



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA &
SARASOTA/MANATEE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
JOINT REGIONAL MEETING**

Venice Community Center
**326 Nokomis Ave South
Venice, Florida 34285**

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2016

Members Present

Charlotte County– Punta Gorda MPO Board

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Commissioner Christopher Constance | Charlotte County Commission |
| Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch | Charlotte County Commission |
| Commissioner Ken Doherty | Charlotte County Commission |
| Councilman Tom Cavanaugh | City of Punta Gorda |
| Commissioner James Herston | Charlotte County Airport Authority |

Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board

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| Councilman Patrick Roff | City of Bradenton |
| Councilman Gene Brown | City of Bradenton |
| Commissioner Linda Yates | City of North Port |
| Mayor Jacqueline Moore | City of North Port |
| Commissioner Larry Bustle | Manatee County Commission |
| Commissioner Betsy Benac | Manatee County Commission |
| Commissioner Vanessa Baugh | Manatee County Commission |
| Commissioner Charles Hines | Sarasota County Commission |
| Commissioner Alan Maio | Sarasota County Commission |
| Commissioner Christine Robinson | Sarasota County Commission |
| Commissioner Jack Daly | Town of Longboat Key |
| Commissioner Susan Chapman | City of Sarasota |
| Vice Mayor Suzanne Atwell for Mayor Willie Shaw | City of Sarasota |
| Commissioner Jonathan Davis for Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant | City of Palmetto |
| Mayor Bob Johnson | Island Transportation Planning Organization (ITPO) (Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach & Holmes Beach) |
| Councilman Bob Daniels | City of Venice |

1 **Advisory**

2 Secretary Billy Hattaway Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
3 District One
4

5 **Member Absent**

6 Commissioner Carlos Beruff Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority
7

8 **Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Staff**

9 Robert Herrington, Director
10 Bekie Murrill, Administrative Services Coordinator
11 Gary Harrell, Principal Planner
12 Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner II
13 Wendy Scott, Planner II
14

15 **Sarasota/Manatee MPO Staff**

16 David Hutchinson, Executive Director
17 Sue Clapsaddle, Human Resources/Fiscal Manager
18 Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager
19 Mike Maholtz, Senior Transportation Planner
20 Jim Van Pelt, Public Transportation Planner
21 Colleen McGue, Transportation Planner
22 Rachel McClain, Office Assistant
23

24 **Others Attending**

25 Laura Lockwood, FDOT
26 Roxann Lake, FDOT
27 Keith Robbins, FDOT
28 Katy Heck, City of Punta Gorda Police Department
29 Isaac Brownman, Sarasota County
30 Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
31

32 **CALL TO ORDER: JOINT CHAIRS**

33 Commissioner Christopher Constance, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
34 Councilman Patrick Roff, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
35

36 Chair Christopher Constance called the Joint MPO Board Meeting to order at
37 approximately 9:40 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
38

39 Chair Patrick Roff recognized Mr. Danny Bilyeu of Congressman Vern Buchanan's
40 office.
41

1 Chair Christopher Constance recognized Charlotte County Board of County
2 Commissioners Chair, Commissioner Bill Truex.

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4 **I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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6 No one from the public came forward.

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9 **II. OPENING COMMENTS**

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11 Members introduced themselves and stated their jurisdictions.

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14 **III. FDOT UPDATE**

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16 Secretary Hattaway reported on the following:

- 17
18 – As a result of the “Dangerous by Design” report the Florida Department of
19 Transportation (FDOT) implemented its statewide initiative to improve
20 bicycle and pedestrian by adopting a Complete Streets Policy in
21 September of 2015.
22 – FDOT has been working with Smart Growth America since March of
23 2015 to develop an implementation plan for the Compete Streets Policy.
24 – Along with its consultant, the FDOT is developing a Complete Streets
25 Implementation Handbook.
26 – The Handbook will be a transition document that will be developed over
27 the next 12 to 18 months and will be utilized as a training tool.
28

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30 **IV. REGIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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32 1. River Road Regional Interstate Connector

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34 Mr. Isaac Brownman, Sarasota County Public Works, provided a PowerPoint
35 presentation regarding the River Road Interstate Connector:

36
37 Background:

- 38
39 • Regional Roadway Improvement and Reconstruction Project
40 • Major Arterial Roadway from S.R. 776 (Charlotte County) to I-75
41 (Sarasota County)
• 13.5-mile long widening and elevation improvement

- Add capacity, correct deficiencies, hurricane evacuation
- Add bicycle lanes, sidewalks, streetscape, street lighting
- Multiple partners and stakeholders
- Design complete from US 41 to I-75
- 6 lane and 4 lane sections consistent with the federally approved Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study and projected traffic analysis

Accomplishments to Date:

- Winchester Blvd. constructed from Charlotte County Line to River Road (2002)
- Full Design/Permitting of U.S. 41 to I-75
- Right-of-Way Acquisition and Reservation (various segments)
- West Villages Pkwy Signalized Intersection
- U.S. 41/River Road Intersection (2014)

Funding Strategy Moving Forward:

- MPO Major Project Priorities List
- Financially Feasible Plan
- 2021 – 2025 US 41 to West Villages Pkwy Right-of-Way (ROW), Construct 4 lane
- Pursue majority funding from Federal/State

Discussion ensued regarding Sarasota County's ability to acquire right-of-way (ROW) through developer contributions and the importance of contacting Representatives in Tallahassee regarding funding for River Road. Mr. Brownman pointed out Sarasota County does look for ROW opportunities through donation and impact fee credits; ROW for much of the project has been reserved.

2. FDOT Future Corridors Presentation

Ms. Laura Lockwood, FDOT, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on Florida's Future Transportation Corridors:

Active Study Areas:

- Tampa Bay- Central Florida Study Area
- Tampa Bay-Northeast Florida Study Area

Future corridors:

- Meet growing demand for moving people and freight to support economic development
- Provide solutions for or alternatives to existing congested corridors
- Improve connectivity between regions/between Florida and other States and Nations
- Coordinate long range growth and transportation plans

- Transform/modernize existing facilities, especially to serve a new function such as adding tolled express lanes, truck only lanes or bus rapid transit (BRT) to an existing highway
- Identify study areas for potential new facilities, such as new parallel facilities to provide alternatives to existing congested highways and new multimodal facilities in regions not well served by statewide corridors today

Ms. Lockwood suggested an update at next year’s joint meeting regarding:

- Tampa Bay - Central Florida Concept Report
- East Central Florida Corridor Task Force
- I-75 Relief Task Force

For questions or further information please contact Ms. Laura Lockwood at 863-519-2379 or Laura.Lockwood@dot.state.fl.us.

Discussing ensued regarding FDOT’s study tying into the rail corridors. Ms. Laura Lockwood explained that with the multimodal approach, FDOT is looking into potential future rail corridors for freight and passenger rail, as well as other transit modes and options for public transit.

3. FDOT District One Freight Study

Mr. Keith Robbins, FDOT District One Freight Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the District One Freight Study:

Purpose:

- Provide an executive level overview of the findings of the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) District One Freight Mobility & Implementation Study.

Objectives:

- Regional Coordination
- Freight Asset Inventory
- Hot Spots Identification
- Freight Project/Investment Options/Invest Implementation
- Consistency with Statewide Investment Element

Principal Tasks:

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2 Secretary Hattaway announced a new series of training sessions intended for staff
3 of local governments:
4

5 *Designing for Pedestrian Safety*

6 March 9th and 10th to be held at FDOT- Ft. Myers and in Bartow on April
7 12th and 13th
8

9 *Road Safety Audit Training*

10 February 10th and 11th in Bartow, April 14th and 15th in Tampa and in Ft.
11 Myers on September 27th and 28th
12

13 Mr. Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, a provided a PowerPoint presentation
14 regarding the City's bicycle and pedestrian programs: and the City of Punta Gorda
15 becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community:
16

- 17 • Only 16 Florida Bicycle Friendly Communities in the State of
- 18 Florida (City of Venice is 1 of the 16)
- 19 • Is a collaborative effort within the community since 2008
- 20 • Goal is to create a well-connected network of on and off street
- 21 bicycle infrastructure
- 22 • Creation of Share the Lane Punta Gorda- giving people the skills
- 23 and confidence to ride
- 24 • Develop a broad based bicycle education program
- 25 • Expand Share the Lane Punta Gorda website and brand
- 26 • Develop a Bicycle Master Plan for Punta Gorda
27

28 Lieutenant Katy Heck, City of Punta Gorda Police Department, provided a PowerPoint
29 presentation regarding its programs:
30

- 31 – Goal is to improve bicycle safety and pedestrian safety through
- 32 education, communication, and enforcement
- 33 – Moving forward through **B.E.E.P.- Bicycle-Part of the**
- 34 **community, Education-Training, Enforcement-Safety and**
- 35 **Program- Holistic approach**
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37 Chair Christopher Constance noted that Lieutenant Heck is the City of Punta Gorda's
38 Officer of the Year!
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V. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

It was the consensus of the Board Members that a joint meeting is an excellent way of sharing information. It was suggested that next year's joint meeting be held in January, 2017.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT REGIONAL MEETING AT 11:23 A.M.**

DRAFT