



**Polk Transportation Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Draft MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Neil Combee Administration Building, 2nd floor Training Room
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Members Present:

Sherry Carver
Amy Palmer, *Vice Chairman*
Bob Wieggers (late)
Clint Eliason
Kathy Bangley, *Chairman*
Chuck Barmby
Richard Lilyquist (late)
Rick Perez
Sean Byers
Brenda Taguri (late)
Rodney Wetzell
Marisa Barmby

Others Present:

Lauren Brooks
Domingo Noriega
Tara Jones
Stephen Cox
Lori Carlton
Amy Sirmans
Gwen Pipkin
Brian Bollas
Thado Hays
Ronnie Blackshear
Curtis Knowles
Ryan Kordek
Xiomara Meeks
Cherie Simmons
Diane Slaybaugh
R J Walters
Ben Dunn
Peyton McLeod
Theo Prtritsch

Representing:

Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)
City of Auburndale
City of Bartow
City of Haines City
City of Lake Wales
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
Polk County Schools
Polk County Transit Services
Town of Dundee CFRPC

Representing:

AECOM
AECOM
CH2MHILL
City of Bartow
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Parsons Brinkerhuff
Polk County Long Range Planning
Polk TPO Staff
Sprinkle Consulting
Sprinkle Consulting

Call to Order, Roll Call

Chairman Kathy Bangle called the TAC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 9 members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Amy Palmer motioned to approve the March 26, 2015 meeting minutes. Chuck Barmby seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Review

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff highlighted the significant topics and action items on the committee's agenda.

1. I-4 Poinciana Parkway Connector

Amy Simans, FDOT gave a brief introduction of the project and introduced Tara Jones, FDOT's consultant who gave the presentation. The Florida Department of Transportation is conducting a Project Development and Environment study, or P D and E study, to evaluate a range of alternatives for enhanced access between the Poinciana area and Interstate 4 in Osceola County or the planned Central Polk Parkway in Polk County. Osceola County and the Osceola County Expressway Authority (or OCX) developed a master plan to meet the needs of the County's growing population. The Master Plan vision consists of several major projects in various stages of development to create a continuous expressway, linking the planned growth areas in the County.

The study area under evaluation is a very large area that is generally bound by U.S. 192, Poinciana Boulevard, Cypress Parkway (also known as County Road 580), U.S. 27 and Interstate 4. The study area includes both Osceola and Polk Counties, and the Florida Department of Transportation Districts 1 and 5. The proposed facility is identified in the MetroPlan Orlando's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Several related, independent highway projects are proposed within the study area – the Poinciana Parkway (currently under construction), the Southport Connector, the Central Polk Parkway, the re-evaluation of I-4, and the extension of Ernie Caldwell Boulevard. In the future, the population and congestion on local roads are expected to increase, affecting the movement of goods and people, evacuation, and emergency response times. As a result, there is a need for enhanced access between Poinciana and I-4 without adding congestion to the existing roads.

The purpose of the project is to provide an enhanced roadway connection and ultimately provide access to I-4 from the greater Poinciana area, enhance mobility within the region, improve the overall traffic operations on the existing roadway network and promote regional system linkage.

The results of the alternatives development and public involvement will be documented in the Draft Environmental report which will be available for review prior to the Public Hearing anticipated for 2018. The PD and E Study is anticipated to be complete in 2019 after the Final Environmental document is prepared. Six corridors were developed that involve

improvements to existing roads or a new roadway, and a new or modified interchange with I-4 within the study area. For each corridor, the future daily traffic volumes in the year 2045 were forecasted. Corridors 1, 2, 3 and 4 are predicted to carry the most traffic, while Corridors 5 and 6 carry about half as much. This is due, in part, to what is call the “origins” and “destinations” in the area, and that most people want to get to (and from) the Metro Orlando area via I-4.

2. Review/Approve Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff presented the TPO Updated PPP. The plan is updated periodically as part of an ongoing attempt to increase the effectiveness of community outreach efforts. Major elements and public comments were reviewed. A public hearing will be held on the PPP at the June 11th TPO Board meeting.

Motion: Chuck Barmby motioned to approve the TPO’s Draft Public Participation Plan. Amy Palmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried without dissent.

3. High Crash Corridor Bike/Pedestrian Study

Ben Dunn, TPO staff gave a brief introduction to the item and introduced Consultants from Sprinkle Consulting Firm. Peyton McLeod, Project Manager from Sprinkle updated the committee on the status f the study. The goal of the project is to reduce the number and severity of pedestrian or bicycle crashes in Polk County. This project will result in safety action plans (prioritized short-term actions) to include engineering, education and enforcement improvements and strategies designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in Polk County. The analysis processes were reviewed. The High Crash Location Identification/Prioritization Methodology were also reviewed

4. Momentum 2040 Update

A. Neighborhood Mobility Audits

Adam Purcell and Lauren Brooks, URS provided a final update to the committee. The audits studied traditionally underserved neighborhoods and their access to essential services. The purpose of the audits was to identify potential improvements to enhance access to services through walking, biking and transit. The evaluation factors such as location of residential use, location of essential services, commute patterns and modes, crash data, review of mobility factors and a field review were all used for this study. Sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use trails, streetscapes, crossings, gateways, schools and transit facilities and service were some of the recommended types of enhancements. Some examples of project enhancements were shown to the committee.

Xiomara Meeks, TPO staff presented the results of the public outreach efforts associated with this project. 348 people were surveyed. 26% did not own a car and 34% traveled 5 mile or more for groceries. The next step will be priority discussions with jurisdiction members.

B. 2040 LRTP Needs Assessment

Ryan Kordek gave a brief update on the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The TPO is required to adopt a new LRTP every five years. The challenges, performance, growth and demands of the Needs Assessment were discussed. All project needs and performance targets were reviewed. The Needs assessment key issues were also reviewed by Mr. Kordek. The next step is to update the Cost Feasible Plan from July to September. Plan Adoption is planned from October to December.

Motion: Chuck Barmby motioned to approve the 2040 Needs Assessment. Richard Lilyquest seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

5. Review/Approve Draft Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for Fiscal Year 2015/16 – 2019/20

Xiomara Meeks, TPO staff presented the Draft TIP for approval by the committee. In order to meet federal requirements, the TPO must adopt and maintain a TIP document annually. Projects included in the TIP are derived from FDOT's Five Year Work Program and local government Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). The TIP is essentially an implementation tool for how state and federal funds will be spent on transportation projects in Polk County.

Projects included in the TIP must be listed accurately to include the proper funding source, amount, a precise description of the project, the year programmed, and correct project limits in order to receive federal funding. In accordance with the TPO's Public Participation Plan, a 45-day public comment period for the draft document opened on April 27, 2013. A public hearing is scheduled for this item at the TPO Board meeting on June 11, 2015 and the board will hear public comments prior to taking action on this item.

Motion: Bob Wieggers motioned to approve the Draft FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 TIP. Marisa Barmby seconded the motion. Motion Carried without dissent

6. Review/Approve Draft 2015 Priority Transportation Projects

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff presented the Draft 2015 Priority Transportation Projects for approval. These priority projects will be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation as input to the development of its Draft Tentative Work Program.

Motion: Richard Lilyquist motioned to recommend approval of the Draft 2015 Priority Transportation Plan. Bob Wieggers seconded the motion. Motion Carried without dissent

7. Committee Discussion on Polk Rail Study

Gwen Pipkin, FDOT staff updated the committee on the Polk Rail Study. The study began in the spring of 2012 and was completed in the fall of 2014. The study contains short and long term solutions. The goal of the study was to improve regional freight and highway mobility while enhancing safety and minimizing impacts to urban areas and the environment. The Polk Rail Study identified 10 potential alternatives for the long term removal of train traffic from downtown urban areas. Short term solution included quiet zones, Intelligent Transportation System, overpasses and underpasses. FDOT and the City of Lakeland's recommendation were discussed.

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff made a recommendation that FDOT work with the TAC to come up with some metrics and benchmarks about the long term solutions.

8. Communications and Reports

A. Community Forum Update

- a. Held May 21, 2015
- b. Winter Haven Public Library
- c. 38 attendees

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed by Cherie Simmons, TPO 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.