



Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board

**Approved MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11, 2015**

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

Voting Members Present:

Commissioner Jack Myers
Mayor Roy Tyler
Commissioner Justin Troller
Commissioner Don Salvage
Commissioner Phillip Walker
Mayor Nat Birdsong
Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Hunnicut
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 Collins Smith

East County Block Alternate Members:

None

South County Block Alternate Members:

None

Advisory Members Present:

Chris Smith
Tom Deardorff
Randy Mink

Others Present:

Domingo Norieg
Mary Crowe
Chuck Barmby
Lori Carlton
Laura Lockwood
Gwen Pipkin
Amy Sirmans
Jennifer Stults
Christopher Hatton
Jared Schnider
Ron Bolla
Cherie Simmons
Ronnie Blackshear
Ryan Kordek

Representing:

City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
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

Representing:

City of Lake Alfred

Representing:

City of Mulberry

Representing:

Representing:

Representing:

FDOT, District One
Polk County TPO
TPO Legal Advisor

Representing:

AECOM
Bicycling in Lakeland
City of Lakeland
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Kimley-Horn and Associates
Kimley-Horn and Associates
Parson Buckhuff
Polk County TPO
Polk County TPO
Polk County TPO

Xiomara Meeks
Diane Slaybaugh
RJ Walters
Dick Combs
Peyton McLeod
Theo Petritsch

Polk County TPO
Polk County TPO
Polk County TPO
RKK
Sprinkle Consulting
Sprinkle Consulting

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 announced that Polk Rail Study item will be moved to the beginning of agenda.

3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Cherie Simmons confirmed a quorum with 13 voting members. Commissioner Collins Smith representing the South County Block and Mayor Charles Lake is representing the East County Block.

4. AGENDA REVIEW

Tom Deardorff, TPO Executive Director briefly reviewed the agenda..

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Crow, Bicycling in Lakeland asked the Board to speak to the persons designing the new parking garage in Bartow to consider bicyclists in the design including lockers, somewhere to lock bicycles for security shower facilities. Performed survey as to why people don't ride their bikes. The main reason was fear. She informed the board about a new program called Beginners Ride. Beginners Ride is on Wednesday and starts at Road and Trails Bicycle Shop in Highland City.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Phillip Walker motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Todd Dantzler seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

7. 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.

8. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

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

Xiomara Meeks, TPO staff presented draft amendments to the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 TIP. Federal legislation requires the TPO to prepare and adopt a TIP annually. The TIP identifies how all federal and state transportation money is anticipated to be spent in Polk County. The TIP includes highway, public transit, rail, aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, safety, and freight-related projects. The TPO's TIP must be consistent with its Long Range Transportation Plan. Projects must be listed in the TIP with the current phasing and funding in the year of expenditure in order to receive federal funds. This TIP includes FDOT's FY 2014 – 2019 Five Year Work Program, and transportation projects in local government Capital Improvement (CIP) Plans. 17 amendments were presented and project specifications were reviewed. TPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval.

Public hearing opened. No comments heard. Public hearing closed.

Motion: Mayor Nat Birdsong motioned to approve the amendments to the TIP as presented with the addition of the Bartow Northern Connector. Commissioner Todd Dantzler seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

B. Review/Approve Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff presented the TPO Updated PPP. Publicly Thanked RJ Walters for His work with the TPO. RJ is leaving the TPO .The plan is updated every three years as part of an ongoing attempt to increase the effectiveness of community outreach efforts. TPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the plan.

Motion: Commissioner Todd Dantzler motioned to approve the PPP update as presented. Commissioner Ed Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

C. Review/Approve Draft 2015 TPO 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. Mr. Kordek briefly highlighted some of the projects. TPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval. There were some question from the board. Mr. Kordek addressed

Motion: Commissioner John Hall motioned to approval of the Draft 2015 TPO Priority Transportation Plan with the addition of the Bartow Northern Collector and the request of the Citrus Connection. Mayor Nat Birdsong seconded the motion. Motion Carried without dissent.

9. PRESENTATIONS

A. Interstate 4 (I-4) Poinciana Parkway Connector

Amy Sirmans, FDOT District Five 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 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. 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 completed 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. A brief discussion followed the presentation.

B. Momentum 2040 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.

- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plans**

Theo Pietrick, Sprinkle Consultants presented the plans. The goal of the Safety Study 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 project and crash analysis processes were reviewed. The High Crash Location Identification/Prioritization Methodology was also reviewed. A brief discussion followed the presentation.

- **Neighborhood Mobility Audits**

Tom Deardorff briefly gave an update on the Audits. 12 community audits were performed. 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.

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.

- **Public Transportation**

Ryan Kordek reported on transit needs. He spoke about the need to restore cuts that have recently happened to the transit system in Polk County. He also briefly reviewed the Bicycle/Pedestrian safety Action Plan

- **Multi-Use Trails**

Ryan Kordek briefly reported on the Multi-Use Trail needs in Polk County. The targets that were discussed were regional multi-use trail connectivity to all cities. Eight cities currently have connectivity.

- **Highway and Freight Network**

Ryan Kordek briefly reported on the highway and freight network in Polk County. He reviewed a performance target of having less than 10% centerline miles congested during peak hour of travel. Currently 6% including 3.96 miles of severely congested and 21.3 of congested hour of travel. Public comments were reviewed by categories.

10. AGENCY REPORTS

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Lori Carlton, FDOT District, TPO Liaison:

- Regional Workshop
 - Florida Transportation Plan Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan
 - June 22, 2015 – Lake City
 - June 23, 2015 – Ft. Myers
 - June 24, 2015 – Ft. Lauderdale
 - June 25, 2015 – The Villages, Sumter County Service Center
- Handout - Road Watch Reports #23
- Handout - “Safe Phone Zones” at Florida Rest Areas

Jennifer Stults, FDOT District One and Ben Walker, FDOT’ consultant gave a presentation on the Collection and Distribution of Transportation Funds. Polk County’s rate-of-return was over 100% during FY1995 – FY2012. Polk County achieved an 88% rate-of-return during FY1995 – FY2018. Shares of collections and distribution have declined since FY2004. Transportation investments both in and around Polk County bring value to Polk’s citizens and visitors. These study results help the FDOT remain accountable for investment decisions.

Polk Transit

No Report

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Next meeting September 17, 2015

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None heard

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:20 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.