



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

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2017
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Steve Fabian, Jr., CAC Vice Chair, At-Large Representative
Grover Mudd, At-Large Representative
Bob Logan, Mid County Representative
Jim Brown, South County Representative
Ed Zapke, South County Representative
Dianne Quilty, Mid County Representative
Steve Schoff, West County Representative
Ed Zubal, West County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative

OTHERS ATTENDING

D'Juan Harris, FDOT
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Engineering Department
Mark Gering, City of Punta Gorda Public Works
Robert M. Herrington, MPO Director
Gary Harrell, MPO Principal Planner
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner III
Wendy Scott, Planner II
Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordination
Joan LeBeau, City of Punta Gorda

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

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ed Zapke spoke on behalf of the South Charlotte County Coalition, noting that there was a long history on failed planning efforts on Aqui Esta Road, Harbor Blvd, Piper Road and the South County Gateway Project. He stated that he was in favor of widening Aqui Esta Drive for evacuation purposes.

David Moe, a Citizen, spoke against the widening of Aqui Esta Road in Agenda Item #10. He had provided an advance letter from himself and his wife that was distributed at the CAC Meeting. He offered alternative transportation efforts in the area such as intersection improvements and the promotion of golf cart usage.

4. Reports

A. Chairs' Report

The CAC Chair thanked staff for hosting the recent farewell event for longtime CAC and Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Member Naomi Manning. He also described a newspaper article regarding traffic issues on SR 776 in the area of the Charlotte Sports Park/Charlotte Fairgrounds, as well as the need for a left turn lane in the area of US 41 and Cornelius Blvd.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

FDOT Liaison D'Juan Harris addressed Grover Mudd's concern regarding a sidewalk signage issue in an area of US 41 where roadwork was being conducted. Sidewalk Closed signs have been installed.

6. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2017 Meeting**
- B. FY 2017/2018 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305(d) Transit Planning Grant Application**
- C. FY 2016/2017 – FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement Amendment**

*A motion was made by **Ed Zapke** for approval of the Consent Agenda, including some technical corrections to the February 8, 2017 CAC Meeting Minutes noted by **Diane Quilty**. **Bob Logan** seconded the Motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

7. FY 2017/2018 – FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Gary Harrell reviewed the TIP process. He stated that the TIP project map has dated information and would require revisions. These maps would be corrected before the MPO Board packets were prepared and would be placed on the MPO website after Board adoption.

Steve Schoff commented on an error on Section II-8, 6C, River Road (Phase 3), Center Road to I- 75 (*should be north not south River Road*). Staff indicated that they will let Sarasota/Manatee MPO staff know about this.

Ed Zapke commented on the longstanding need for a South County gateway project (in light of a newer gateway TIP project in the area of the Peace River Bridge and Kings Hwy/Parmely St., II-3, 12). MPO Staff indicated that a South County gateway project had not been submitted as a project to the MPO. County and City staff offered to investigate the issue further.

Discussion occurred regarding the tremendous growth in the River Road area of Sarasota County and its significance to Charlotte County residents. Additionally, a status update was provided on the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board's trail segments which had been submitted through the SUN Trail application process.

Jim Brown made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 through Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The Motion should allow for staff to make minor changes and adjustments based on comments and input received. Diane Quilty seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 Project Priorities

Gary Harrell stated that the MPO is required to annually develop a list of project priorities as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process and to submit the list to FDOT by July 1, 2017. The MPO annually receives candidate projects from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. These projects include: Highway Projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Management/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box. Staff highlighted each category of project priorities.

Ed Zapke inquired about the possibility of making a motion regarding the need to always consider future utilities when considering transportation projects. MPO staff responded that they had met with the Utilities Director regarding this issue. Utilities staff members have agreed to monitor transportation projects along with the MPO to compare each organization's Long Range Plans.

Steve Fabian emphasized his concern over eleven driveway turn-ins that will cross bicycle and pedestrian traffic along southbound US 41 (west side) between Airport Road to Aqui Esta Blvd.

Bob Logan made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the 2017 Project Priorities for the upcoming FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program Cycle. **Diane Quilty** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Greenways and Trails Multi-Use Master Plan Interlocal Agreement

The MPO staff is in discussion with Charlotte County Staff regarding a need for the development of a Greenways and Trails Master Plan. The Board of County Commissioners has authorized County Staff to work cooperatively with MPO staff to develop a County Greenways and Trails Master Plan. An Interlocal Agreement to determine the rights, responsibilities and duties of the County and the MPO throughout the Project will be developed. It will include the provision of contractual professional services by a consultant to assist in the Plan development.

MPO Staff was not seeking any endorsement of an Interlocal Agreement from the Committee members, since the Draft Interlocal Agreement between Charlotte County and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO was under legal review.

The BCC adopted the Parks Master Plan and one of the recommendations was to develop a Greenways and Trails Multi-use Master Plan. In discussions with the Parks and Rec Department, the decision was made to transfer monies to the MPO to hire a consultant and take the lead on the Master Plan development. MPO Staff stated that a review committee will be formed to help in the development of the plan.

Dianne Quilty made a motion to recommend that staff work cooperatively to draft a Greenways and Trails Multi-Use Master Plan Interlocal Agreement for MPO Board approval. **Jim Brown** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

10. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment

MPO Staff stated that the City of Punta Gorda has made a request that the MPO amend the LRTP by adding the widening of Aquí Esta Drive from Bal Harbor Boulevard to US 41 (Tamiami Trail).

The proposed project and justification for the amendment is described in the City of Punta Gorda Resolution No. 3289-17 (Attachment 1).

An amendment is required by FDOT to add projects in the 2040 Needs Plan to be consistent with the Department's 2060 Florida Transportation Plan.

CAC members were provided a copy of a letter received on April 10, 2017 from David and Michelle Moe urging a motion against the City's recommendation.

Gary Harrell described the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation that the City's request be denied for the time being, and waiting for the next LRTP Update with development starting in 2019.

Ed Zapke made a motion recommending that the MPO Board consider approving an Amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) adding a project of widening Aqui Esta Drive from Bal Harbor Blvd to US 41. Ed Zubal seconded the Motion. The Motion failed with a vote of 5 nays and 4 ayes.

11. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

12. Staff Comments

MPO Staff reviewed recent staff activities and discussed upcoming transit activities including Try Transit Week and the new Englewood SCAT service in Charlotte County.

13. Member Comments

CAC Members commented on the following transportation issues:

- Traffic concerns with the opening of a gas station at the intersection of SR 776 and Pine Street (Zubal)
- Need for a turn lane at the intersection of the SR 776 and the Winchester Extension (Steve Schoff provided a handout)
- Status on ongoing FDOT construction at US 41/Kings Highway (Fabian)
- Current and future traffic concerns in the area of Peachland Blvd/Veterans Blvd/Kings Hwy/I-75 especially in light of proposed new development (Logan)
- Concern over a County work truck being parked on the side of Peachland Blvd so that schoolchildren were forced into heavy traffic (Mudd)
- Preference for the use of reground asphalt rather than dirt to make patch repairs to local roadways (Mudd)

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CAC will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 p.m.