



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

**Draft MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 25, 2016**

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 Bill Read  
Commissioner Don Selvage, *Vice Chairman*  
Commissioner Phillip Walker  
Commissioner Nat Birdsong  
Commissioner Steven Hunnicut  
Commissioner Melony Bell  
Commissioner George Lindsey, *Chairman*  
Commissioner Ed Smith

**East County Block Voting Members:**

Mayor Charles Lake

**South County Block Voting Members:**

Vice Mayor Collins Smith

**East County Block Alternate Members:**

None

**South County Block Alternate Members:**

None

**Advisory Members Present:**

Jennifer Stultz  
Tom Deardorff  
Randy Mink

**Others Present:**

Sharon Garrett  
Liz Johnson  
Sidney Rosenberg  
Shundreka Givan  
Lori Carlton  
Laura Lockwood  
Keith Robbins  
Ben Walker  
Christopher Hatton  
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 Lakeland  
City of Winter Haven  
City of Winter Haven  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC  
Polk County BoCC

**Representing:**

City of Lake Alfred

**Representing:**

City of Mulberry

**Representing:**

**Representing:**

**Representing:**

FDOT, District One  
Polk County TPO  
TPO Legal Advisor

**Representing:**

Citizen  
Citizen  
Citizen  
Federal Highway Administration  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Florida Department of Transportation  
HNTB  
Kimley-Horn and Associates  
Polk County TPO

Ronnie Blackshear  
Curtis Knowles  
Ryan Kordek  
Xiomara Meeks  
Diane Slaybaugh  
Tricia Pichette  
Carol Scott

Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Polk County TPO  
Turnpike Enterprise

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Lindsey called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Chairman Lindsey had no announcements.

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Cherie Simmons, TPO Office Manager confirmed a quorum with 15 voting members. Vice Mayor Collins Smith is representing the South County Block and Mayor Charles Lake is representing the East County Block.

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

Chairman Lindsey opened the floor for public comment. With no comment heard floor was closed.

## **5. AGENDA REVIEW**

Tom Deardorff, TPO Executive Director briefly reviewed the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** Commissioner Nat Birdsong motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to Commissioner Hunnicut's title. Commissioner Don Selvage seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

## **7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Review/Approve Draft Strategic Plan for the Polk TPO**

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff briefly reviewed the plan. This is a two year plan. He highlighted action items from year one and two. This plan will form the basis for Draft FY 2016/17 – 2017/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The TAC endorsed the plan for approval by the TPO Board. A brief discussion about sidewalk connectivity

followed the presentation. Chairman George Lindsey gave a brief update on the progress of the County's Sidewalk Committee.

There were some questions from the Board about issues at New Beginnings High School. Lori Carlton, FDOT staff stated that the City of Winter Haven needs to submit an Safe Routes to School application for funding for the sidewalks. TPO staff stated that Winter Haven have already begun the application process. It was stated that staff will report on New Beginnings and the new Discovery High Schools sidewalk issues at the April TPO Board meeting.

Mayor Charles Lake asked are any new sidewalks planned for the new high school in Lake Alfred. Curtis Knowles, TPO staff stated that the project was currently in review with the county.

**Motion:** Commissioner Don Selvage motioned to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

At his discretion, Chairman Lindsey reopened the public hearing after noticing that several citizen were coming in late due to the parking situation at the Administration Building.

Sharon Garrett, Carl Boozer Road requested that someone look at the sidewalk issues from the Haines City High School to Hansen Avenue. Xiomara Meeks, TPO staff stated that Haines City has submitted an application for sidewalks. The application has been forwarded to FDOT. Ms. Garrett's other statement was that 17/92 need to be widened.

Liz Johnson, 5708 River Terrace, Tampa. Thanked Chairman Lindsey for reopening the public hearing. Ms. Johnson is standing in opposition of the Tampa Bay Express Project.

With no other comments being heard, public hearing was closed.

## **8. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Closeout of Lakeland/Winter Haven Transportation Management Area Certification Review**

Shundreka Givan, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff presented the Closeout Presentation of the Lakeland and Winter Haven Transportation Management Areas Federal Certification Review. The Federal Review Team consisted of five members.

The certification process was broken up into four parts:

- A.** Desk Audit: Review of MPO planning products.
- B.** Site Visit: September 15-17, 2015, meetings and discussion with the MPO, FDOT, transit operators, and the general public.

- C. Final Report: January 2016, Prepared by FHWA and FTA, summarizing the review findings and certification action
- D. Closeout Presentation: February 25, 2016

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Lakeland and Winter Haven TMAs substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until January 2020. The review team commended the Polk TPO for its leadership, participation and the coordination among the staff in preparation for the TMA Certification Review

## **B. Tampa Bay Express Project**

Menna Yassin, FDOT staff gave a brief presentation on the Tampa Bay Express Project. The project boundary is from 50<sup>th</sup> Street in Tampa to the Polk Parkway in Polk County along the I-4 Corridor and is in the PD&E stage. It is also referred to as the Interstate 4 Express Lanes Project. Mr. Ben Walker, HNTB was introduced as the Consultant Project Manager. FDOT is conducting this PD&E study in an effort to enhance safety and reduce congestion along I-4. An improved I-4 corridor will provide for better mobility and the ability to accommodate future growth while reducing delay and travel time to drivers. It is also consistent with local and regional transportation plans. As part of the PD&E process, environmental impacts are also evaluated. This includes cultural as well as natural and biological impacts. The project has no cultural impacts. All wetlands have been previously disturbed by roadway construction, adjacent land uses, and invasion of exotic species. Several protected species are being reviewed. The noise evaluation showed that there are four sites that could potentially benefit from a noise barrier being constructed. These potential locations include the southwest quadrant of the Orient Road interchange, just east of Armwood High School, along South Frontage Road in Plant City, and just east of Charlie Taylor Road in Plant City. These sites will be further investigated during future phases. The advantages and disadvantages of the recommended build and no build alternatives were reviewed. The design, right-of-way acquisition and construction are not currently funded.

## **C. Florida Department of Transportation District (FDOT) One Freight Mobility and Trade Study and Implementation Plan**

Keith Robbins, FDOT staff provided an overview of the findings of the District One Freight Mobility and Trade Study and implementation Plan. The purpose of the presentation is to provide an executive-level overview of the findings of District One's Freight Mobility and Trade Study, and their way forward in developing the District One Freight Mobility Implementation Plan. The study area and goal for the study were reviewed. Five Technical Memos were products of study. Mr. Robbins discussed the policies and plan review, data collection and analysis and assets inventory processes. Needs assessment and improvements prioritization were also reviewed. There are four main components to the plan, which were reviewed. District One is seeking public and private sector input on several of the components. This is a flexible and dynamic plan that can be modified as required for the changing landscape.

## 9. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

**Motion:** Commissioner Roy Tyler motioned to appoint Commissioner Don Selvage as Chairman of the TPO Board. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

**Motion:** Commissioner Steven Hunnicut motioned to appoint Commissioner Nat Birdsong as Vice-Chairman of the TPO Board. Commissioner George Lindsey seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

Commissioner Selvage chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## 10. Board Appointments

Ronnie Blackshear, TPO staff gave brief description of each appointment.

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Committee**

**Motion:** Commissioner Ed Smith motioned that Commissioner Nat Birdsong and Mayor Charles Lake continue serving as the Polk TPO representatives for 2016. Commissioner Steven Hunnicut seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- **Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board**

**Motion:** Commissioner Phillip Walker motioned that Mayor Charles Lake continue serving as the Chairman of the TD LCB for 2016. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Nat Birdsong. Motion passed without dissent.

- **West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee**

**Motion:** Commissioner Ed Smith motioned that Commissioners Don Selvage and Nat Birdsong serve as the Polk TPO representatives for 2016 with Commissioner Steven Hunnicut as alternate. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- **Ridge Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entity**

**Motion:** Commissioner Pat Huff motioned that Mayor Eugene Fultz continue serving as the Polk TPO representative for 2016. Commissioner Steven Hunnicut seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- **Central Florida MPO Alliance**

**Motion:** Commissioner George Lindsey motioned that Commissioners Roy Tyler and Pat Huff continue serving with the addition of Commissioner Collins Smith as the Polk TPO representatives for 2016. Commissioner Barbara Manley will continue as the alternate. Commissioner Bill Read seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

## 11. AGENCY REPORTS

### Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Lori Carlton, FDOT staff:

- Relayed message from Secretary Hattaway in response to Commissioner Hall's question at the previous TPO Board meeting about restricting truck traffic on US 98. The question has been sent to central office in Tallahassee for consideration.
- Introduced Turnpike staff member Carol Scott. Ms. Scott brought word from the Turnpike Authority that the widening of the remainder of the Polk Parkway has been added to the tentative work program, FY 2018.
- Commissioner Don Selvage informed the board that the Lakeland Delegation met with Secretary Hattaway in Tallahassee at Polk County Day to discuss Exit 38 on I-4 at SR 33.

### Polk Transit

No Report

## 12. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- MPOAC Institute April 2016 in Orlando and May 2016 in Tampa
- March 31, 2016 at 4 pm, Community Forum at Haines City Public Library about Adaptive Signal Control Technology
- Showed two short videos (Mobile Minutes). Mayor Eugene Fultz is the voice in the video.

## 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Garrett, Carl Boozer Road:

- Scenic Highway near post office. Visibility problem when turning. Would like for someone to look at the problem
  - Answer: Intersection improvement is planned CR 544 and SR 17
- US 92 leading into Auburndale needs to be widened
- Problem with time of meeting
- Problem with Complete Streets
- Tampa Expressway- Will there be room on the side of the road for broken down cars?
- Noise at the CSX Logistical Center. Noise barrier promised.
  - TPO staff will check on this issue as directed by the Chairman

Sidney Rosenberg, 295 Dean Wells Avenue, discussed issues with Cypress Parkway in Solivita. Can the road be widened? Commissioner Smith commented on Mr. Rosenberg's concerns.

#### **14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Commissioner John Hall:
  - a. There is a new Greyhound Bus partnership at the Winter Haven Bus Terminal.
  - b. TBS to start tracking truck traffic
- Commissioner Steven Hunnicut:
  - a. Congratulated TPO staff on TMA certification:
- Commissioner Ed Smith:
  - a. Excited to see Greyhound come back to Winter Haven
- Commissioner Don Selvage:
  - a. Congratulations to Winter Haven on Greyhound coming back to Winter Haven.

#### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

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