



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

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2018
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Patrick, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development
Don Scott, Lee County MPO

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
Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)
Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority
Rich Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Erik Fleming, AIM Engineering
Steven Andrews, FDOT
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
Bill Jones, Charlotte Sun

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. Chair's Report

Mitchell Austin, MPO chair has nothing to report.

4. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

A. Harbor View Road PD&E Study - Update

Steven Andrews, FDOT Project Manager presented a brief Power Point presentation to the TAC members on Harbor View Rd PD& E Study. He presented the committee with three alternatives and to widen the road. He further mentioned that a public hearing will be held in fall of 2018 and a preferred alternative will be selected to widen road.

A lengthy discussion took place after the presentation. Chris Whittaker asked if the median width can be reduced to provide grade separation from Sidewalks and Bike lanes. Erik Fleming, AIM Engineering mentioned that 30 feet median is required for motorists to make a U-turn at the locations. He also mentioned that the proposed 7-foot bike lane would be considered as a buffer for the safety of pedestrians. A reduction of speed limit is also considered as part of the widening.

Mitchell Austin asked if the number of property relocations can be avoided under optimized alternate. The Consultant indicated that because of the road curvature and proximity to the residential lots, it is extremely difficult to avoid the relocation.

Erik Fleming also indicated that similar presentation will be presented both at the MPO Board Meeting and BOCC meeting.

5. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2018 Meeting

B. FY 2018/2019 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 (d) Transit Planning Grant Application

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

6. FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement

Gary Harrell briefed the members the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and as the MPO's new two-year budget. He noted that the funding amounts are taken from FDOT's work program and the figures would likely change. He indicated that approval from the MPO Board was needed to forward the draft document to FDOT for review.

He noted Multi-year Business Plan regarding an MPO early payback of an advance to complete the last Long Range Transportation Plan which is indicated in red on Page 52. He mentioned that given the retirement of the former MPO Director and a staff vacancy, funding has been freed up funding to pay off advance two years early. The State Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2018.

Don Scott made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2018/2019 – FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Linda Sposito seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Gary Harrell indicated that Federal and State legislation require MPOs to adopt a 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (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.

He mentioned the TIP includes all transportation projects or identified phases of a project within the metropolitan area proposed for funding under Title 23 and the Federal Transit Act. Regionally significant transportation projects, whether the projects are funded with Federal funds, are also included. The capital improvements from both city of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. It also includes new rules enacted under FAST Act.

Linda Sposito made a motion to amend the FY 2018/2019-FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. 2018 Project Priorities – Discussion

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. FDOT has asked that the priorities be submitted by July 1, 2018. In previous years, the MPO received project candidates from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. 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 from the attached draft list and briefed the addition of new projects that were added by the County under CM/TSM projects.

Venkat Vattikuti proposed to replace the US 41 @ Port Charlotte Blvd intersection project that is funded for CST in the 2020/2021 with the SR 776 @ Charlotte Sport park intersection improvement. He also proposed to move the US 41 @ Port Charlotte Blvd intersection

improvements back into the CM/TSM projects list and after the SR 31 at CR 75 (Bermont Road) intersection. The remaining projects list will be unchanged.

Venkat Vattikuti made a motion to approve the 2018 Project Priorities as amended. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote

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

Gary Harrell introduced Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering, Inc. He handed out the presentation material to the members. The consultant team reported on the recent community outreach efforts including the Wikimap inputs as well as the four public workshops held on March 21st and 22nd. The team received around 400 comments from Wikimap. He indicated that gaps in the system are identified and were weighted over the criteria that were identified and approved by the Steering Committee. The projects are scored based on the adopted Design Criteria that includes Mobility, Land Use, Safety and Public Input. The gaps were identified by Mid, South and West County region and most of the gaps are on SUN Trail corridors. Several designs proposals were recommended based on the Charlotte county road network.

He also mentioned the gaps that are identified by the public were also included in the list. The team is finalizing the evaluation of the projects, policy evaluation, and initial program recommendations. Another recommendation was made to hire a Planner who can strictly focus on the Bicycle-Pedestrian issues in the county. A final draft of the Charlotte County Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan will be presented to the members at their July 18th meeting with the goal to have the MPO Board adopt the Plan by the end of July 2018.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell discussed recent public outreach activities with bicycle/pedestrian master plan.

12. Member Comments

Chris Whitaker indicated that the City of North Port is participated in a Joint meeting with Charlotte County regarding Hillsborough Blvd/Cranberry Blvd and US 41 to address future traffic issues at that location.

13. Adjournment (NEXT MEETING – July 18, 2018)

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