



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

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2018  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative  
Joanna Drinkwater, Mid County Representative  
Robert Logan, Mid County Representative  
Dianne Quilty, Mid County Representative  
Steve Schoff, CAC Vice Chair, West County Representative  
Ed Zapke, South County Representative  
Ed Zubal, West County Representative

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jim Brown, South County Representative  
Grover Mudd, At-Large Representative  
Vacant, At-Large Representative

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

D'Juan Harris, FDOT  
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, Urban Design  
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Engineering Department  
Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering  
Gary Harrell, MPO Director  
Laks Gurram, Senior Planner  
Gene Klara, Planner

**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**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

## **4. Reports**

### **A. Chairs' Report**

Chair Burrage stated that he attended the May 7, 2018 MPO Board Meeting. At the meeting, he emphasized CAC Member concerns regarding traffic congestion and project development on Burnt Store Road, Harbor View Road, Kings Highway/Peachland Blvd. intersection, River Road in Sarasota County, and SR 776 near the Charlotte Sports Park. Mr. Burrage gave to MPO staff the May 10, 2108 Charlotte Sun Front Page newspaper article describing the issues and projects discussed at the May 7, MPO Board Meeting. The MPO staff stated the article would be placed in the official file generated for this meeting. Mr. Burrage also noted that Don McCormick of the South Charlotte County Coalition (SCCC) noted that the association members have ongoing traffic congestion concerns with the proposed Sunseeker Resort project.

### **B. City of Punta Gorda Report**

Mitchell Austin chaired the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held during the morning of July 17, 2018 and reported on the TAC discussions.

### **C. Charlotte County Report**

Ravi Kamarajugadda reviewed several ongoing County projects including the recently completed Beach Road crosswalk. Additionally, he noted that the Gasparilla (Boca Grande area) crosswalk work is ongoing.

He noted that the Sunseeker Resort project plans continue to be evaluated. Mr. Kamarajugadda stated that overall condo/hotel room unit numbers have not been finalized and project traffic impacts are still being evaluated. Diane Quilty noted that preliminary plans indicated that parking at the resort would entail entering the facility at the main checkpoint; noting that currently the plans do not include off resort parking. Mr. Kamarajugadda responded, stating that this parking issue and many others related to the Sunseeker project have yet to be submitted and reviewed.

Members expressed their concern over delays to the Phase II Burnt Store Road improvements related to a required bonneted bat habitat study. Mr. Kamarajugadda noted that this study should not significantly delay initiation of roadway improvements. Another concern focused on the ongoing issue of traffic congestion in the Kings Highway/Peachland Blvd/Veterans Blvd. intersection, noting that congestion will increase during the winter visitor season. Mr.

Kamarajugadda stated that traffic signal timing improvements focus on relieving this congestion and noted that roadway widening is not a viable option for these segments of the roadway. Gary Harrell noted that the proposal to construct another interchange on I-75 (Raintree area) to reduce congestion in the area has been discussed with the Sarasota-Manatee MPO. He noted that the Sarasota-Manatee MPO has recognized this potential interchange, and the project is a part of the Needs List in their current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Harrell stated that an Interchange Access Report (IAR) would need to be prepared and submitted to FDOT.

## **5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report**

D’Juan Harris stated that FDOT’s FY 2020-2024 Draft Tentative Work Program is being developed and is expected to be released for public review during the week of October 15-19, 2018. He noted all materials related to the Work Plan will be available for review on the FDOT website during that week.

## **6. Consent Agenda**

### **A. Approval of Minutes: April 18, 2018 Meeting**

### **B. FY 2018/2019 Unified Planning Work Program-Task 8-Transit and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Amendment**

*Bob Logan made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ed Zapke seconded the Motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.*

## **7. Statewide Transportation Performance Measures Targets/Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP)**

Lakshmi Gurram reviewed past action the MPO Board took to adopt Safety Performance Measures (PM1) to meet new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. He noted that FHWA has established an additional set of performance measures for Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and system performance for the National Highway System (NHS) and freight (PM3). FDOT’s initial performance measures targets for PM2 and PM3 targets had been recently released. He stated that based on guidance from FHWA, FDOT will make risk-based decisions from a long-term assessment of the National Highway System (NHS), and other public roads included in the plan. MPOs have until November 16, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets, or develop their own targets. MPOs are required to include a narrative description into the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of the Bridge and Pavement measures and system performance, freight, and anticipated effects the projects will have collectively on meeting these targets. He observed that 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 July 2018.

*Ed Zapke made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt FDOT’s Initial Targets for Pavement and Bridge measurements (PM2) and system performance and freight (PM3). Diane Quilty seconded the Motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.*

## **8. FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Gary Harrell stated that the State's Fiscal Year ended on June 30, 2018, and most projects scheduled in the current year of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) commence work in that current year. Mr. Harrell noted it is sometimes necessary to defer the commencement of work beyond the current year of the approved TIP. When this happens projects that did not get authorized by June 30, 2018 require a TIP Amendment to "roll-forward" these project phases into the first year of the new TIP. MPO staff has received a request from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda FY 2018/2019 - FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to roll-forward projects into the new TIP.

*Diane Quilty made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for FY 2018/2019-FY 2022/2023 adding roll-forward projects that could not be obligated during the State's fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Ed Zapke seconded the motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.*

## **9. 2018 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)**

Gary Harrell stated that to be eligible for TRIP funding, regional transportation areas must be established by interlocal agreements; a network of regional roadways must be identified; and regionally significant projects must be prioritized by the regional entity. Per the *Interlocal Agreement for Joint Regional Transportation Planning and Coordination between the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization*, the MPO Directors have established a Joint TRIP Project List for Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and the Sarasota/Manatee MPOs. He stated that Burnt Store Road (Phase II) is the Number Two Project Priority on the Joint TRIP Project List. The Sarasota/Manatee MPO adopted the Joint TRIP Project list at its June 18, 2018 MPO Board meeting.

*Bob Logan made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the 2018 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO- Sarasota/Manatee MPO. Diane Quilty seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **10. Charlotte County Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan – Final Report**

Mr. Ned Baier of Jacobs Engineering in Tampa, Florida stated that a progress report to BPAC members was presented at their June 14, 2018 regular meeting and to the Project Steering Committee on July 9, 2018. He noted this will be the Draft Final report to the Committee on the progress made in the development of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan for Charlotte County and the MPO. Mr. Baier noted the main purpose of the study is to develop a countywide singular focused pedestrian, bicycle, and trails Master Plan.

He stated the Plan began in late August 2017 and will be completed and adopted by the MPO Board by the end of July 2018. The consultant team is working closely with the Steering Committee which includes staff of the MPO, Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda.

Mr. Baier noted the Steering Committee reviewed the Draft presentation and recommended the Consultant prepare the Draft – Final plan meeting for today’s July 18, 2018 meeting. He stated that the MPO Board will review and consider adoption of the Plan at its July 30, 2018 meeting.

He noted during his presentation several Plan highlights, goals and conclusions. The Vision and Goals have driven the development of the Plan reflecting input from the project scope, staff, Project Steering Committee, MPO Committees and Board, and the public. He reviewed the tasks and the end results of public outreach consisting of four (4) public workshops and noted that 425 comments were received from an online social media tool Wiki-Maps. He listed the recommendations for projects, programs, and policies found in the Plan and noted the costs and projected methods of funding the Plan. In closing, Mr. Baier described several Tier 1 project priorities noting they were organized by geographic segments of Charlotte County (West, Mid, and South) with related timeframes.

Recommendations were offered by members including a review of the County’s Capital Improvement Plan for integration with this Plan; potential MSBU funding for sidewalk construction and Plan provisions for maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian amenities and elements. Discussion centered on the presentation format of the Executive Summary and Implementation Plan that were provided separately from the Agenda packet. The consensus of the Committee was that it is a very good plan that needs to be adopted, but there were several details that need to be clarified before being presented to the MPO Board.

***Bob Logan** made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the current draft Charlotte County Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan, with the understanding that the presentation of the Plan would continue to be refined and finalized leading to Plan adoption scheduled by the MPO Board at its October 29, 2018 meeting. **Diane Quilty** seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **12. Staff Comments**

Gary Harrell informed members that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met at 9:30 a.m. for its regular meeting. TAC members agreed that the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan is nearing completion and succeeds in developing a 20-year vision of the needs, support facilities and identification of funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and improved safety options. TAC members recognized that the Plan “needs a bit more time” to develop a more complete, thorough and definitive Plan document. As a result, Mr. Harrell stated that the Plan Steering Committee will be meeting at a future date along with Jacobs Engineering staff to discuss refinements and minor revisions to the Plan and plan presentation. Mr. Harrell would discuss these recommendations from the MPO Advisory Boards at the MPO Board’s July 30, 2018 meeting, and present the final Plan for adoption by the MPO Board at its October 29, 2018 meeting. He stated that the draft final Plan presentation would be presented to the CAC at its October 17, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Harrell stated that Gene Klara, as members observed, attended today's CAC meeting in place of Wendy Scott who is recovering from health issues and is expected to return to work soon.

Gene Klara noted that at the MPO Board's July 30, 2018 meeting, long serving CAC member Bob Logan will be receiving the 9<sup>th</sup> "Peggy Walters" Citizen Mobility Award. He asked that CAC members consider attending the MPO Board meeting to recognize the efforts and contributions Mr. Logan has made to the MPO and CAC.

### **13. Member Comments**

Ed Zapke announced that he will resign as the CAC's South County Representative effective at the adjournment of today's meeting.

Bob Logan reflected on the work and efforts of the CAC that has resulted in several roadway improvements and safety enhancements throughout Charlotte County over the 14 years he has been a member of the CAC.

Steve Schoff spoke in favor of reestablishing a renewed emphasis to call the entire length of River Road the Englewood Interstate Connector. He noted that this effort could aid in directing a renewed effort on the part of Sarasota County to include the River Road segment from Englewood to US 41 for roadway expansion improvements. Mr. Schoff also mentioned the signal at the intersection of Winchester Blvd. and Avenue of the Americas to ensure it was still on schedule.

Diane Quilty related to members that her review of preliminary Plans submitted by Banks Engineering for the proposed Sunseeker Resort development includes public access to a boardwalk along the Peace River but provides no access to the river shoreline. She also stated that the current Plan calls for public parking to be situated within the resort complex, requiring motorists gain entry to parking through a resort checkpoint. Additionally, she stated that the access point to the Harbor Walk Park is currently planned to be located outside the facility boundaries with access not viable from within the resort property limits.

Joanna Drinkwater stressed how the proposed Mosaic Company phosphate mining operation could impact Charlotte and DeSoto area roadways. She noted that Mosaic plans to use the abandoned railroad roadbed to provide access to I-75 for their ore hauling trucks. Ms. Drinkwater stated that a series of public hearings will take place in Arcadia (DeSoto County) on July 24-25, 2018 on Mosaic's mining plans. Diane Quilty suggested that Commissioner Chris Constance be made aware of these hearings as he is a member of the regional Water Board.

Ed Zubal related that efforts to provide more project accountability be explored, as he believes several finished and ongoing projects appear lacking in this aspect.

Jim Brown, while not in attendance at the meeting due to a health issue, discussed with Gary Harrell by phone on July 19, 2018, his concern that many dump trucks currently in use on Burnt Store Road are greatly exceeding speed limits and are a safety concern. He reiterated the negative impact the bonneted bat study will have on the Burnt Store Road Phase II.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room A beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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