



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

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2017
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Steve Schoff, CAC Vice Chair, West County 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
Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative
Joanna Drinkwater, Mid County Representative

MEMBER ABSENT

Ed Zubal, West County Representative/excused

VACANCY

At Large Representative

OTHERS ATTENDING

D'Juan Harris, FDOT
Gary Harrell, MPO Interim Director
Wendy Scott, Planner II
Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordinator

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. Mr. Burrage congratulated Gary Harrell on being named MPO Interim Director.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. Reports

A. Chairs' Report

CAC Chair John Burrage reported on the discussions at the August 7, 2017 MPO Board meeting. He noted that CAC Members appreciated receiving the weekly FDOT report on roadway conditions. He also stated that CAC members are awaiting a staff report on Burnt Store Road land acquisition. Gary Harrell had discussed this issue at the TAC meeting with County Transportation Engineer Venkat Vattikuti who was still awaiting status on the issue. John Burrage also provided copies of a letter to the editor written by Amos Benton Hester published in the August 6, 2017 *Charlotte Sun-Herald*. The letter expressed concern regarding safety issues at the Sandhill-Deep Creek intersection. Gary Harrell stated that he will forward the concern to County staff and provide CAC members with a status update via email. Grover Mudd noted that the small rumble strips on Sheehan Blvd coming into Peachland Blvd have stopped drivers from running the stop sign. Bob Logan stated that the influx of drivers from most other states complicates driving in our area.

B. City of Punta Gorda Report

No staff was present.

C. Charlotte County Report

Venkat Vattikuti was unable to attend due to a meeting conflict. His alternate was on sick leave.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

A. FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program Five Year Work Program – FY 2019/2020-2022/2023

FDOT Liaison D’Juan Harris noted that the e-public hearing comment period for FDOT’s District One Draft Tentative Work Program - FY 2019/2020-FY 2022/2023 was now open and would end on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 5 pm. He invited CAC members and all members of the public to visit www.swflroads.com to make comments during this time.

Mr. Harris also noted that FDOT’s Complete Streets workshop hosted by Deborah Chesna, FDOT Complete Streets/Growth Management Coordinator, had been postponed due to Hurricane Irma and would be held on November 6, 2017 in Bartow from 1-5 pm at the FDOT District One Headquarters Bldg.

Mr. Harris reviewed the FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program - FY 2019/2020-FY 2022/2023 and addressed CAC Members' questions and comments. Steve Schoff noted an error regarding a project name at FPN 4411221 requiring a change to CR776 (Harborview Road) rather than CR775.

Gary Harrell noted the significance of River Road (Englewood Interstate Connector) to Charlotte County citizens even though it is entirely contained in Sarasota County. He described how the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board has strongly endorsed River Road improvements through the TRIP Project List developed jointly with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board. CAC Members wished to encourage the MPO Board to continue to advocate for the completion of the River Road project. Regarding Burnt Store Road, Mr. Harrell indicated that he will forward the right-of-way report via email to CAC Members as soon as it is available. SR 31 safety improvements including a potential roundabout and the interim placement of rumble strips were also discussed.

Dianne Quilty expressed concern regarding the timing of the Harborview Road landscaping project FPN 4411221 (pg. 8) given a project to add lanes and reconstruct the roadway at the same location (project FPN 4349652 – pg. 7). D'Juan Harris stated that he will talk with the landscape architect for this project. Ms. Quilty also asked for information on the dual I-75 rest area project 4366021 – pg. 8), and Gary Harrell stated that he will send CAC members the report on the preferred alternative.

*A motion was made by **Bob Logan** to recommend MPO Board approval of the FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program - FY 2019/2020-FY 2022/2023, to include a correction to a project name to state CR 776 (Harbor View Road) rather than CR 775. **Jim Brown** seconded the Motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

6. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2017 Meeting

B. MPO and Advisory Committees Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2018

*Ed Zapke made a motion for approval of the entire Consent Agenda. **Dianne Quilty** 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 roadway project amendment, noting that the road name was Collingswood Blvd rather than Collingsworth Blvd. Wendy Scott described the TIP Amendments containing two transit projects.

***Bob Logan** made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve an Amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 through Fiscal Year 2021/2022 changing the limits of FPN 4383781: SR 776 from Willow Bend Drive to Collingswood Blvd (per correction) to SR 776 from Flamingo Blvd. to Sam's Club Entrance. The Motion should allow for staff to make minor changes and*

adjustments based on comments and input received. Ed Zapke seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Steve Schoff made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve an Amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 through Fiscal Year 2021/2022 adding: FPN 4419791: Charlotte County Transit FTA 5307 Small Urban Non-Budgeted, Capital Grant, FTA Funding \$720,546; Local Funding \$720,546 for FY 2018; and FPN 4419801: Charlotte County Transit FTA 5339, Small Urban SS, Capital Grant, FTA Funding \$757, 083; Local Funding \$189,271 for FY 2018. Ed Zapke seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

9. Staff Comments

MPO Interim Director Gary Harrell reported on the MPOAC Directors Meeting held at Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida on October 12, 2017. He noted the New Fifth Year was low in other MPOs including much larger MPOs. Discussions at the meeting had centered upon the need for new transportation funding sources, especially given new initiatives, such as electric, autonomous and fuel efficient vehicles. Mr. Harrell also stated that with an improved economy, project bids are now coming in at higher than expected costs. Mr. Harrell also described recent developments with the Charlotte Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan initiative. He also mentioned that CAC Member Steve Fabian had resigned from the CAC, and the MPO would be advertising to fill the At-Large position.

10. Member Comments

Steve Schoff noted several West County traffic concerns including (1) the traffic light at Winchester Blvd/Avenue of the Americas, and (2) San Casa Drive safety concerns. Nancy Jankowski stated that the traffic light improvement was due in November 2017. Mr. Schoff stated that a 500 - 800 unit project in West County was expected to increase Grove City's population by 33%.

Jim Brown expressed his opinion on the need to revisit Tesla gas tax credits given gasoline tax funding issues.

Bob Logan thanked FDOT staff for the project currently underway at the I-75 Southbound exit ramp to make merge lane improvements onto Kings Hwy.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CAC will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room A beginning at 1:30 p.m.