



Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES Thursday, November 9, 2017

Neil Combee Administration Building, Commission Boardroom
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Voting Members Present:

Commissioner Todd Dantzler
Commissioner John Hall
Commissioner Bill Braswell
Commissioner Melony Bell
Commissioner Don Selvage, *Chairman*
Commissioner Bill Read
Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, *Vice-Chairman*
Mayor Eugene Fultz
Commissioner Pat Huff

Representing:

Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
City of Lake Wales
City of Bartow

East County Block Voting Members:

Mayor Charles Lake

South County Block Voting Members:

Mayor Rodney Cannon

East County Block Alternate Members:

Commissioner Willie Quarles

South County Block Alternate Members:

Commissioner Barbara Manley

Advisory Members Present:

Secretary L.K. Nandam
Randy Mink
Tom Deardorff

Others Present:

Jennifer Stults
Rich Butala
Rod Wetzel
Addie Javed
Brian Ribaric
Christopher Hatton
Mary Crowe
Millie Brown
Bessie Reina

Representing:

City of Lake Alfred

Representing:

City of Frostproof

Representing:

Town of Dundee

Representing:

City of Fort Meade

Representing:

FDOT, District One

TPO Legal Advisor

Polk TPO Asst. County Manager

Representing:

Florida Turnpike

Pennoni

LAMTD

City of Haines City

FTE/Atkins

Kimley-Horn

Florida Southern College

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Department of Transportation

Laura Herrscher	Florida Department of Transportation
Kim Long	Polk Vision
Chuck Barmby	City of Lakeland
Kelly Cranford	Pennoni
Annette Crews	Polk TPO
Ronnie Blackshear	Polk TPO
Curtis Knowles	Polk TPO
Ryan Kordek	Polk TPO
Xiomara Meeks	Polk TPO
Diane Slaybaugh	Polk TPO
Julia Davis	Polk TPO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Selvage called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Selvage acknowledged Curtis Knowles for his years of service with the Polk TPO and wished him well on his new journey with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Ms. Annette Crews, Polk TPO staff, confirmed a quorum of 11 voting members. Mayor Rodney Cannon, City of Frostproof, represented the South County Block and Mayor Charles Lake, City of Lake Alfred, represented the East County Block.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Don Selvage opened the floor for public comment. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

5. AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO Director, reviewed agenda highlights which included Florida Department of Transportation Draft Tentative Five Year Work Program for FY 2022/23 as a new fifth year. Mr. Deardorff made note that in the packet there was a draft resolution 2017-05 which objected to the five year work program and stated that the resolution was pulled from the agenda. Most of the items on the agenda were related to safety or have a safety related theme and include two resolutions texting while driving and vulnerable road users. An update will be given on the Pledge to Slow Down Campaign.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mayor Charles Lake, seconded by Commissioner Melony Bell. Motion carried without dissent.

7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

A. Review/Comment on Florida Department of Transportation and Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise FY 2018/19-2022/23 Draft Tentative Work Program – Ms. Laura Herrscher, Florida Department of Transportation, gave an introduction about the Draft five year tentative work program for FY 2019/2023. Ms. Herrscher introduced Ms. Bessie Reina, Florida Department of Transportation. Ms. Reina presented a slideshow on how the work program is developed and the types of projects for which FDOT is responsible. Ms. Herrscher reiterated that the SR 544 project development and environmental phase project had been taken out of the work program, but FDOT re-evaluated that need and reprogrammed that project. That project will be in the updated transmittal for the FY 2019. Mayor Lake asked about changes at the Lake Alfred exit. Ms. Herrscher stated that the Lake Alfred exchange is in the design phase. No other questions or comments. Mr. Deardorff commented regarding the recommendations from the TAC and TPO Staff. Mr. Deardorff presented a slideshow that included attachment 1 Priority Transportation Projects, Priority 3, and Priority 20 and reviewed all the projects that FDOT discussed.

Motion: Motion to approve by Mayor Eugene Fultz, seconded by Commissioner Melony Bell. Motion carried without dissent.

B. Request/Approve Draft Resolution TPO Resolution 2017-05 urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation Making Texting While Driving a Primary Offense - Mr. Deardorff presented a slideshow about Texting While Driving and changing this offense from a secondary to a primary offense. Mr. Deardorff introduced Ms. Mary Crowe, Florida Southern College. Ms. Crowe discussed texting and driving, and the 3 foot to pass law. This law is unenforceable in Florida unless the person hits someone. Mayor Lake commented about people texting and driving and bicyclist riding and texting.

Motion: Motioned by Mayor Charles Lake, Seconded by Mayor Eugene Fultz. Motion carried without dissent.

C. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2017-07 Requesting the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation that Increase the Protection of Vulnerable Road Users – TAC and Polk Vision Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Team recommended that the TPO Board approve the vulnerable road user act that will enforce moving over for emergency and service vehicles.

Motion: Motion to approve by Commissioner Pat Huff, seconded by Commissioner Bill Read. Motion carried without dissent.

D. Schedule TPO Board Meeting for December 14, 2017 - Mr. Deardorff discussed the meeting change for December and ask the Board to approve a meeting for December 14, 2017. Items to be addressed in December are going to be The Florida Turnpike Enterprise making progress on Segment 1, the design process of the Parkway from existing Polk Parkway down to US 17. FDOT next fiscal year will be conducting a US 27 corridor study and a project development study for SR 33 I-4 Interchange. The City of Lakeland will be sharing some information regarding their current work on a proposed intermodal center.

Motion: Motion by Mayor Charles Lake, seconded by Commissioner Bill Read. Motion Carried without dissent.

8. PRESENTATIONS

- A. SR 570 (Polk Parkway) at Braddock Road Interchange Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study** – Mr. Brian Ribaric, Florida Turnpike Project Manager, invited everyone to the public hearing that is upcoming on Dec 14, 2017. Mr. Ribaric discussed adding a new interchange at Braddock Road with the Polk Parkway. Florida Turnpike is also looking at doing some improvements on Braddock Road, four- laning it from the Parkway over to Berkley. The purpose and the need for this will be to add capacity for future needs and economic development and emergency evacuations and emergency access. Turnpike is proposing to utilize two roundabouts at the intersections of the ramps with Braddock instead of having a standard four way stop sign configuration. Florida Turnpike is looking to four lane Braddock Road from the North side of the existing roadway. Other improvements will be an intersection at the Suntrax Access Rd which will connect with the future City of Auburndale baseball fields. Adding two new signals, one at Berkley and Braddock Rd and the other will be at the Access Road and the ball field with Braddock. The Suntrax facility is currently under construction and will be holding the ground breaking on Monday the 13th at 10 AM.
- B. Update on Pledge to Slow Down Campaign-** Ms. Tina Mann, Communications Specialist, provided an update on the Pledge to Slow Down Campaign. The Pledge to Slow Down Campaign was created as an educational program to increase the public’s knowledge about the dangers of increase speed and the factors involved in speed related fatalities. To date more than 400 people have signed The Pledge. The Pledge is now available in Spanish. Ms. Mann presented the third and fourth public service announcements and acknowledged the City of Lake Alfred and all the Lake Alfred staff for their help with the newest PSA’s.
- C. Providing Safe Routes to Schools**
- 1. Safe Routes to Schools Program School Sidewalk Coverage Analysis** – Mr. Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff, presented the Safe Routes to Schools Program and presented a slideshow about the program. Mr. Kordek discussed the SRTS Technical Memorandum which is a guide to submitting a SRTS grant application. An analysis was completed this year and evaluated that there are 179 miles of collector and arterial roads within a mile of a school in Polk County that do not have sidewalks. The top ten schools that do not have any sidewalks equaled around twenty three miles. Commissioner Melony Bell asks if there are grants available for crossing lights at certain school locations. She discussed the issues on Edgewood Drive in Fort Meade for the children that have to cross over to the Ag Department and for the children that walk to school in the dark. The Polk Co. School Board wants to partner with the City of Fort Meade to place a crossing light at this location for the safety of the children. Mr. Kordek replied that there are grants for things like that but that that the Trail Project might cover this particular item.
 - 2. Polk Vision Efforts** – Mr. Selvage introduced Ms. Kim Long, Polk Vision. Ms. Long discussed how Polk Vision is the aligning agency and community resource to help promote safe routes to school. No questions or comments.

9. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. L.K. Nandam, Florida Department of Transportation District One Secretary, discussed the implementation for the complete streets. Mr. Nandam stated that the responsibility of FDOT is to ensure that they build the right street at the right place. No other questions or comments.

10. Communications and Reports

- A. Walkability Action Institute** – Mr. Deardorff discussed the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. NACDD has a division of nutrition, physical activities, and obesity. NACDD will be holding the 4th annual walkability and the MPO's are the lead agencies to propose a team of individuals to attend a 4 day training that will provide free food and lodging which will be held April 9-12, 2018 in Decatur, GA.
- B. Tiger Grant** – Mr. Deardorff discussed that Polk County is requesting 22 million dollars in the form of a Tiger Grant for Central Polk Parkway and Bartow Northern Connector.
- C. Freight Logistics Zone** – Hillsborough and Polk County are partnering together for projects for this logistics zone and Mr. Ronnie Blackshear, Polk TPO Staff will be the overseer for this project.
- D. MPOAC Weekend Institute** – MPOAC council is offering a weekend in Orlando in April 2018 and a weekend in Tampa in June 2018 for anyone on the Board interested or any city officials interested. The December 14, 2017 TPO Board Meeting will be starting at 9:00 AM not 9:30 AM.

11. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Melony Bell thanked the FDOT for their help with the Superhero Commuter Day. Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong thanked Secretary Nandam for the 2 projects in Winter Haven that were not taken off the work program. Commissioner Barbara Manley commented about the Peace River Bridge in Fort Meade and about the funding for the right of way in 2021. Ms. Manley asks how or could The Peace River Bridge project be moved up on the priority list. Chairman Selvage asks Mr. Deardorff if the bridge could be addressed in the January TPO meeting and Mr. Deardorff expressed that it will be discussed in the December TPO meeting. Commissioner Melony Bell commented about hurricanes and that there is funding for hurricane problems such as projects like the Peace River Bridge. Chairman Selvage announced that this is his last meeting and that being a part of the TPO Board for the last eight years has truly been a wonderful experience working with the Polk TPO. Chairman Selvage thanked Secretary Nandam and his fellow board members. Chairman Selvage acknowledged Commissioner Bell and Commissioner Hall that may be moving on to bigger and better seats. Chairman Selvage turns the gavel over to Mayor Pro Team Nat Birdsong. Vice-Chair Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong commented about being on the Board for the last 10 years with Commissioner Selvage and the appreciation for his service to the County and the cities.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully transcribed by Annette Crews, Polk TPO Staff

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.