



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ocala Citizens Service Center
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34478

January 13, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Ed Kelly, Chairman
Renee Blaney
Joe London
Suzanne Mangram
Richard McGinley
Michelle Shearer
Robert Sulzer
Clarke Yandle

Members Not Present:

Davis Dinkins

Others Present:

Greg Slay, TPO Director
John Voges, TPO Staff
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Ann McGaffic, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Kellie Smith, FDOT

Item 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chairman Ed Kelly. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof Of Publication

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website and Facebook page and on the city of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

Item 3a. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman

Ms. Mangram nominated Ms. Blaney for chairperson. Mr. Yandle moved to close nominations, and Mr. Sulzer seconded. A vote was called, and Ms. Blaney's nomination was unanimously approved.

Mr. London nominated Mr. McGinley for vice-chairman. Ms. Blaney seconded and the nomination was unanimously approved.

Item 3b. Legislative Priorities

Mr. Slay presented the five legislative priorities. The first priority was restoration of funding to the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). Marion County had been successful with TRIP, receiving funding through the program for the SW 49th Street overpass and the Belleview Beltway. Recently, funding for TRIP had been diverted into the rail enterprise. Mr. Slay said that with improvements in the real estate market, MPOs were hoping that the legislature would shift funding back into the TRIP.

The second priority was expansion of the charter county transit surtax to make it available to other counties. The surtax could be used for any transportation project. Mr. Sulzer asked if the surtax was a sales tax, and Mr. Slay said that it was.

The third item on the priority list was indexing of the gas tax. Mr. Slay said that with inflation and increased fuel efficiency, the buying power of the gas tax was waning. The fourth priority was making distracted driving a primary offense. Distracted driving was currently a secondary offense, and Mr. Slay said that this was the same track the seat belt law had taken. Ms. Mangram asked if the priority item was just for texting, not talking on the phone, and Mr. Slay said that it was meant primarily to address texting. The final priority item was support of using funds generated through Amendment 1 for trail maintenance.

Mr. Sulzer asked if the legislative priorities were for the local TPO, and Mr. Slay said that they were combined priorities of regional and statewide MPO groups.

Mr. Sulzer made a motion to approve the legislative priorities as presented and Mr. McGinley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3c. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Odom presented eight amendments for the Transportation Improvement Program. These amendments included additional operating funds for SunTran, four amendments related to widening and railroad crossing grade separation on NE 25th Avenue and NE 36th Avenue, and resurfacing of SW 80th Avenue. Ms. Blaney asked about adding a shoulder on SW 80th Avenue, and Mr. Odom said that there was currently a four-foot wide shoulder. Mr. Slay added that Marion County had a policy to add a shoulder when they had available right-of-way.

The seventh amendment was to add sidewalk projects around Saddlewood Elementary School and Legacy Elementary School. The final amendment was for additional capital funds for transit.

Mr. Sulzer moved for approval of the Transportation Improvement Program amendments as presented. Mr. McGinley seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4. FDOT Five Year Work Program Presentation

Ms. Smith presented that Marion County projects proposed for inclusion in the FDOT Tentative Five Year Work Program. The first project was the US 441 corridor study, which had funds proposed in the current fiscal year. The TPO would oversee the study. The next project was widening of SR 40 East; construction was programmed for FY 2020. There was also right-of-way and construction programmed for the railroad overpass on NE 36th Avenue. Mr. London asked when four-laning on the roads would happen, and Mr. Slay said that staff was working with FDOT to determine that. The funding for the overpass was coming from a special program. Mr. London mentioned that the design on a new water main extension had just finished; it extended up to NE 35th Street and would be under the new road. Mr. Slay said that the design for the four-laning was probably five to six years out, and Ms. Smith suggested that they might need to talk to the project manager.

PD&E on a new interchange on I-75 at NW 49th Street was proposed in FY 2018. Funding on Pruitt Trail was pending availability and right-of-way certification. The Department of Environmental Protection was working with a parcel owner on a land swap. Silver Springs Trail Phase 1 was proposed for construction in 2018. The Downtown Ocala Trail was proposed for design in FY 2020, and the Belleview Greenway Trail had a feasibility study proposed in FY 2018. The SR 40/Black Bear Scenic Trail was proposed for PD&E in FY 2020 along the no-build section of the SR 40 East PD&E. The other SR 40 projects had been requested to include trails in their design.

There was five-year funding for Ocala and Marion County for Intelligent Transportation System operation and maintenance. SR 40 flood mitigation was programmed for funding in the current fiscal year using a mix of local and FDOT funds. SW 80th Avenue resurfacing was funded for construction in the current fiscal year, and the sidewalks at Saddlewood and Legacy elementary schools were also funded in FY 2015.

Mr. Kelly asked about putting a small bridge at the end of SE 64th Avenue road, and Mr. Slay said it could be discussed as part of the LRTP.

Mr. London mentioned that the local black bear population in this area had exploded. Bear sightings had increased and were happening close to downtown.

Mr. Sulzer mentioned that there were several areas on SR 200 that needed resurfaced. Ms. Smith mentioned that FDOT was aware of the resurfacing issues and were working on them.

Ms. Shearer asked about the SW 95th Street interchange, and Ms. Smith reported that the PD&E had been deferred a year. Mr. Slay added that the county consultant was about 95% complete with the safety analysis.

5. Consent Agenda

Mr. London made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014, meeting. Mr. McGinley seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Smith reported that the SR 40 West widening was on schedule.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Slay reported that a public meeting had been held in December to discuss the paved trail on the Greenway. There had been a good turnout with good support; however, some concerns had been expressed from the equestrian community. There had also been some environmental issues, and Mr. Slay said that it did not look like the trail would be under construction before the end of the year.

Mr. Slay also advised that staff would be kicking off the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in February or March. Population projections had not changed much since the 2035 LRTP, and staff was not planning to do the Strings and Ribbons program. Mr. Slay said that staff would be looking for feedback from the committee for what they wanted to see from the plan.

Item 8. Suggestions by CAC Members

Ms. Shearer advised that there was a small group of equestrians that was against the proposed paved trail on the Greenway and that they did not represent all local equestrians. Ms. Shearer said that she took information to a lot of trail meeting and that there had been mixed reactions. Ms. Shearer commented that the more people who used the Greenway, the more it would be protected. She added that concrete was slippery for horses. Mr. Slay stated that reports in the

newspaper that the entire trail would be concrete were incorrect. There was discussion regarding limiting intersections of different trails.

Ms. Shearer asked about lowering the speed limit on CR 475 between SE 95th Street and SE 80th Street. Mr. Slay said that staff could take her request to county staff but commented that he did not think it would make much difference. Ms. Shearer asked about speed bumps, and Mr. Slay said that there were criteria for traffic calming infrastructure. Mr. Sulzer commented that law enforcement was needed, and Mr. Slay said that the effects of enforcement tended to be short-lived.

Item 9. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item 10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Kelly at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant