



**Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board**

**Draft MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, December 10, 2015**

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

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**Voting Members Present:**

Commissioner Jack Myers  
Commissioner Pat Huff  
Commissioner Roy Tyler  
Mayor Eugene Fultz  
Commissioner Jim Malless  
Commissioner Don Salvage, *Vice Chairman*  
Commissioner Phillip Walker (late)  
Mayor Nat Birdsong  
Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Hunnicut  
Commissioner Melony Bell  
Commissioner Todd Dantzler  
Commissioner John Hall  
Commissioner George Lindsey, *Chairman*  
Commissioner Ed Smith

**East County Block Voting Members:**

Mayor Charles Lake

**South County Block Voting Members:**

Commissioner Barbara Manley

**East County Block Alternate Members:**

None

**South County Block Alternate Members:**

Commissioner Collins Smith

**Advisory Members Present:**

Secretary Billy Hattaway

Tom Deardorff

Randy Mink

**Others Present:**

Lori Carlton

Kevin Ingle

Sarah Catala

Amy Setchel

Christopher Hatton

Tom Deardorff

Cherie Simmons

**Representing:**

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  
City of Winter Haven  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC

**Representing:**

City of Lake Alfred

**Representing:**

City of Fort Meade

**Representing:**

**Representing:**

City of Mulberry

**Representing:**

FDOT, District One

Polk County TPO

TPO Legal Advisor

**Representing:**

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Department of Transportation

Kimley-Horn and Associates

Polk County TPO

Polk County TPO

Ronnie Blackshear  
Curtis Knowles  
Ryan Kordek  
Xiomara Meeks  
Diane Slaybaugh  
Tricia Pichette  
76 Citizens

Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Lake Ashton Community

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Lindsey called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Lindsey recognized the many residents of the Lake Ashton Community in attendance and welcomed them to the meeting.

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Cherie Simmons, TPO Office Manager confirmed a quorum with 15 voting members and 1 alternate. Commissioner Barbara Manley is representing the South County Block and Mayor Charles Lake is representing the East County Block.

### **4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Lake Ashton Community chose two residents to speak on their behalf. There were 76 residents in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Larry Sims, 4169 Stone Creek Loop, Lake Wales, Lake Ashton Community stated that he the Lake Ashton Community residents were at the meeting to express opposition to the new proposed location, segment three of the Central Polk County Parkway. He stated that the community is not opposed to the development of the Parkway, only the new location of segment three. He stated that when the public hearings were held in 2011 most of the south portion of the development was not yet completed. Many of the residents present at this meeting were not residents until after 2013. The location of the segment at the public hearing was a different location than what is now presented as segment three. This new location will greatly impact there community with noise and pollution.

Mr. David Vind, 4185 Stone Creek Loop, Lake Wales, Lake Ashton Community requested that the Northern Alternative of segment three be changed to the Southern Alternative of segment three of the Central Polk Parkway project. He also requests that FDOT make the changes to their maps on their website as soon as possible. All of the residents from the Lake Ashton Community who were in supports of the Southern Alternative for segment three were asked to stand. He turned in a 280 signature petition to Mr. Tom Deardorff.

Mayor Eugene Fultz stated that he and the City of Lake Wales are standing with the Lake Ashton residents.

Commissioner Melony Bell stated that she also stands with the Lake Ashton residents and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

## **5. AGENDA REVIEW**

Tom Deardorff, TPO Executive Director briefly reviewed the agenda. The only change is the February 2016 meeting date

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

There was one change to the Consent Agenda. The February 16, 2016 TPO Board meeting will be changed to February 25, 2016.

**Motion:** Commissioner Ed Smith motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the noted change. Mayor Nat Birdsong seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

## **7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Review/Approve TPO Resolution 2015-06 Recommending the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) as Designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County**

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff presented TPO Resolution 2015-06, which recommends LAMTD as the Designated CTC for Polk County. Chairman Lindsey asked if the Polk Transit Board could change their meeting dates to meet in February, June, August and October immediately following the TPO Board meetings. The Board agreed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Don Selvage motioned to approve the TPO Resolution 2015-06 as presented. Commissioner Melony Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

### **B. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Xiomara Meeks, TPO staff presented the TIP Amendments. Five amendments were reviewed. TPO Staff and the TAC recommend approval of the amendments to the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 TIP. Public Hearing was opened. With no comment heard Hearing was closed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Melony Bell motioned to approve the amendments to the TIP as presented. Commissioner Don Selvage seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

### **C. Public Hearing on Draft 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (Momentum 2040)**

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff presented the Draft Momentum 2040 Plan. He discussed what methods the TPO used to get comments from the public and gave a summary of what was heard. TPO held and participated in many different events to make contact with the public. The public was asked how responsive the 2040 Momentum Plan is to their needs. Mr. Kordek reviewed some of the plan successes and unmet aspirations. Polk TPO staff and the TAC recommend approval of the plan. Public Hearing was opened. With no comment heard Hearing was closed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Don Selvage motioned to adopt the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented Commissioner Jim Malless seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

**Motion:** Commissioner Jack Myers motioned the Polk TPO to request the FDOT to advance funding and to reconstruct the SR 33 interchange at the earliest opportunity. Commissioner Jim Malless seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

## **8. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Status Report on Central Polk Parkway**

FDOT Secretary Billy Hattaway reported on the Status of the Project. Mr. Hattaway stated that FDOT would follow up with the Lake Ashton Community on their concerns about segment three. There are no funds to advance this project. Alternative project are being reviewed to help with the concerns about traffic movement through the project area. The US 27 Corridor is being evaluated from SR 60 to Interstate 4 for congestion management projects.

**Motion:** Commissioner Melony Bell motioned to recommendation to FDOT in support of the southern alternative of Segment three of the Central Polk Parkway. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

### **B. Status Report on Complete Streets Corridor Feasibility Studies**

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff gave a brief introduction to the study. He introduced Project Manager Christopher Hatton of Kimley-Horn and Associates. Mr. Hatton presented a very detailed update on the progress of the study. Eight corridors were ultimately selected to address specific needs on a corridor-by-corridor basis for this study. These corridors were selected based upon a methodology which included key factors such as safety, local agency and stakeholder support, and economic development. Examples of improvements were reviewed. The next step is to complete the recommendations for the eight corridors.

## 9. AGENCY REPORTS

### Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

#### A. SR 60 Grade Separation over CSX Rail Line

Amy Setchell, FDOT staff presented the project. The project is located 3,600 feet west of to 2,700 feet east of CSX crossing #625419N and is approximately 1.2 miles in length. The existing and proposed typical sections were reviewed. The project is a bridge with frontage access roads to access adjacent properties. The PD&E study began October 2014. Preparation of State Environmental Impact Statement (SEIR) is underway. Design consultant began engineering services in April 2015. Right-of-way acquisition is funded in FY 2017, with construction funded in 2019.

#### B. Updates to Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan

Sarah Catala, FDOT staff presented the SIS updates. A brochure called Florida Transportation Plan Vision Element was handed out to the board. Ms. Catala provided an overview of the FTP and provided a short description of the contents of the draft FTP Policy Element, and the importance of the plan and followed up with SIS Policy Plan updates. The FTP serves as the transportation plan for all of Florida. The SIS comprises the state's largest and most strategic transportation facilities. The FTP will have three elements, Vision, Policy and Implementation Elements. The SIS is just one of the ways the FTP is implemented. You can find online resources for the FTP/SIS at [www.floridatransportationplan.com](http://www.floridatransportationplan.com).

Commissioner Ed Smith complimented FDOT on the brochure, Florida Transportation Plan Vision Element. The brochure is very attractive and easily understood.

#### Polk Transit

No Report

## 12. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

There will be a Federal Certification Review and public meeting immediately following the TPO Board Meeting.

## 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## 14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Commissioner John Hall:

- a. Formation of the Polk County Sidewalk Committee, which will study sidewalk needs and make recommendations back to the BoCC. This committee was established in 2015 and is doing a great job for Polk County.
  - b. Question: Is there a way to limit the heavy truck traffic to the two right lanes on US98? Secretary Hattaway stated that FDOT has the ability to do that on the interstate, but has never been asked to do it on the arterial system and explained some of the challenges with getting it done. Mr. Hattaway will look into the problem and report back to the board. He is not aware of it ever being done.
- B. Commissioner Melony Bell:
- a. Congratulated Mayor Nat Birdsong and Commissioner Phillip Walker on their re-elections.
- C. Mayor Charles Lake:
- a. Thanked Polk County for re-paving CR557 in Lake Alfred.
  - b. Traffic Light is needed at Lake Alfred school crossing and pedestrian markings.
- D. Commissioner Jim Malless
- a. LAMTD Board Retreat on January 13, 2016. All are invite to provide input.
- E. Commissioner Ed Smith:
- a. Comment about CR557 truck traffic and thanked FDOT for all of its work on the road.

## **15. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.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 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.*