



**Polk Transportation Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 26, 2017**

Neil Combee Administration Building, Room 413
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Members Present:

Sean Byers
Amy Palmer
Addie Javed
Amea Bailey
Fred Hillard
Thomas Emharth
Jerry Rodriguez
Marisa Barmby
Bill Skelton
Rod Wetzel
Thado Hays
Teresa Maio
Chuck Barmby
Kathy Bangley
Jeff Schmucker
Bob Weigers

Representing:

City of Winter Haven
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
City of Lake Alfred
City of Fort Meade
City of Eagle Lake
Polk County School Board
Town of Dundee
Polk County Roads & Drainage
LAMTD
Polk County Planning
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Lake Wales
Town of Frostproof
City of Bartow

Others Present:

Millie Brown
Brain Riburic
Stephan Verberne
Mark Bennett
Jennifer Stults
William Roll
MaryBeth Soderstrom
Merle Bishop
Justin Reck
Diane Slaybaugh
Chanda Bennett
Xiomara Meeks
Ronnie Blackshear
Tom Deardorff
Ryan Kordek
Julia Davis
Curtis Knowles
Annette Crews

Representing:

FDOT
FTE-Atkins
HW Lochner
City of Haines City
Turnpike
Kimley Horn
HRTPO
City of Winter Haven
FDOT
Polk TPO Staff
Polk LRP
Polk TPO Staff
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Call to Order, Roll Call

Chairperson Amy Palmer called the TAC Meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 16 members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Motioned by Thomas Ernharth, seconded by Addie Javed
Motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Review

Ryan Kordek, TPO Administrator, highlighted the topics and action items on the meeting agenda. One topic will be added that is on the new revised agenda.

1. Update on FDOT and Turnpike Enterprise Projects

Brian Ribaric, Florida Turnpike, was here to invite everyone to the public hearing for the Braddock Rd Interchange and the four lane project. At the public hearing they will present the roundabouts at the interchange ramps is intended to help with traffic at Braddock Rd. Item A and B were for informational purposes only.

A. State Rd 570 Braddock Road Interchange Project Development and Environmental PD&E Study - Mr. Ribaric presented a slideshow on the PD&E Study of Improvements on adding a new interchange at Braddock Rd and also four laneing Braddock Road from the Polk Parkway over to Berkley. Mr. Braddock stated that they are at capacity and they are trying to improve mobility in the region and emergency accesses as well as provide an opportunity for economic development with the sun trax facility that's under construction now. They are anticipating that area to grow quickly.

B. I4 and SR 33 Interchange Modification Project - Justin Reck, FDOT presented a slideshow for the I4/SR 33 Interchange. There will be no lanes added to I-4 but they will be reconstructing the bridges due to some deficiencies and providing a wide median along I-4.

2. Review/Comment on FDOT and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise FY 2018/19-2022/23 Draft Tentative Work Program

Mr. Kordek discussed the FDOT and Florida Turnpike Enterprise's FY 2018/19-2022/23 Draft Tentative Work Program and introduced Jennifer Stults, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. Ms. Stults, reviewed the Summary of the Florida's Turnpike portion of the Tentative Work Program. The Polk Parkway will be widened from mile marker 18 to 22 and this will be the last remaining segment to be four laned so the entire facility four lanes will be complete when this project is done. In FY 20/21 Florida's Turnpike will be converting the two remaining main line Polk Plaza to all electronic tolling. Merle Bishop asks a question about additional consideration by FDOT for alignment of the Central Polk Parkway on the Segment 7 & 8 on the Eastern leg, and if there had been additional consideration for the alignment particularly where it joins up by I-4 about the visibility and the funding. Ms. Stults stated that yes this is the part they are looking at but they are also looking at the project as a whole. Ms. Stults said the reason the jobs were

sequenced 1 thru 8 was because they knew the Interchange at I-4 was going to be the heaviest lift. That particular job has to go through Federal PD&E and there were a lot of challenges connecting I-4. Mr. Kordek presented a slideshow and discussed how the Polk TPO program works with priority projects and discussed the priority transportation projects that are currently being addressed. Merle Bishop asks questions about 542 north being eliminated from the Work Program when it's the fastest growing area of the county. Millie Brown, FDOT, commented that it has not been deleted but it gained program for 2024. FDOT experienced a huge short flow deficit in the Work Program and in order for FDOT to balance the work program a lot of larger projects had to be shifted a year or two. FDOT is hoping that with the availability of more funding that those projects will be pushed off or put back in or advanced. Kathy Bangley was concerned about the integrity of projects being represented in the work program because the Hwy 27 project is not correct. The interchange is in the work program as 4192434 and it includes 18 miles, and that is not the interchange. Ms. Bangley stated that also includes the widening of presidents drive 60 which has a completely different number. Ms. Bangley stated that she has both sets of plans on her desk. Marissa Barmby's concern is when these things fall off the work program aside funding money for them how do they get back on the program. Mr. Barmby expressed his concern for the deletions, and is it because of revenue declines or project increase or all of the above? Mr. Barmby expressed we have not heard anything from Washington or Tallahassee about getting real on how we fund our road system. We are not seeing gas tax increases and we certainly have not seen any in 25 years at the federal level so how can we generate funding locally. Mr. Barmby expressed that we are not seeing increases in impact fees either so that is a larger question here. If we want to see these road projects to continue to move forward in our lifetime what can we do on the revenue side to put a package together and convey it to our elected officials nationally, statewide and locally to make some of these more feasible? It seems every 15 years we are running into this problem and going back to the 2005 and 2000 scenario where we saw a big decrease in the work program. Ms. Brown commented that construction cost is increasing very heavily therefore that causes a rise in project cost. As far as the work program there were certain projects that FDOT could not touch like essential office funded projects and service projects so FDOT had to target projects that were not in those categories and shift those out as they saw fit. FDOT is hoping that with the ability of extra or more funds they can put those projects back into the work program or advance them. Mr. Kordek discussed the priority projects for Transit, Multi-Use Trail and Complete Streets and Safety. Haines City phase 2 got funded which are three parks in the last phase to complete the loop around Lakeland. Polk City got some design money, as well as Transit got funding for new Transit shelters. Several Complete Streets projects got funding to be completed which include Wabash Ave Complete Street, AVE K Complete Street sidewalk project, as well as North Crystal Lake Dr in Lakeland. Ms. Brown advised there will be revised reports that will be going out with the final transmits. Mr. Barmby stated that for the motion it would be to restore both phases on 542 as a top priority of the TPO funding, research opportunities to replace funding for the Drainfield Warring Intersection, evaluate changes to the description of the US 27 and 60 Interchange project in Lake Wales and for the resolution it would be to address funding State wide, Federal and local funding opportunities to restore other projects in the work program.

Motion: Motioned by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Merle Bishop. Motion carried without dissent.

3. Update on TPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Initiatives

- A. **Safe Routes to Schools** - Xiomara Meeks, Polk TPO Staff passed out a Safe Routes to School tech draft memo which gave an idea of what comes along with filling out an application for the Safe Routes to School. Ms. Meeks reviewed the project that was funded a few years ago in Babson Park through the safe routes to school. Crystal Lake School was funded about five hundred thousand for crosswalks, sidewalks, and lighting. Polk County will be completing this project. Ms. Meeks expressed that Polk TPO has given an entire list of sidewalk needs to Polk County Roads and Drainage for their sidewalk committee.
- B. **Pledge to Slow Down Campaign** – Julia Davis, Polk TPO Staff, showed 3 videos on the Pledge to Slow Down and discussed Walkability Grants. Ms. Davis reviewed two resolutions that support Legislation that will make texting while driving or the use of a wireless communication device while driving a primary offense. The second resolution was the vulnerable persons or vulnerable people act and this is a reminder to move over and provide 3 feet of space when you see a construction worker, utility worker, bicyclist or someone in the road. This Act will give you permission to cross the yellow lines to get out of their way.

Motion: Motioned by Kathy Bangle, seconded by Chuck Barmby. Motion carried without dissent.

4. Proposed Downtown Lakeland Intermodal Project

Chuck Barmby, City of Lakeland, presented the Lakeland Intermodal Center slideshow. Mr. Barmby discussed studies that have been done related to a parking garage in the downtown Lakeland area, and that there is a vacant lot behind the Lakeland Police Department that could potentially be an opportunity to look at and several different types of funding to build the garage and support an Intermodal Center. Mr. Barmby also expressed that there is a lot happening in and around the downtown area that would be very supportive of an intermodal center. Rod Wetzel, Citrus Connection, stated that the complaints they get from customers is that when it rains they get wet due to no shelter at the current terminal. When the terminal was built it was for smaller buses and now they are currently using 40 foot buses. Mr. Wetzel stated that it is going to cost to replace the current terminal but it has served its purpose in the last twenty years for transit but it no longer is providing what they need. This was for informational purposes only.

5. Communications and Reports

- A. **Sun Trail Program** - Mr. Kordek reviewed the map for the Sun Trail Work in Polk County.
- B. **Central Polk Parkway Update** - Tom Deardorff, TPO Director, gave an update on the Central Polk Parkway.
- C. **Freight Forum Recap** – Ronnie Blackshear, Polk TPO Staff, gave an overview on the Polk TPO Freight Forum that was held Oct. 18, 2017. The Forum was a three tiered set up that discussed the perspective from Government, the perspective regarding freight, and an economic perspective. There were about 20 individuals who attended and the next Community Forum will be in Feb 2018 and the topic will be State of the Transportation system and in the Spring of 2018 the topic will be on

distracted driving and the Summer of 2018 Polk TPO will be partnering with the Turnpike Enterprise and discuss Sun Trax.

D. Calendar – Mr. Kordek reviewed the Proposed 2018 Calendar dates.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Motion: Motioned by Chuck Barmby, Seconded by. Motion carried without dissent.

Respectfully transcribed by Annette Crews, Long Range Planning Office Manager

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he will need 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.

DRAFT