



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON APRIL 13, 2016
EAST PORT ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPUS
TRAINING ROOM A 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Economic Development
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Cindy Laishley, Charlotte County Airport Authority
Earl R. Hahn, DeSoto County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nichole Gwinnett, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools
Wayne Salladè, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development
Mark Gering, City of Punta Gorda Public Works

OTHERS ATTENDING

Bob Herrington, MPO Director
Lakshmi N Gurram, Planner II
Gary Harrell, Principal Planner
Lori Carlton, FDOT
Kelli Bradley, Atkins
William Roll, Kimley Horn & Associates
April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works
Emily Lewis, Charlotte County Commissioners Office
Sam Castronovo, Citizen

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Bob Herrington added a General Planning Selection item to the TAC agenda.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Sam Castronovo from Punta Gorda spoke regarding the need for the two pedestrian bridges on Alligator Creek on the US 41 Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT). He mentioned that the cost of the bridges could be less expensive if the pedestrian bridges are stand alone and mentioned about the pedestrian bridges on Toledo Blade Blvd as examples.

3. Chair's Report

Mitchell Austin had nothing to report

4. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Lori Carlton, FDOT liaison, stated that the month of April is Distractive Driving Awareness Month and this week is Construction Zone Safety Week. She also added that information is available on how to be safe in construction zones. She introduced Kelli Bradley of Atkins, who described the new resurfacing project on SR 776 from Spinnaker Blvd to Pinedale Drive and that FDOT is trying a new approach of scoping projects to include drainage upgrades, signing and pavement marking updates, and possible signal replacements as part of the resurfacing project. She also mentioned a new signal is warranted at the Gulfstream/Wilmington Blvd intersections.

Venkat Vattikuti asked if a right turn lane at any intersection would be included as part of the resurfacing project. It was clarified by the Consultant that they might be considered.

5. 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**

Venkat Vattikuti made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. Earl Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. General Planning Consultant (GPC) Selection

Laks Gurram MPO Staff indicated that the MPO requires the services of a consultant to provide support to the MPO transportation planning activities set forth in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The contract term limit will be for three (3) years. The work may include providing assistance to the MPO staff for work assigned on a task basis in the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan and other MPO related planning efforts. The support could include providing technical assistance and related public participation activities in transportation planning relative to: GIS activities; scenario planning; transit

systems planning; and development of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), Transportation System Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures.

Laks Gurram stated that a Review Committee consisting of staff from the MPO, City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County and MPO's Citizens' Advisory Committee, ranked the top five (5) firms based upon Qualifications of their staff, Related Technical Experience, Project/Technical Approach, Current/Planned Workload and Quality Assurance/ Quality Control. The final shortlist of three (3) firms was identified by the Review Committee after oral presentations on April 8, 2016. The three top ranked firms are

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

The results of the Review Committee evaluation will be presented to the MPO Board at their Monday, May 3, 2016 regular meeting.

Venkat Vattikuti asked if the next LRTP update falls within the next three contract years of the GPC. Laks Gurram indicated MPO Staff will be scheduled to initiate the 2045 LRTP in 2019 but stated that this GPC could assist the MPO Staff if any major amendments required to the current LRTP.

Mitchell Austin asked if the Transit Development Plan update will be addressed. Bob Herrington indicated that MPO is not responsible for the TDP updates, but stated that the Charlotte County Staff may utilize the MPO Consultants to perform the update.

Earl Hahn made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the top three professional consulting firms and authorize the MPO Chair to sign said contracts. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Laks Gurram, MPO Staff, stated that Staff identified projects that were not part of the adopted 2040 LRTP. He informed the Committee that the missing projects were the City of Punta Gorda's Complete Street Projects.

The following are the projects that are subject of discussion:

1. Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities on US 41 from Airport Road to Carmalita St - \$1,500,000
2. Lighting on Shreve St from Airport Rd to W. Virginia Ave - \$350,000
3. Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities on Cooper St from E. Marion Ave to Airport Rd - 1,000,000

He stated that an amendment is required to add projects in the 2040 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan. The funding for these projects will be transferred from SR 776 (from Crestview Drive to CR

775). The total funding (PD&E and PE) allocated for this project is \$ 2.88 million. The total funding required for the above three projects is \$2.85 million.

Earl Hahn asked if any PD&E and PE is required for the above mentioned projects. Laks Gurrum stated that the projects require funding for construction and no funding is required for PD& E and PE. He also stated that the SR 776 project from Crestview Dr. to CR 775 will be moved to the 2040 Needs Plan.

Earl Hahn made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendments by adding the Complete Street projects to the 2040 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan. Matt Trepal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. FY 2016/2017 – FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Bob Herrington, MPO Staff, briefed the Committee on Draft FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that had been presented at the last TAC/CAC meeting to solicit any comments from the members. He also mentioned that FHWA and FDOT also reviewed the document and minor changes were proposed. He stated that the UPWP describes the transportation planning activities and the MPO budget beginning July 1, 2016. Federal and State regulations govern the types of activities that are eligible for federal and state funding. The Final FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 UPWP will be presented to the MPO Board at the May 3, 2016 meeting for adoption and will be distributed to FDOT and other agencies.

Earl Hahn asked if the UPWP includes any funds allocated to the environmental justice data collection activities. Bob Herrington clarified that the MPO considers Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process that considers all areas of social cultural effects before a project is scheduled for construction.

Earl Hahn made a motion to approve FY 2016/2017 – FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Venkat Vattikuti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Gary Harrell stated that the TIP outlines federal and state capital improvements for transportation and is a staged, multiyear, intermodal program of transportation projects that is consistent with the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Technical and Citizens' Advisory Committees formally review the development of the TIP. The TIP should identify projects that the MPO has determined are necessary to effectively implement the adopted LRTP. The Charlotte County Punta Gorda MPO is required to submit the TIP for review by FDOT no later than July 15 of each year.

Gary Harrell described projects pertaining to the county. He also mentioned that the I-75 project from Jones Loop Rd to US 17 has been advanced for construction in FY 2018. He highlighted the changes in TIP format that were initiated by FDOT. TAC members and MPO

staff had noted some typographical corrections. The Draft TIP will be presented to the MPO Board at the May 3, 2016 MPO Board meeting for their adoption.

Debrah Forester noted the 2016 Joint Regional Trails list specifically about the new SUN Trail initiative and was interested in added projects in the future.

Gary Harrell indicated that the MPO Staff has worked with Office of Greenways and Trails to identify projects that are now eligible under Sun Trail Network Initiative. He also mentioned that there are a few gaps in Charlotte County that may be eligible for funding.

The SUN Trail networks was initiated by Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) to identify funding for potential projects in Southwest Florida from Tampa bay area south through Collier County.

Earl Hahn made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 through Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The Motion should allow for staff to make minor changes and adjustments based on comments and input received. Debrah Forester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

The project candidates include: Highway Projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Management/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box. He highlighted each category of project priorities.

Mr. Harrell informed to the TAC members that at the March 7, 2016 MPO Board meeting the Board made a recommendation to make Burnt Store Rd Phase II as the number one Highway project and move Harborview Rd. to number three and Jones Loop Rd project to number five. He referred to the attachment with the recommendations suggested. He mentioned the implications of the change in possibly federalizing Burnt Store Road including delays.

Gary Harrell discussed the Congestion Management/Transportation System Management box funds projects where funds are set aside every year directed to ease congestion on US 41 and prioritized projects at each signalized intersection. Recently the MPO Board recommended to revisit the first project that was completed under Congestion Management/Transportation System Management box which is US 41 at Murdock Circle due to the congestion at that intersection. The MPO Board recommended making the US 41 at Murdock Circle intersection as the number one congestion management project and to find a way to expedite the project including the possibility of advanced reimbursement for the project or possibly changing that project with existing intersection projects. The recommendation is to extend the Northbound (NB) left turn stacking lanes.

Gary Harrell discussed the local projects and regional projects under the Transportation Alternative Program. He mentioned that Charlotte County's number one project priority, multi-

use trail on Taylor Road from U.S. 41 (south) to Airport Road, was divided into two segments because of the high cost of the project. The overall project is programmed for PD&E in 2018/2019. The current number one TAP project priority is Taylor Road from Jones Loop Road to Airport Road and the number two TAP project priority is Taylor Road from US 41 South to Jones Loop Road. The number three TAP project priority, US 41 Multi-use trail, East side of US 41 from Conway Blvd. to Midway Blvd., is programmed for Design in FY 2020/2021 and the next phase is Construction. A new project that is added is in the Parkside CRA on the eastside Elkcam Blvd, from US 41 to Midway Blvd, for an 8 foot side Multiuse trail and a pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Harrell also described possible US 41 multi-use trail projects of pedestrian bridges on Alligator Creek.

The discussion took place on the possibility to move funds from the current number one Harborview Rd project to Burnt Store Rd project and make Burnt Store Rd as number one. The Harborview Rd project would be moved to number three.

Lori Carlton warned of the repercussions by moving a funded phase project which would have a risk increasing the cost of the project.

TAC members made the following motions:

1. **Earl Hahn** 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. **Venkat Vattikuti** seconded the motion with a discussion.

A separate motion was made by **Venkat Vattikuti** to move funds from Harbor View Rd to Burnt Store Rd. **Chris Whittaker** seconded the motion. The motion passed with show of hands and one opposition.

2. **Earl Hahn** 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. **Matt Trepal** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Regional Project Priorities

Gary Harrell indicated that the MPO Staff has been working with our regional partners (Sarasota/Manatee and Lee County MPOs) to submit a list of Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) project priorities.

He mentioned that Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, Sarasota/Manatee and Lee County MPOs have interlocal agreements for prioritizing TRIP projects annually. He also mentioned that the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO also established a joint RTAP list with Sarasota/Manatee MPO to prioritize trails projects.

Venkat Vattikuti made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve 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 Lists; and the 2016 Joint Charlotte County-Punta Gorda - Sarasota/Manatee MPOs Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (RTAP) Project Priority List. Earl Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

13. Staff Comments

Mr. Herrington reviewed the recent activities of the staff including:

FDOT/FHWA/FTA/MPO Video Conference @ SWAO – March 31st
Charlotte County BOCC Meeting –March 22nd
FDOT/City/County Coordination Meeting – March 1st
Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting – March 30th
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting – March 17th
Lee TAC Meeting – February 4th, March 3rd and April 7th
MPO Board Meeting –March 7th
Sun Trail Webinar – March 4
TBARTA Teleconference – March 29th
Burnt Store Road Ribbon Cutting – March 24th
FDOT/MPO Certification Review – February 19th
Punta Gorda City Council Meeting – March 2nd, March 16th and April 6th
Coordinated Urban Transportation Studies (CUTS) – April 12th
Transportation Disadvantaged Commission – April 7th and April 8th
CTC Designation
Quarterly MPOAC Meeting – Orlando – April 27th & 28th
General Planning Consultant Selection Committee Meeting –
February 29th Shortlist to Top 5 Firms
April 8th Proposal Presentation and Selection of Top 3 Firms

14. Member Comments

Don Scott briefed the Committee on the Rail Feasible Study that the Lee MPO had been working on. He distributed maps related to the study and recommended County Staff look at the Comprehensive Plan that has the study area.

Bob Herrington made a request to Don Scott if this can be presented at the Joint Charlotte and Lee County MPOs meeting that is coming in the near future.

Chris Whittaker mentioned that the City of North Port is looking for a connection from Veterans Blvd to Hillsborough Blvd. Laks Gurram mentioned that the MPOs 2040 LRTP includes a project in the Needs Plan.

Matt Trepal mentioned about the Babcock Ranch Trail will be presented to the County Planning and Zoning Board and then will be transmitted to the State of Florida and then to the Board of County Commissioner's to adopt as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Earl Hahn introduced himself to the Committee as the new Director of the DeSoto County Planning Department. He indicated he previously served in Broward County.

15. Adjournment (NEXT MEETING – JULY 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, July 13, 2016 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B.