



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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2016
EAST PORT ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPUS
TRAINING ROOM A 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Mark Gering, City of Punta Gorda Public Works

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nichole Gwinnett, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Tom Cookingham, DeSoto County
Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools
Wayne Salladè, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development
Cindy Laishley, Charlotte County Airport Authority

OTHERS ATTENDING

Bob Herrington, MPO Director
Lakshmi N Gurram, Planner II
Gary Harrell, Principal Planner
Lori Carlton, FDOT
Gary Nelson, Kitson & Partners
Dace Urich, Citizen

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Dave Urich, Lee County citizen, discussed several proposals regarding a new I-75 interchange and other potential new major connectors for purposes such as hurricane evacuation in both Charlotte and Lee Counties.

Mr. Gary Nelson, Kitson Partners discussed the proposal of adding new trails in the 2040 LRTP. The proposed trails are on Tuckers Grade Blvd east of I-75, SR 31 and other trails connecting the existing regional trails. He said these trails provide pedestrian access to the Babcock Ranch development. He would like the MPO to consider including the new regional trail in the 2040 LRTP to be eligible for state and federal funds.

Mitchell Austin indicated the City of Punta Gorda has pathway system in place that extends to Taylor Rd and to Tuckers Grade Blvd

3. Chair's Report

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair had nothing to report.

4. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Lori Carlton reported on FDOT's recent solicitation for candidate projects for the priority process for the next MPO Work Program cycle. Ms. Carlton indicated that FDOT will be reviewing the application process and provide comments. Once the information is finalized, Ms. Carlton will coordinate with other FDOT staff on these proposals to review project information. FDOT will then do a cost feasibility assessment on the new projects.

5. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2015 Regular Meeting

**B. FY 2014/2015 –FY 2015/2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Amendments and De-Obligation of PL Funds**

C. Amendment to the Transportation Planning Funds Joint Participation Agreement

Chris Whittaker made a motion for approval of the entire Consent Agenda. Rick Kolar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

Bob Herrington discussed the MPO's planning budget document, the Draft FY 2016/ 2017- FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement. He stated that the MPO Staff is making changes to the document format with the help from FDOT Staff. Lori Carlton stated that two state departments, Management Services and Financial Services, have made a request to FDOT to make these format changes. Mr. Herrington mentioned that the document that is presented to the committee includes the format changes made by the MPO Staff.

Gary Harrell mentioned that the document also highlights any planning studies that will be performed by the member entities during the next fiscal years.

Venkat Vattikuti inquired about the Bike Ped Master Plan and wanted to clarify if the County is interested in funding a Bike Ped Master plan or a Parks and Recreational Trails plan. Ron Gogoi informed that the MPO Staff can utilize State funds to update the Bike/Ped master plan.

*Venkat Vattikuti made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board forward the Draft FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement to FDOT for review. **Mark Gering** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

7. 2016 Project Priorities – Discussion

Gary Harrell stated that the 2016 Project Priorities are being presented earlier this year to the committees because of the changes in policies at FDOT.

He discussed the list of projects under the various categories (1) Highway, (2) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and (3) Transportation Regional Incentive Program projects.

He also discussed several projects received from Charlotte County Public Works and Economic Development Department which might be added to the Priorities List. The following are the list of projects:

- US 41 at Murdock Circle intersection - extending NB left turn lanes
- Parkside CRA - Elkcam Blvd Multi-Use Trail
- Charlotte Harbor CRA - Trails and Wayfinding Project
- Charlotte Harbor CRA - US 41 Gateway Project

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Staff Comments

Bob Herrington mentioned that the MPO Staff has sent out a Request for Letter of Interest to select Consultants to perform General Planning Consultant services. He mentioned that Mitchell Austin from City of Punta Gorda and Matt Trepal from Charlotte County have expressed interest to be on the Review Committee.

Laks N. Gurram briefed the timeline and mentioned that the top three consultants would be recommended to the MPO Board for their approval.

Bob Herrington informed the Committee about the various meetings and activities attended by the MPO Staff:

- FDOT/FHWA/FTA/MPO Video Conference @ SWAO – November 19th
- Charlotte County BOCC Meeting –November 24th and January 19th
- FDOT/City/County Coordination Meeting – December 1st
- Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting – December 1st
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting – December 3rd
- Lee TAC Meeting - December 3rd
- MPO Board Meeting –December 7th
- AAMPO Conference Call – Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) –Act December 11th
- FDOT UPWP/MPO PL Agreement Revisions
- Punta Gorda City Council Meeting – December 16th , January 6th and January 20th
- Coordinated Urban Transportation Studies (CUTS) – January 12th
- Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board meeting – January 14th
- Joint Meeting with Sarasota/Manatee MPO January - 25th Venice Community Center
- Quarterly MPOAC Meeting – Tallahassee – January 27th & 28th

10. Member Comments

Chris Whittaker indicated that the City of North Port has approved first phase of Coco Plum Center Master Plan Phase I expansion at the US 41, Hillsborough and Cranberry Blvd . He mentioned that future expansion is contingent on addressing the traffic issues at those intersections. He also mentioned about the complete street ordinance that was approved by the city commission.

Matt Trepal indicated that the County is adopting the annual updates to Capital improvement program and are including the MPOs TIP document as part of the adoption.

11. Adjournment (Next TAC Meeting – April 13, 2016)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TAC will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B.