



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

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2018
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
Jerry Mallet, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development

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
Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development
Gary Harrell, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner III
Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering, Inc.
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works
April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works
Peter Gerhardt, Charlotte County Planning & Zoning

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. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D' Juan Harris, FDOT Liaison informed members about the application for the 2018 Project Priorities and the deadline to submit the applications was February 1. He did mention that FDOT is continuing to receive the applications.

He also mentioned that a walk-on Agenda Item, for a TIP Amendment will be presented by the MPO Staff.

4. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2017 Meeting

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

5. Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Gary Harrell briefed the members on the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP describes the transportation planning activities and establishes the MPO budget. The State Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2018.

He mentioned the timeline for the UPWP as below:

- March 15, 2018 – Deadline for MPO to transmit the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 UPWP to FDOT District One and reviewing agencies.
- April 15, 2018 – Deadline for District and reviewing agencies to provide the MPO with comments on the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 UPWP.
- May 15, 2018 – The MPO Board reviews the comments and adopts the Final FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 UPWP for distribution to the District and reviewing agencies.
- Within 10 working days of receipt – FDOT District One reviews the MPO adopted Final FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 UPWP. The MPO and District One staffs resolve any outstanding issues. The District transmits the comments and responses to the FDOT Public Transportation Office and FHWA.

Mr. Harrell described how new federal transportation legislation requires MPOs to address performance measures goals, with the first one (safety) being reviewed at the previous meeting. This new requirement is listed in the draft UPWP document under several tasks. Mr. Harrell also highlighted that the MPO Staff already plays an active role in the safety performance

measures by attending the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) meetings and other coordination meetings.

Mr. Harrell reported that a copy of the draft UPWP has already been submitted to some state officials, and some comments already have been received. On March 8, 2018, the MPO Board will review this draft to be forwarded to reviewing agencies, and approval of the finalized document will be scheduled for the May 2, 2018 MPO Board Meeting.

Linda Sposito made a motion to recommend the MPO Board forward the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to appropriate reviewing agencies, allowing staff to make appropriate revisions as needed. Rick Kolar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5.1 FY 2017/2018-FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program

Gary Harrell mentioned that the MPO Staff received a request from FDOT to amend the MPO's FY 2017/2018-FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program. The City of Punta Gorda has opted not to install City funded decorative lighting but to use standard highway lighting. The change enables increasing the limits of the project for approximately the same amount programmed using State funds. Changing the limits of a project requires a TIP Amendment. The Amendment also removes local funds.

Linda Sposito made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve an Amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's TIP for FY 2017/2018 – FY 2021/2022 changing the limits FPN 434988-1 to: US 41 from South of Rio Villa Drive to Airport Road. Rick Kolar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. 2018 Project Priorities – Discussion

Gary Harrell reviewed the Draft 2018 Project Priorities List which included Highway Projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Projects, Congestion Management/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding. He also stated that as part of the TIP process the MPO is required to develop, annually, a list of project priorities and to submit the list to FDOT by July 1st of each year. He stated that most of the project priorities were unfunded last year. He reviewed the different funding sources for the proposed projects and briefed the Committee on the MPO staff's previous recommended ranking of the proposed projects. He also briefed members on the new projects that were submitted by the County.

Mr. Harrell informed the Committee that he attended a presentation of the Sun Seeker Resort development that is in the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The project may have a major effect on the TIP's project priorities. A discussion came up about public-private partnerships in making improvements in the area. Charlotte County Staff recommended to continue applying for the current projects in the Charlotte Harbor CRA with no additional changes to the current priorities until more Sun Seeker Resort details are known. Mr. Harrell informed the Economic Development department that the MPO Staff is available to help in submitting those projects with any changes brought about by the development. He also mentioned that this Agenda Item is for information purposes only and does not require an action. He also welcomed future comments and changes on Project Priorities.

7. Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan – Status Report

Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering gave a briefing regarding the ongoing Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan. He noted that the project is at the cusp of identifying gaps and needs in Charlotte County. He also mentioned that his team is working with their subcontractor, Alta Planning, in developing various aspects of design standards to be incorporated in the plan. He also mentioned about Wikimap an online web interactive tool to solicit public comments and was encouraged that over 100 comments already had been received.

He noted that three public workshops were scheduled during the month of March to solicit public input on the Bike-Ped projects in Charlotte County. TAC members expressed a concern about the timings of the meetings mostly during the work day hours. They recommended to schedule an additional meeting in the evening so the group of people who work during the day would be able to attend and comment on the plan.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell announced a Public Workshop for the Harbor View Project Development & Environmental Study conducted by AIM Engineering to be held on March 29, 2018 at the East Port Environmental Campus. He noted that staff had been busy with numerous meetings, including attendance at the Punta Gorda City Council, the Lee County MPO's Technical Advisory Committee and an FDOT MPO Certification Meeting.

10. Member Comments

Matt Trepal stated that the County CIPs are scheduled for adoption this month.

Chris Whittaker stated that the Complete Streets ordinance for the City of North Port will be presented to the Planning Board in the month of February and then presented to the Commission in the month of March.

Mitchell Austin stated that a Kick off meeting has been held by the City of Punta Gorda for the Transportation Buildout Study.

11. Adjournment (NEXT MEETING – April 18, 2018)

The meeting was adjourned at 10.32 a.m. The next scheduled Regular TAC Meeting was announced to be April 18, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Port Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road in Port Charlotte.