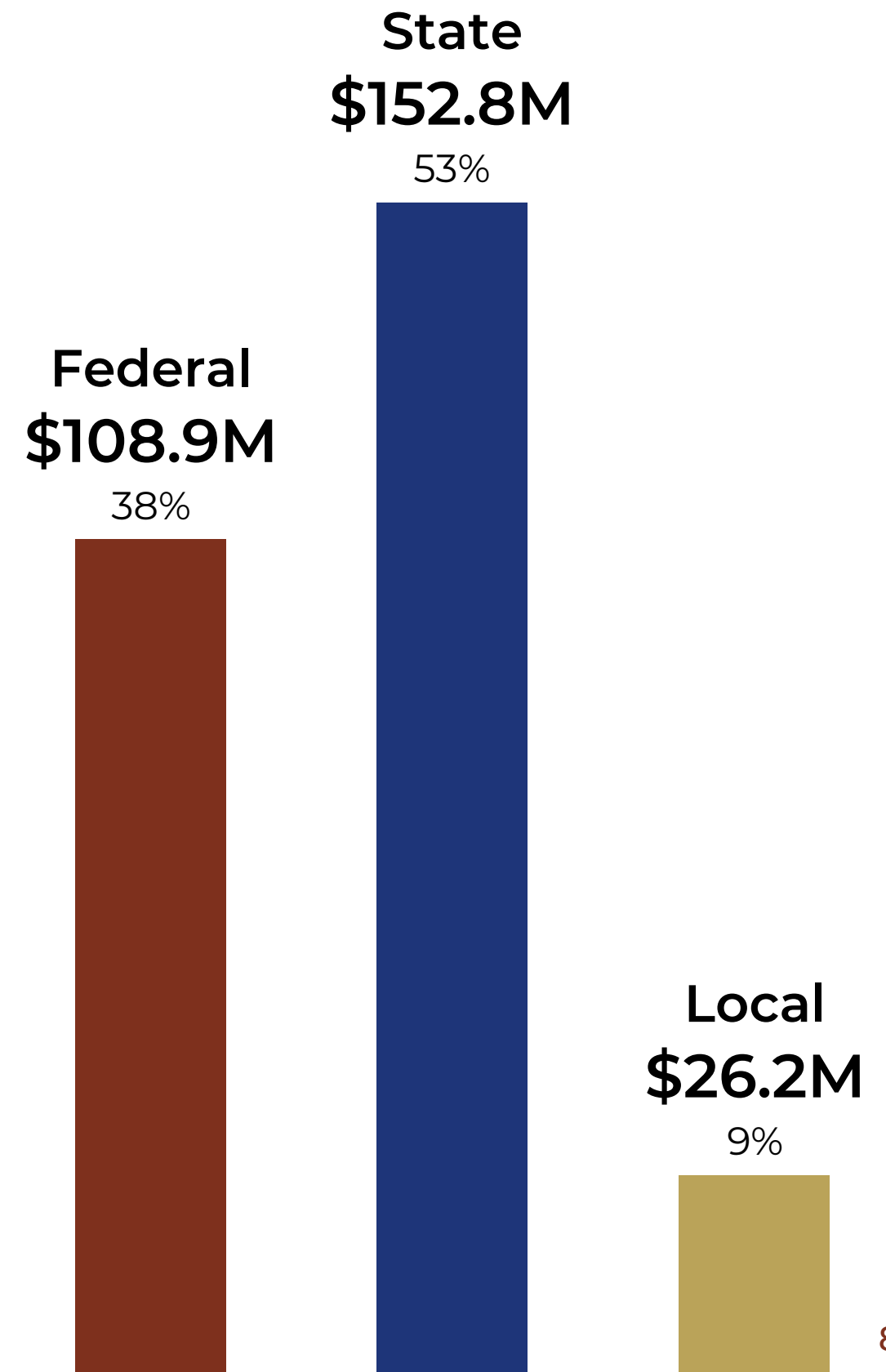
State and Local Projects
\$67,529,131



Transit, Funding and Grants
\$34,915,831



ITS and Maintenance
\$35,146,923



The TIP document and online interactive map of projects are available at: <https://ocalamariontpo.org/plans-and-programs/transportation-improvement-program-tip>

Transportation Disadvantaged Focus

Safety First

A major focus for the TPO in 2022 was to include safety to the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) community. The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a workshop on June 16 dedicated entirely to brainstorming, strategizing, collaborating and partnering for better, safer streets and roads in our county with an emphasis on our TD community. On behalf of our TD community the TPO will remain vigilant and assist in improving the streets and roads wherever possible.



Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) – Annual Update

Annually the TDLCB ensures that the availability of efficient, cost-effective and quality transportation services is provided for the transportation disadvantaged population. The TD program concept is to offer a level of service comparable to that provided to persons without disabilities. To incorporate the use of a specialized service that will provide door-to-door transportation assistance for disabled or economically disadvantaged persons is key. The TPO and the TDLCB's involvement help guide and support the CTC in implementing service standards that are consistent with the needs of the TD community. The TPO updated the TDSP in 2022 to incorporate the new census data and statistics along with addressing basic mobility needs to maintain and surpass the required standards in accordance with the community's needs.



Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) – Annual Evaluation

The CTC is responsible for coordinating and providing services to individuals who are transportation disadvantaged within the county. In 2022, the TPO conducted an annual review of the CTC (Marion Transit) in all areas of operation. This was accomplished through interviews, audits, quality checks, rider surveys, and ride-along on the buses for observation.

As a means to improving service, Marion Transit (MT) placed a sealed drop box for comments on every bus. This will allow for input from the riders on an ongoing basis. MT regularly makes the necessary changes to maintain happy riders. Additionally, MT continually trains their drivers and staff to uphold quality standards.

Social Media Highlights



National Stop on Red Week

August 7 through August 13

National Stop on Red Week serves as an important reminder of the dangers in transportation and the responsibility we hold as drivers to #StopOnRed. The goal during National Stop on Red Week was to educate the public on the dangers of red-light running by reviewing historic red-light running data trends and working with passionate advocates such as President of the National Coalition for Safer Roads (NCSR), Melissa Wandall. On August 11, 2022 the Ocala Marion TPO along with the NCSR and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) held a "Stop on Red Pop-Up Event". The event was held at the intersection of Silver Springs Boulevard (State Road 40) and Pine Avenue (U.S. 441) to raise awareness about the dangers of red-lighting running to reduce the number of severities in crashes. Numerous First Responders, Local and State Government staff and elected officials, including TPO Chair Ire Bethea, Sr. attended the Stop on Red event.



Mobility Week

October 21 through October 28

Mobility Week is a statewide initiative led by the FDOT that began on October the 21st and ended on October 28th, 2022. Mobility Week is a way of bringing communities together to highlight different modes of transportation and ways of getting around. On the Ocala Marion TPO Facebook and Twitter pages we highlighted TPO Director, Rob Balmes as he participated in Mobility Week by Biking and Riding into work using our local transit, SunTran. We also highlighted City of Ocala Senior Transit Planner, Ji Li as he participated by Parking his vehicle and riding into work also utilizing the SunTran.



Social Media Strategies Summit

May and December

Our Social Media Coordinator, Shakayla Irby was able to attend two Social Media Strategies Summits. Both Summits were held virtually and included keynote speakers from a mix of industries who shared social media strategies used to grow brands and community engagement. A wide range of topics were covered and some of them included:

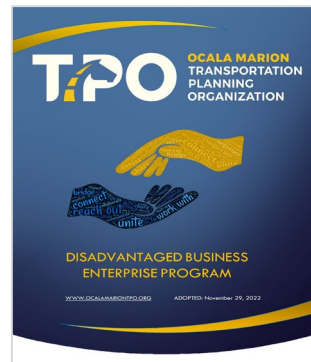
- Keys to Conquering Your Twitter Presence
- Growing and Engaging Facebook Community
- Leveraging Social Media Metrics & Data to Track Social Media Success
- How to Operate Social Media at Maximum Output with a Small Team
- A Collaborative Approach to Managing Social Media
- How to Stay Consistently Creative with Your Content
- Inspiring Action from the Community Using Social Media
- Getting Important News and Services in Front of Your Residents



New Planning Documents



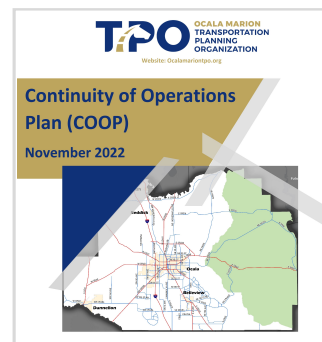
As part of its ongoing service to the community and partner agencies, the TPO developed four new planning documents in 2022.



Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

This federally required program was established to ensure that firms owned by minorities, women and other socially and economically disadvantaged person(s) have an equal opportunity to compete and participate in United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)-assisted contracts and subcontracts through the TPO. In 2022, the TPO Board adopted a DBE program to document how the TPO's procurement and contracting process is in accordance with the federal and state regulations of the U.S. DOT and Florida Department of Transportation.

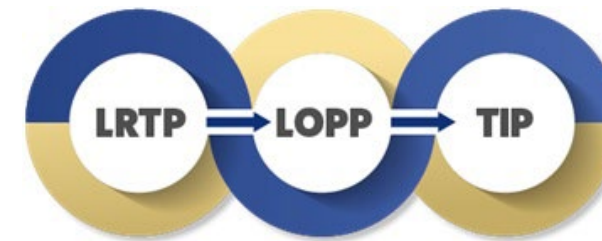
<https://ocalamariontpo.org/disadvantaged-business-enterprise-program-dbe/>



Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

A Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is formal guidance outlining necessary actions to ensure essential organizational functions continue despite an extended interruption caused by a declared emergency or disaster event. In 2022, the TPO Board adopted a COOP as part of ongoing process documentation and proactive planning procedures.

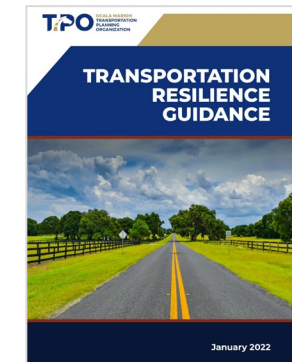
<https://ocalamariontpo.org/continuity-of-operations-plan-coop/>



List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Policies and Procedures

Annually, the TPO adopts a List of Priority Projects (LOPP) to identify projects for future federal and state funding opportunities. In 2022, the TPO published a Policies and Procedures guidance document to ensure a more predictable and consistent process is followed year-to-year.

<https://ocalamariontpo.org/priority-project-list/>



Transportation Resilience Guidance

Resiliency is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions to the transportation system. The TPO published in 2022 a technical white paper that outlines a concise overview of resilience, federal policy, state initiatives, funding opportunities and a cursory level vulnerability assessment of the transportation system in Marion County. A companion online interactive map of potential hazards is also available on the TPO's website.

<https://ocalamariontpo.org/transportation-resilience>

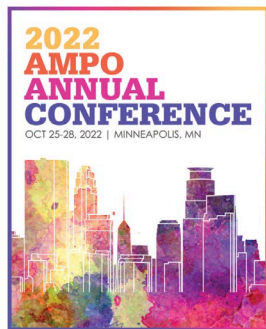
Public Outreach and Events

Throughout the year, the TPO was engaged in public outreach involving key areas of responsibility ranging from the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to major planning projects like Commitment to Zero.

The TPO also participated in a number of national, state and local events. Some of these major events included:



- 2022 Annual Marion County Day
- City of Belleview Youth Commission
- Transportation Disadvantaged Annual Workshop, Orlando
- FDOT/National Coalition for Safer Roads Stop on Red Event, Ocala
- Marion County Public Schools Walk Your Child to School Day
- Florida Mobility Week 2022
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) National Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- Social Media Training Workshops
- Bring the Harvest Home, Marion County



From January to July, the TPO hosted a Commitment to Zero Public Survey and online Comment Map. A Commitment to Zero project page on the TPO website was also created to serve as a public platform for transportation safety in our community.

2022 Public Participation Highlights



Commitment to Zero Public Survey

197
participants



Online Comment Map

40
safety location comments



30 in-person board and committee meetings



6 Commitment to Zero working group, community, and partner workshop meetings



20,000+
page views
and

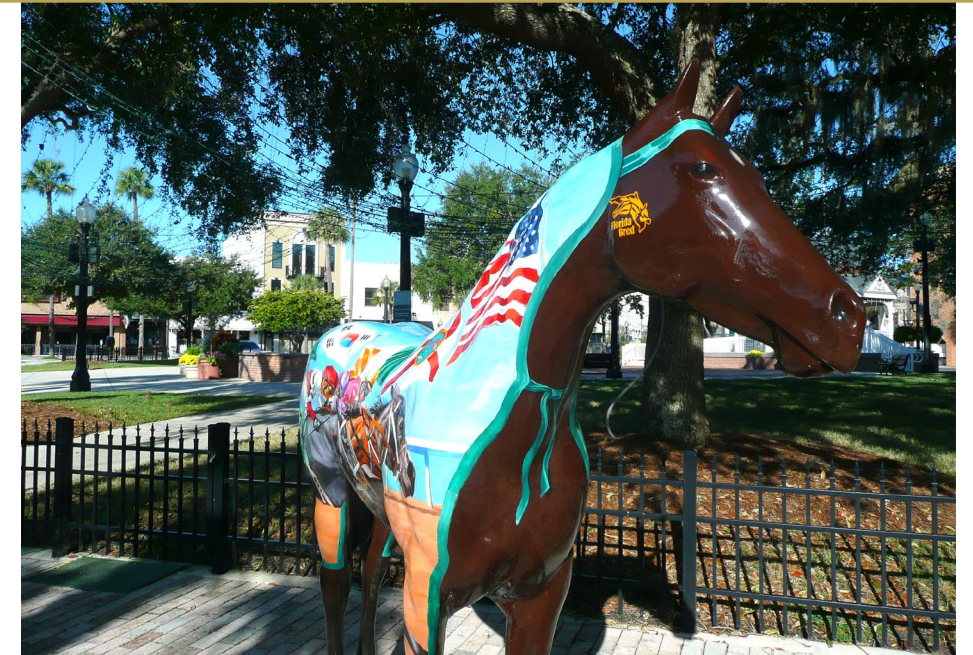
6,700
users on the TPO website



385+
social media posts
on the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages


Ocala Marion TPO – Contact Us

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and nondiscrimination statutes, regulations and authorities, the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from the transportation planning process and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of background, income level or cultural identity. Anyone requiring special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or requiring language assistance (free of charge) should contact Liz Mitchell, Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator at: 352-438-2630.




TPO Staff

Rob Balmes, AICP CTP
Director

 352-438-2631


 Rob.Balmes@marionfl.org

Shakayla Irby
Administrative
Specialist III/Social
Media Coordinator

 352-438-2633

 Shakayla.Irby@marionfl.org

Liz Mitchell
Grants
Coordinator/Fiscal
Planner/Title VI

 352-438-2634

 Liz.Mitchell@marionfl.org



2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, FL 34470

(352) 438-2630
ocalamariontpo.org

Established in 1981, the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) serves an over of over 1,600 square miles with a population of 385,000, and includes the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala and Marion County.

Our Mission

To plan for a future transportation system that is safe and accessible for the residents and visitors of our community.

Our Vision

A transportation system that supports growth, mobility and safety through leadership and planning.

Fast Facts 2022



321,791
Number of licensed drivers
in Marion County



472,940
Number of registered vehicles
in Marion County



**OCALA MARION
TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING
ORGANIZATION**

The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is responsible for coordinating transportation projects, including highway, transit, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and paratransit, throughout the county. The TPO allocates federal and state transportation funds and works to improve the region's transportation system by developing a variety of plans and programs.

5,770
Bellevue

1,992
Dunnellon

391,983
Population of
Marion County

2022 BEBR Estimate

64,951
Ocala

318,334
Unincorporated



90+ Miles of bike lanes in
Marion County



240+ Miles of sidewalks in
Marion County



93
Fatalities

261
Serious Injuries

9,973
Total Crashes**

223,799
SunTran
Passengers
Annually



7
Fixed SunTran
Bus Routes

70,758
Marion Transit
Passengers
Annually

**Rail Lines in
Marion County**

51
Miles of Class A
rail lines

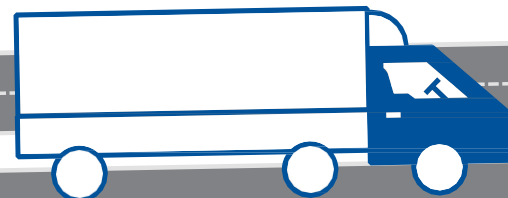
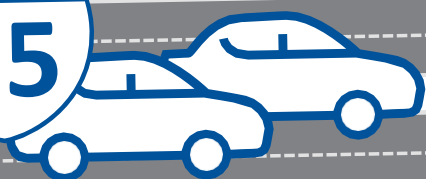


102
Miles of rail lines

**Highest Average Daily Auto
and Truck Traffic on I-75**

103,000
Total Vehicles
per Day

22,000
Trucks per Day



56,181
Ocala International
Yearly Operations

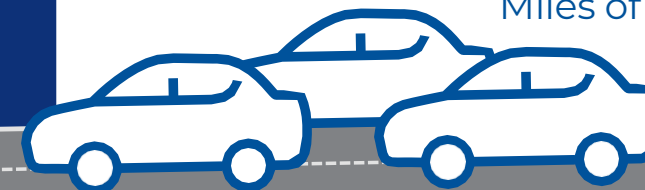


38,603
Marion County
Yearly Operations

4.70 Billion
Total Annual Vehicle
Miles Traveled

38.3
Miles of Interstate (I-75)

4,039
Miles of Roadway



Data Sources: Marion Transit; SunTran; City of Ocala; Marion County; Florida Department of Transportation; Florida Highway Safety (FLHSMV); Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR); University of Florida Signal Four; Federal Transit Administration; Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Updated December 2022



www.ocalamariontpo.org



2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 438-2630





OCALAMARIONTPO.ORG

FOLLOW US ON



@OCALAMARIONTPO