



Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board

**Draft MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 9, 2016**

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

Voting Members Present:

Commissioner Jack Myers
Commissioner Pat Huff
Mayor Eugene Fultz
Commissioner Jim Malless
Commissioner Don Selvage, *Chairman*
Commissioner Phillip Walker
Commissioner Nat Birdsong, *Vice Chairman*
Commissioner Steven Hunnicut
Commissioner George Lindsey
Commissioner John Hall
Commissioner Todd Dantzler

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:

Commissioner Barbara Manley

Advisory Members Present:

Secretary Billy Hattaway
Tom Deardorff
Elizabeth Voss

Others Present:

Sharon Garrett
Lori Carlton
Laura Herrscher
Debra Chenza
William Roll
Dave Walters
Cherie Simmons
Ronnie Blackshear
Curtis Knowles
Ryan Kordek
Xiomara Meeks
Diane Slaybaugh
Jean Parlow

Representing:

City of Auburndale
City of Bartow
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

Representing:

City of Lake Alfred

Representing:

City of Mulberry

Representing:

Representing:

City of Fort Meade

Representing:

FDOT, District One
Polk County TPO
TPO Legal Advisor

Representing:

Citizen
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Kimley-Horn and Associates
LAMTD
Polk County TPO
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Selvage called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Selvage welcomed Florida State Representative John Woods to the meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Cherie Simmons, TPO Office Manager confirmed a quorum with 13 voting members and 1 alternate in attendance. Vice Mayor Collins Smith represented the South County Block and Mayor Charles Lake represented the East County Block.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Lindsey opened the floor for public comment. Sharon Garrett voiced some concerns about the need to widen 17/92 in East Haines City and the continuous need for sidewalks near school in Haines City. With no other comment heard the hearing was closed.

5. STAFF INTRODUCTION

Chairman Selvage read short biographies of Jean Parlow who is the newest TPO staff member and Tom Deardorff who has the longest tenure with the TPO.

6. AGENDA REVIEW

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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Jim Malless motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

8. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Ronnie, Blackshear, TPO staff presented Items 8A – E

A. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to Momentum 2040.

Staff presented two amendments to Momentum 2040 that would widen SR 570 (Polk Parkway) from south of CR 546 to north of the E Toll Plaza from two to four lanes. Other amendments presented would update the funded and unfunded highway projects. Public Hearing was opened. With no comment being heard, hearing was closed.

Motion: Commissioner George Lindsey motioned to approve the draft amendments as presented. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

B. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to the TPO's Fiscal Years 2015/16 – 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TPO staff presented an amendment to add all 2016 and 2017 fiscal years projects. In Order for these projects to remain eligible for federal funding they require federal fund authorization prior to October 1, 2016. Public Hearing was opened.

Sharon Garrett voiced her concern about the widening of 17/92. With no other comments being heard hearing was closed.

Motion: Commissioner Phillip Walker motioned to approve the amendments to the TIP as presented. Mayor Eugene Fultz seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

C. Review/Approve the TPO's Fiscal Years 2015/16 – 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP includes the Adopted TPO Priority Projects, FDOT's (FY 2017-2021) Five-Year Work Program, obligated fiscal year 2015 federally funded projects and local government CIP transportation projects. Public comment period opened April 25, 2016 and closes June 9, 2016. 12 public comments have been received.

Motion: Commissioner Pat Huff motioned to approve the TIP as presented. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Roll Call Vote was unanimous.

D. Review/Approve Draft TPO 2016 Priority Transportation Projects

TPO staff presented 34 projects. The adopted Momentum 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan is the source for many of the candidate projects included. Ladders of Opportunity identify and address transportation connectivity gaps that present barriers to people needing access to essential services, such as employment, health care, education and recreation. Plans to support Ladders of Opportunity include Bike-Ped Safety Action Plans, NMA and High-crash Corridors. Balancing the needs of all modes of travel is guided by Goals, Performance Objectives, Targets and Policies of the Momentum 2040 plan. Performance Measures are based on the consistency with Federal and State law where the emphasis on planning and funding for improvements.

Motion: Commissioner George Lindsey motioned to approve the projects as presented. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

E. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2016-08 Endorsing the Preferred Improvement Alternative for the US 27 Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study

TPO staff presented Resolution 2016-08 which endorses the preferred improvement alternative for the planned widening of US 27. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a PD&E study for the planned widening of US 27. The Project limits are from Highlands County Line to north of SR 60. A video about the project was shown to the board.

Motion: Commissioner George Lindsey motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Phillip Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

F. Endorse Multi-Use Trail Corridors

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff gave a brief review of the progress of the plans. The North Ridge to Van Fleet, Lakeland Highlands, Bartow to Ft. Meade and Poinciana Trails were included in the plan. Highlights of each trail were reviewed. The connection linkages, key considerations and features for each project were reviewed. After the endorsement of corridors, coordination with local governments and stakeholders in implementing the project and seeking funding will follow.

Motion: Commissioner George Lindsey motioned to endorse the corridors as presented. Mayor Eugene Fultz seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

9. PRESENTATIONS

A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plans

Tom Deardorff, TPO staff presented an overview of the Bike/Pedestrian Safety Action Plans recommended actions and seeks direction from the board on the implementation of the plan. The goal of the plans is to reduce the number and severity of pedestrian and bicycle crashes in Polk County. Two Roadway Safety Audits are proposed per year. Bicycle and pedestrian education is a major part of the plan.

Motion: Commissioner Phillip Walker motioned to for TPO to proceed with the plans as presented. Mayor Eugene Fultz seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

B. Report on Discovery Charter School

Amy Gregory, Polk County Roads and drainage staff reported on traffic safety issues related to the opening of the new school. Discovery Charter High School is a School of Choice. All of the entrances, crosswalks and sidewalks were reviewed.

C. Project Highlights – Two Complete Street Corridors

William Roll. Kimley Horn staff presented an update on the Complete Streets Corridor Feasibility Study. The methodology for the corridor selection was reviewed. Two corridors that were highlighted were Lakeland Hills Boulevard (SR33) and Rifle Range Road). The Rifle Range Road project consist of the restriping of Eloise Road and lighting in Wahneta.

The cost of the Lakeland Hills Boulevard project is expected to be \$2.67 million, while the Rifle Range Road (Eloise restriping) project is \$659 thousand and (Wahneta lighting) project is \$817 thousand. The purpose of Complete Streets is to transform roadways from automobile-centric corridors to multi-modal corridors that are safe and accessible to all.

10. AGENCY REPORTS

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Secretary Hattaway introduced new employee Debra Chezna and announce that Laura Herrsher will fill the Inter Modal Systems Director position vacated by Jennifer Stultz.

FDOT staff:

- 1st phase of the Complete Streets Corridor study in the City of Lakeland
 - Workshop May 14, 2016
- Completed 1st two Modern Roundabouts in Polk County
 - Hunt Brothers SR 17
 - Deen Still Road SR 33
- Central Polk Parkway remaining funds

Polk Transit

- No Report.

11. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- None.

12. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Garrett, Haines City:

- Concerns about pedestrian safety

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Phillip Walker:
 - a. Ridge League of Cities Dinner held in Lakeland on June
 - i. Theme: Something Southern
- Commissioner Malless
 - a. Is Safety videos available in other language? Yes.
- Commissioner Lake
 - a. Thank FDOT for solving the problems in Lake Alfred

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:15 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.