



Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES Thursday, December 14, 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 George Lindsey
Commissioner Phillip Walker
Commissioner Bill Read
Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, *Vice-Chairman*
Commissioner Jim Malless
Commissioner Jack Myers
Commissioner Roy Tyler

Representing:

Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
Polk County BoCC
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
City of Lakeland
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City

East County Block Voting Members:

Mayor Charles Lake

South County Block Voting Members:

Commissioner Barbara Manley

East County Block Alternate Members:

Commissioner Willie Quarles

South County Block Alternate Members:

None

Advisory Members Present:

Secretary L.K. Nandam
Randy Mink
Tom Deardorff

Others Present:

Jennifer Stults
Brian Ribaric
Millie Brown
Laura Herrscher
Chuck Barmby
Sarah Catala
Frank Bernardino

Representing:

City of Lake Alfred

Representing:

City of Fort Meade

Representing:

Town of Dundee

Representing:

None

Representing:

FDOT, District One
TPO Legal Advisor
Polk TPO Asst. County Manager

Representing:

Florida Turnpike
FTE/Atkins
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
City of Lakeland
Florida Department of Transportation
Anfield Consulting

Carol Scott	Florida Department of Transportation
Marc Hustad	Turnpike/HNTB
Dave Carter	Carter Engineering
Trish Pfeiffer	Bartow City Commission
David Hitchcock	BCSRE
Adam Purcell	AECOM
Tom Presry	KCD
Jeff Arms	HDR
Merle Bishop	City of Winter Haven
Martha Santiago	City of Winter Haven
John Ryan	Sierra Club
Pam Magot	HNTB
Jessica Dean	ATKINS
Rax Jung	FTE
Ron Parasrom	Florida Department of Transportation
Beth Evans	Pennoni
Cyndi Jantomeso	Haines City EDC
Justin Bansen	Kittelson&Associates
Sean Byers	City of Winter Haven
Jimmy Vilea	Florida Department of Transportation
Rusty Mouton	Center State Bank
Bruce Lyon	Winter Haven EDC
Sharon Garrett	Citizen
Stephen Verberne	Lochner
Todd Gardina	KCA
Theron Stangry	Citizen
Snarisse Kenney	HBR
Tracy Mouncey	TMA
Annette Crews	Polk TPO
Ronnie Blackshear	Polk TPO
Ryan Kordek	Polk TPO
Xiomara Meeks	Polk TPO
Diane Slaybaugh	Polk TPO
Julia Davis	Polk TPO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Mayor Pro Tem Birdsong called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Mayor Pro Tem Birdsong had no announcements at this time.

3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Annette Crews, Polk TPO staff, confirmed a quorum of 13 voting members. Commissioner Manley, City of Fort Meade, represented the South County Block and Mayor Lake, City of Lake Alfred, represented the East County Block.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Mayor Pro Tem Birdsong opened the floor for public comment. Sharon Garrett landowner east of of Haines City, commented about the Polk Parkway and that she is opposing the eastern leg. No other public comment, therefore the floor was closed.

5. AGENDA REVIEW

Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO Director, asked the board to pull Agenda Item 7A. Mr. Deardorff gave an overview of each item on the agenda and who would be presenting each presentation.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Malless. Motion carried without dissent.

7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

A. Public Hearing on Draft Amendment to the FY 2017/18-2021/22 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – This item was pulled from the package per Mr. Deardorff.

B. Recommendation on Central Polk Parkway (CPP) Segment 1 and Bartow Northern Connector (BNC) Phase II – Jennifer Stults, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, introduced Brian Ribaric, with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. Ms. Stults invited everyone to a public hearing on Dec. 14, 2017 regarding the Braddock Road Interchange at 5PM at the Ariana Beach Clubhouse. Mr. Ribaric discussed Central Polk Parkway Segment 1, the potential funding sources, and the scheduled timeline for the project. Commissioner Braswell asked questions about the funding difference between 1A and 1B. Mr. Ribaric stated that they have not started looking at the pricing; they are looking more at the engineering and the environmental side and trying to understand and make sure that they satisfy the purpose and need of their mission in providing the connection. Ms. Stult's replied on the funding issue and stated that 1B will be all tolled and 1A would be all free roads. Ms. Stults also made clear that no businesses would be affected or have to be bought out on 1B. Mr. Deardorff commented that one of the actions today was to ask the turnpike to conduct a project development environmental study. Mr. Deardorff stated there is a concept but all the details have not been worked out. One discussion that has been discussed with the Florida Turnpike is that when they go into the PD&E study phase they will need to address the local land access and if Central Polk Parkway Segment 1 is redefined so that it will extend down to SR60 then some options to be looked at in the future will be that the SR60 corridor and the existing right of way could be used for future segments of the Central Polk Parkway. Mr. Deardorff reviewed resolution 2017-08 and the Polk TPO supports the merger of Bartow Northern Connector Phase II and Central Polk Parkway Segment I into a single project and adopt a redefined Central Polk Parkway Segment I which would go from Polk Parkway all the way down SR60 as the number one priority project and it would serve the same purpose as Bartow Northern Connector Phase II. Polk TPO will support the project development and environmental study for Alternative IB for Central Polk Parkway and lastly it encourages a partnership between Florida Turnpike Enterprise, FDOT District I, Polk County BoCC and other local governments to fund the newly defined Central Polk Parkway Segment I.

The Resolution also states that the Polk TPO Board will support the redirection of any allocated federal, state or local funds from the Bartow Northern Connector to Central Polk Parkway Segment I. Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Walker both commented to Mr. Deardorff. Mr. Deardorff thinks that we have an improved traffic circulation system within the City of Bartow and that there is an opportunity to have a relatively short term solution on how we serve regional traffic issues.

Motion: Motioned by Commissioner Lindsey, Seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried without dissent.

8. PRESENTATIONS

- A. US 27 Corridor Study (SR60 to Lake County Line)** – Sarah Catala, FDOT District 1 Project Manager for the upcoming US 27 corridor Alternative Analysis. Ms. Catala gave a brief overview of the project. The analysis will encompass approx. 31 miles from the SR 60 Lake Wales area and travel north to the US 192 intersection on Highway 27 with Lake Co. The intent of the study is to develop multi-modal strategies to address the congestion and mobility issues along this corridor. Secretary Nandam commented that FDOT will be working with Florida Turnpike to see what opportunities are there for express lane type situation on US 27 while looking at multi-modal needs along US 27. Informational item only.
- B. Potential Connection to Poinciana Parkway** – Dave Carter, Carter Engineering, commented about the Parkway and that the idea was to parallel US 27 and tie into I-4 to help relieve some of the congestion on US 27. Mr. Carter showed a slideshow regarding the right of way cost for Segment 8. Mr. Carter introduced Paul Senft, Manager of Community Redevelopment. Mr. Senft reminded everyone in the County that the logo the county uses is because we are the crossroads of Florida therefore congestion in Polk County is built in and not leaving anytime soon. He reviewed bullet points of a reduction in the expense of the Segment 7 and 8 of the old Central Polk Parkway because it was projected to be very expensive. All this will be corrected and no interchange will have to be over 17 and no need for a connection to I-4 because the Central Florida Expressway Authority will handle that. The Osceola Authority will bring the Expressway down to Poinciana and Polk County would then be dealing with FDOT. Commissioner Lindsey asked FDOT about the funding and if this concept make sense. Secretary Nandam directed the question to Florida Turnpike. Ms. Stults commented that Florida Turnpike is not currently or actively studying this area, but stated that they could always evaluate any concepts that are presented to them. Ms. Stults stated that she would take this information back to the Florida Turnpike for review. Secretary Nandam suggested that the Polk TPO and Florida Turnpike sit down together and discuss the project and bring back recommendations to the Board. Mark Bennett, Urban Planner City of Haines City, discussed a limited access road that never happened in the Tampa Bay area. Mr. Bennett distributed a newspaper article regarding roads not taken and failed transportation plans which left Tampa Bay where it is today. Mr. Bennett believes that Polk County is urbanizing and developing at a point where Pinellas County was at 50 years ago. Informational item only.
- C. I-4 at State Road 33 Interchange Modification Project** – Jimmy Vilce, Project Manager FDOT District 1. Mr. Vilce is currently working on the SR 33/I-4 Interchange reconstruction project. The current project is to widen the existing two lane undivided road into a four lane facility and add pedestrian sidewalk features. Mr. Vilce introduced Stephen Verberne,

Consultant Project Manager, who reviewed the project purpose and where they are with the design, project schedule and funding. The project purpose is to reconstruct I-4 and SR 33 Interchange to replace the bridges and provide a wider median along I-4 for future expressway or transit construction. SR 33 would be reconstructed from a two lane undivided facility to a four lane suburban facility with a 55MPH design speed. It will improve access management and safety along SR33 and construct wide shoulders for bicycle accommodations. The existing two lanes would be turned into the south bound lanes and the reconstruction would occur towards the east side of existing SR 33. Changes being looked at are roundabouts at the ramp terminals at the I-4 Interchange, University Blvd., and the North Combee Interchange. Informational item only.

D. Proposed Downtown Lakeland Intermodal Project – Chuck Barmby, City of Lakeland Community Development discussed the Lakeland Intermodal Center. Several studies, vision plans and parking studies have been done. The area being considered for this project is mainly behind the Lakeland Police Department on a parking lot site that can currently accommodate about 200 vehicles. The concept being given to FDOT will include a potential parking garage that could serve future commuter rail, serve the Amtrak station and it would be the north end of an overpass that would come across the rail line into the core of Downtown Lake Mirror. Lakeland has an opportunity to partner with Citrus Connection, Greyhound and other mass transit providers in the area so that they can incorporate a full transit terminal or a very significant transfer point into the facility to serve the routes that exist today between Lakeland, Winter Haven, and Bartow. During the multiyear analysis process it will give an opportunity to look at potential project funding sources whether it is a State or Federal level. This will be a very visible location in the downtown area so there will be a lot of stakeholders interested in what happens. Mr. Barmby introduced Tom Phillips, Citrus Connection Director. Mr. Phillips expressed that their biggest concern about the current transit terminal is the proximity of the bus riders and the buses to the CSX tracks that butt directly up to the property, no additional ability for expansion, and the ingress and egress onto Florida Ave. is not signalized, therefore, the buses are having to wait for traffic which is causing congestion. Mr. Barmby closed with the City of Lakeland’s understanding is that FDOT is working to fund a vision study for this effort and it is expected in the next fiscal year. Informational item only.

9. Florida Department of Transportation Report

Laura Herrscher, FDOT, commented that they are actively putting together a scope to have a consultant begin a study to look at the Intermodal Center and options that would include looking at the Transit Terminal and potential new sites with a rail parking garage area along Lake Mirror. The main point is having a safe rail crossing for pedestrians. Millie Brown, FDOT District 1, gave three project updates. The first project was SR 555 from Ave G SW to Ave A SW resurfacing project in Winter Haven; the second project Bomber Road in Bartow; both completed around Thanksgiving week. The last project was the John Singletary Bridge in Fort Meade. The PD&E study is currently wrapping up and FDOT is moving forward with advertising for design consultants. Commissioner Bell asked if they were going to keep the original bridge or if a new one was going to be built. Secretary Nandam commented that they are not keeping the existing bridge because it would require a maintenance agreement with the City of Fort Meade. Commissioner Bell commented to FDOT that she thought they were going to keep the original bridge there and allow people to use it for a bike trail. Ms. Herrscher commented that the PD&E study looked at several options and there would be a separate bicycle

pedestrian facility to connect up to the trail and try to maintain if possible some of the historic railings on the current bridge to use maybe as an entrance or gateway to the new bicycle pedestrian crossing. Informational item only.

10. Communications and Reports

- **Final Pledge to Slow down Video** – Mr. Deardorff commented that there are currently 510 pledges completed and the Polk TPO is gearing up for the community presentations for the 2018 year. Tina Mann, Communications Specialist, presented all the PSAs for the campaign. Ms. Mann recognized the PGTV Team for their hard work and dedication on the PSAs.

- **State of the Transportation System Community Forum** – Mr. Deardorff announced the next Community Forum which will be held on Feb 1, 2018 in the Commission Board Room. Mr. Deardorff also recognized Xiomara Meeks for her hard work and service to the Polk TPO and also recognized Commissioner Malless and Commissioner Myers for their service on the TPO Board.

11. Opportunity for Public Comment

Floor opened to public. Sharon Garrett, landowner commented about toll roads and semi-trucks and suggest that 17/92 needs to be addressed.

12. Board Member Comments

Commissioner Lindsey recognized Commissioner Hunnicutt and Commissioner Selvage for their service on the TPO Board. Commissioner Lindsey also recognized Representative Killibrew who helped get funding for the Bartow Northern Connector and stated that we will need his help to get the funding moved over to the new game plan. Commissioner Bell also recognized Representative Killibrew, and the FDOT. Commissioner Hall commented about Hwy 98 between Lakeland and Bartow that it is a three-lane parking lot and requested FDOT consider designating one lane as a no truck lane. Commissioner Walker gave his appreciation to everyone on the Board. Commissioner Birdsong commented about the upcoming year and that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:57 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.