



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2016
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Grover Mudd, At Large Representative
Jim Brown, South County Representative
Bob Logan, Mid County Representative
Joseph Tiseo, Mid County Representative
Steve Schoff, West County Representative
Ed Zapke, South County Representative
Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative
Naomi Manning, Mid County Representative

MEMBER EXCUSED

Steve Fabian, Jr., At-Large Representative
Ed Zubal, West County Representative (excused)

OTHERS ATTENDING

Lori Carlton, FDOT
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Gary Grossman, Charlotte County Public Works
April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works
Robert M. Herrington, MPO Director
Gary Harrell, MPO Principal Planner
Wendy Scott, Planner II
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner II
Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordinator
John Mansur, citizen
Sam Castronovo, citizen

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

John Burrage, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. The roll call was taken using a sign-in sheet.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited .

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Sam Castronovo commented on the need to complete the Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) pedestrian bridges over both crossings of Alligator Creek on US 41.

John Marsur commented on traffic concerns in the area of I-75, Kings Highway and Peachland Blvd.

4. Chair's Report

John Burrage reviewed the report he gave at the March 7, 2016 MPO Board Meeting on various CAC concerns raised at the previous meeting, including the need for bicycle lanes on AQUI ESTA Drive. This is an issue which City of Punta Gorda Councilmember Tom Cavanaugh indicated would be reviewed by the City Council. He noted that the MPO Board members stated at the MPO meeting that they are very appreciative of the work of the CAC members. John Burrage described how the MPO Board had requested a reordering of the Project Priorities List to make Burnt Store Road improvements the number one priority. He invited CAC members to attend future MPO Board Meetings.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Lori Carlton reported:

- April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month
- The coming week is Construction Zone Safety Awareness Week

Bob Herrington announced a new Agenda Item # 7-B would be added to the agenda regarding General Planning Consultant (GPC) Selection.

6. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2016 Meeting**
- B. FY 2016/2017 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 (d) Transit Planning Grant Application**
- C. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Revisions**

Steve Schoff asked for discussion on Agenda Item #6-C, Public Participation Plan Revisions. He noted that on page 12 of the draft PPP document the *Charlotte Sun-Herald* alone was mentioned, and it is not circulated in the West County area. Bob Herrington noted that an affiliated version of the same publishing organization circulates in the Englewood/West County area. Therefore, the CAC recommended using the plural version of the word (*i.e., newspapers*) on page 12, Section 5.C.

*Ed Zapke made a motion to approve the entire Consent Agenda (to include the minor correction to the Public Participation Plan document). **Bob Logan** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

7A. FY 2016/2017 – FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement

Bob Herrington reviewed the details of the draft UPWP.

***Jim Brown** made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the Final FY 2016/2017 – FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement; including authorizing the MPO Chair to sign all required documents to transmit the same to FDOT. **Bob Logan** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

7. B. General Planning Consultant (GPC) Selection

Lakshmi N. Gurram reviewed the General Planning Consultant (GPC) Selection process. He noted that it occurs every three years and stated that the current GPC contract expired February 2015. He described the Review Committee's solicitation process. The Committee's decision was to recommend the MPO Board approve the following firms:

- Kimley Horn and Associates
- Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
- Tindale -Oliver & Associates, Inc.

***Bob Logan** made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board endorse the top three professional consulting firms and authorize the MPO Chair to sign contracts. **Jim Brown** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

8. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment

Lakshmi N. Gurram reviewed three projects that were in the 2035 LRTP that had been inadvertently omitted from the 2040 LRTP that was approved in October 2015. The missing projects are the Complete Streets projects that are located in the City of Punta Gorda:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities on US 41 from Airport road to Carmalita Street - \$1,500,000
- Lighting on Shreve Street from Airport Road to W. Virginia Avenue - \$350, 000
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities on Cooper Street from E. Marion Avenue to Airport road - \$1,000,000

An amendment is required to add projects to the 2040 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan. The funding for these projects will be transferred from the SR 776 project (from Crestview Drive to CR 775). The total funding (PD&E and PE) allocated for the SR 776 project is \$2.88 million. The total funding required for the above three projects is \$2.85 million.

Ed Zapke made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendment by adding the Complete Street projects to the 2040 LTRP Needs Plan. Jim Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Amendment to the CAC Bylaws

Discussion of the proposed CAC Bylaws change was carried over from the February 10, 2016 CAC Meeting. MPO Staff provided CAC Members with a handout of information from *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*. Per these *Rules*, if absent when appointed to a position, an individual upon first learning of his/her appointment may decline the appointment. Ed Zapke explained his view of the need for the CAC Bylaws amendment. Bob Herrington noted that when the motion is made to elect an individual who is absent, it is appropriate to state in the motion that it is pending the individual's acceptance. He cautioned that in the event that someone who is absent wants to serve, they would not be eligible for nomination under the proposed CAC Bylaws change. He also noted that CAC Members can't discuss elections in advance in light of Florida's Sunshine Law. Members discussed various scenarios at length.

Ed Zapke made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the CAC Bylaws to include the recommended language regarding the nomination of a member to any office or committee without written consent. Jim Brown seconded the motion. The motion failed.

10. FY 2016/2017 – FY 2020/2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Gary Harrell reviewed the draft TIP document. He pointed out that some formatting would be changing and would provide additional information. He noted that State officials had recently announced that widening work on I-75 from south of Jones Loop Rd to north of US 17 had been moved up to 2018 from 2021 with an approximate cost of \$57 million to complete interstate six laning throughout Charlotte County.

Mr. Harrell noted that coordination had occurred on regional projects with partner MPOs. Additionally, County and City projects were listed in the TIP, in addition to Aviation, MPO Planning and Transit funding.

Steve Schoff inquired about the I-75 rest area in Charlotte County listed on page IV-11, and the project's impact to local funding. Gary Harrell indicated that this funding to replace the rest area somewhere along the interstate in Charlotte County was a part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funding. As such it did not take away from any funding in Charlotte County that could be used elsewhere.

Joseph Tiseo asked about the accelerated I-75 six laning project. He knew of the Bold Landscape Initiative that might be up for reconsideration for Charlotte County and wondered if this might be the location. Lori Carlton was not aware of the project but said she would inquire about the matter.

Bob Logan made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 through Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The Motion allowed for staff to make minor changes and adjustments based on comments and input received. **Ed Zapke** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. FY 2017/2018 – FY 2021/2022 Project Priorities

Gary Harrell discussed the new Project Priorities list. He described the various phases of project development and how new local requests for projects are always emerging from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County.

A discussion followed on the MPO Board's decision to make Burnt Store Road Phase II the top ranked highway project, as well as available sources of funding for the project. The issues of federalization, declining TRIP funding and the possibility of Small County (SCOP) funding were noted.

Mr. Harrell reviewed the Congestion Management/Transportation Systems Management Box Projects. He described the history of the box fund for federal funding. One of first intersections completed was US 41 at Murdock Circle, which unfortunately has now failed again. Along with the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan, the US 41 at Murdock Circle intersection has been made a top priority on the list.

Gary Harrell described the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which is available for walking, biking, and hiking facilities that receive federal and state funding. He noted that some projects are local while others are regional. He described Florida's Master Trail project by the Office of Greenways and Trails and how the MPO had participated in this effort for years. Legislative funding has now become available through the Sun Trails Network. These projects must be identified in the Project Priorities List. He discussed the TAP projects listed.

Steve Schoff inquired about why the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail was not located on the map, given that it was now completed. MPO staff indicated that they will see that the map reflects this section.

Nancie Jankowski made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the 2016 Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO FY 2017/2018-FY 2021/2022 Project Priorities for the upcoming FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program Cycle. **Naomi Manning** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gary Harrell described how SUN Trail funding legislation was approved this year, and the first \$25 million is available next year. The top legislative priority is the Coast to Coast Trail running north of Tampa Bay through central counties. Another segment is the area represented by the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). At a Greenways and Trails Meeting held the prior week, the statewide regional trails projects were prioritized. The Charlotte area was ranked third of nine regions. Political support is being sought for this initiative and the region's MPO Boards are being requested to endorse this effort.

Steve Schoff made a motion to recommend the MPO Board endorse the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) initiative to implement the SUN Trail Network in Southwest Florida. *Naomi Manning* seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Regional Project Priorities

Discussion took place on the Regional Project Priority lists that the MPO has developed with its two regional partners: the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Lee County MPO.

The partner MPO Directors work together to obtain fair rotation by County on the priority lists. In years when no funding is received, the list remains the same for the following year. Given the emphasis on the completion of the Burnt Store Road widening project, it remains the top priority for TRIP funding by agreement between the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO and the Lee County MPO.

Ed Zapke made a motion to recommend MPO Board approval of the 2016 Joint Charlotte County-Punta Gorda - Sarasota/Manatee MPOs and the Joint Charlotte County-Punta Gorda - Lee County MPOs Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List; and the 2016 Joint Charlotte County-Punta Gorda - Sarasota/Manatee MPOs Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (RTAP) Project Priority List. *Bob Logan* seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

13. Public Comments

John Mansur commented on successful trail projects in Pinellas County in the area of the Bay Pines VA Clinic and in Sarasota County where old railroad beds were utilized. He noted the good information provided at the CAC meeting and expressed a desire to participate in the future.

14. Staff Comments

Bob Herrington reviewed recent MPO staff activities. Wendy Scott distributed a BCC proclamation regarding Try Transit Day (April 20, 2016).

15. Member Comments

CAC members raised the following issues:

- Bob Logan discussed Charlotte County's issues with right turn lanes and handed out photos of the problem on Veterans Blvd at the Home Depot entrance just before the intersection at Cochran Blvd. Gary Grossman indicated that Home Depot had constructed this entry when the property was developed. He noted that there was a problem in finding the funding to correct the problem, and the same issue is evident at Quesada Avenue and Cochran Blvd. Grover Mudd inquired about utilizing a yellow divider as a lane delineator, so that confused drivers would not turn back into Veterans

Blvd traffic. Gary Grossman stated that he would explore the issue further, and consideration would be given to changing signage.

- Naomi Manning was pleased to see many recent projects coming to successful completion so that citizens could begin to enjoy the improvements.
- Steve Schoff discussed an issue on the south side of San Casa Drive, with only berm in lieu of sidewalk, where a senior citizen in a motorized vehicle is placed in jeopardy by being in traffic. He also described the need for a turn arrow in the pavement of the right hand turn lane on the section of roadway in the area of Winchester Blvd and SR 776.
- Nancie Jankowski commented on the issue of the wording of signage needed in the area of the Home Depot on SR 776. She also noted recent issues with flooding in the Rotunda area and concerns regarding the zika virus given the amount of standing water. It was noted that County Engineering could review the issue and address any needed actions.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CAC will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 pm.