



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

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2017
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development
Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Rich Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works

ADVISORY MEMBERS

D’Juan Harris, FDOT Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office
Richard Duckworth, Charlotte County Public Schools
Earl Hahn, DeSoto County
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Nichole Gwinnett, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)
Jerry Mallet, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alison Christie, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Gary Harrell, MPO Interim Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner III

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. The roll call was taken using a sign-in sheet.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No public comments

3. Election of 2018 Officers

Gary Harrell opened the nominations for TAC Chair

Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public works Department, nominated Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design Group, as TAC Chair. Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works, seconded the nomination for TAC Chair. Chris Whittaker, City of North Port made a motion to close nominations. Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division seconded the motion. The Motion was passed by a unanimous vote and Mitchell Austin was declared as TAC Chair by unanimous consent.

The newly elected Chair Mitchell Austin called for nominations for TAC Vice Chair. Chris Whittaker, City of North Port nominated Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public works Department as Vice Chair. Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works seconded the motion. Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public works Department nominated Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development Department. Kay Tracy Declined. Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division made a motion to close the nominations. Chris Whittaker, City of North Port seconded the motion. Venkat Vattikuti was declared as TAC Vice-Chair by unanimous consent.

4. Chair's Report

Mitchell Austin has nothing to report.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D' Juan Harris, FDOT Liaison have nothing to report, but informed members about the Tentative Work Program Additions and Deletions of projects and welcomed any comments. The two changes in the Work Program are below:

- Deferral of the US 41 at Carmalita Street Extension intersection improvement
- Removal of local funds from a Punta Gorda Airport capital project

Mitchell Austin expressed his displeasure regarding the deferral of the US 41 at Carmalita St Extension project.

6. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2017 Meeting

Matt Trepal made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Safety Measures Targets

Gary Harrell stated that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) now requires states and MPOs to establish performance measures. The first step in the process is to develop targets for safety performance measures. The five national safety performance measures are:

- Number of Fatalities
- Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Number of Serious Injuries
- Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
- Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

FDOT has identified “Vision Zero” targets (goal of no fatalities or injuries) for all five of the safety performance measures with the rationale that every life counts. Florida has become the only state in the nation to adopt “Vision Zero.” In addition, they have provided interim targets that set a specific number for each of the targets based on the last few years of data.

Each of the MPOs have until February 27, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets, or develop their own targets. Guidance regarding implementation of adopted targets was provided by FHWA to the MPO staff in October 2017.

Additionally, by May 27, 2018, MPOs must include a narrative description of the safety performance target(s) in their TIPs to address the performance targets, and the anticipated effects the projects will have collectively on meeting these targets. Further, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will also need to include narratives on the performance measures, either by the next major update or when/if the current LRTP gets amended after May of 2018.

Mr. Harrell noted that FDOT’s robust Vision Zero “ultimate goal” stresses that safety is key. He referenced comments at the last Florida MPOAC meeting, speculating that if all other states had followed FDOT’s program, the need to establish safety measure targets wouldn’t be necessary nationwide. He noted that FDOT is trying to establish a mindset approach to safety. Since the MPO Board must adopt these safety measures by a firm deadline, this topic must be placed on the MPO’s December 18, 2017 agenda. MPO staff is recommending the adoption of FDOT’s safety measures targets by the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board.

Venkat Vattikuti informed that the analysis is flawed since the data in the crash reports are inaccurate. He mentioned he would like to discuss about the reports at the next CTST meeting. Mitchell Austin echoed his concerns regarding the inaccuracies in crash reports.

Venkat Vattikuti made a motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. Linda Sposito seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. FY 2023/2024 Shared – Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trails Network Priorities

Gary Harrell informed that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is soliciting on behalf of the Office of Greenways and Trails System (OGT) new potential projects for funding the SUN Trail program for inclusion in the Tentative Five Year Work Program development cycle. Projects programmed for this cycle will be funded as early as FY 2023/2024. The deadline for submission of these applications is December 15, 2017.

Gary Harrell reviewed the four projects listed below.

1. Babcock Web Trail Corridor – On Tuckers Grade from US 41 to Babcock Ranch Entrance (Not on either SUN Trail or OGT but part of the 2040 LRTP)
2. West Coast Trail – Charlotte County Corridor – On CR 775 from Gasparilla Rd to SR 776 (Not on SUN Trail network but part of OGT)
3. Charlotte County Spine Trail 2 Corridor – On US 41 (East side) from Peace River Bridge to Murdock Circle
4. Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor – On SR 776 from Murdock Circle to Myakka State Forest

He stated that as part of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan study, the project consultant, Jacobs Engineering, Inc., was working with staff to consider these candidate projects. A discussion took place to remove Babcock Web Trail Corridor as an option for consideration in the FDOT's Tentative Work Program. After discussing each trail and its potential for funding a Feasibility Study, the TAC recommended the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor (fourth project on the list). Jacobs Engineering, Inc. recommended applying for a feasibility study for this project by the deadline.

Mr. Harrell noted that Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor project seems to be the most promising, especially given the future development of Murdock Village and numerous other attractions along the route (such as the Charlotte Sports Park and the Myakka State Forest). He noted that Charlotte County has done well in the past in fighting for the limited funding available statewide for projects in the SUN Trail network.

Venkat Vattikuti mentioned that West Coast Trail – Charlotte County Corridor on CR 775 given the right of way constraints it will be tough to consider as part of SUN-Trail and funds for the study. He also mentioned that Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor has a better option of getting funded compared to other projects on the list.

Gary Harrell responded to Matt Trepal question regarding the project limits on Cape Haze Pioneer Trail corridor and Charlotte County Spine Trail 2 Corridor. Matt Trepal recommended to extend the Charlotte County Spine Trail 2 Corridor limits to US 41 from Murdock Circle to SR 776 and Cape Haze Pioneer Trail corridor on SR 776 to Murdock Circle from US 41.

Kay Tracy highlighted about the recent developments in the Murdock Village and mentioned that the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor can help the Village and makes it more pedestrian friendly. Gary Harrell mentioned the main purpose of the SUN Trails is to promote recreation, conservation and encourage alternative transportation.

Venkat Vattikuti made a motion to recommend the MPO Board consider submitting a Feasibility Study for the projects for the FY 2023/2024 Tentative Five-Year Work Program SUN Trail Program in the following order:

1. Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor – On SR 776 from US 41 to Myakka State Forest
2. Charlotte County Spine Trail 2 Corridor – On US 41 (East side) from Peace River Bridge to SR 776

Matt Trepal seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell handed out Project Priorities list for the upcoming program cycle and requested the TAC members to review and submit any comments/recommendations to the MPO Staff. The information packet is due to FDOT on February 1st, 2018.

D’Juan Harris FDOT informed that an application for the Project Priorities is not required if the project is in the pipeline in the following year or in ROW funding phase.

Venkat Vattikuti responded to Gary Harrell question regarding the TRIP Project Priorities. He informed that Charlotte County is looking for additional TRIP funds for the Burnt Store Rd Phase –II project and recommended to drop the Piper Rd project.

Gary Harrell informed that Bike-Pedestrian Master Plan is under way and will have a project status update at the December 2017 MPO Board Meeting and Jacobs Engineering , Inc. will be conducting a series of public meetings after holidays.

He also informed that the joint meeting with the Lee County MPO Board has been postponed with a likely rescheduling to the February 2018 timeframe. One issue to discuss would be Babcock Ranch and proposed developments on SR 31.

11. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

12. Adjournment (NEXT MEETING – February 14, 2018)

The meeting was adjourned at 10.32 a.m. The next scheduled Regular TAC Meeting was announced to be February 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Port Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road in Port Charlotte.

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