



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

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD MEETING, JULY 30, 2018
MURDOCK ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, ROOM #119
PORT CHARLOTTE FL 33948

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Christopher Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Chair
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County Airport Authority, MPO Vice Chair
Council Member Lynne Matthews, Punta Gorda City Council
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo, Charlotte County Commissioner

ADVISORY

L.K. Nandam, FDOT District One Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Gary Harrell, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Principal Planner
Wendy Scott, MPO Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

Zac Burch, FDOT
Wayne Gaither, FDOT
D’Juan Harris, FDOT
Sarah Catala, FDOT
John Burrage, CAC Chair
Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair/City of Punta Gorda
K. Stephen Carter, BPAC Chair
Janette S. Knowlton, Charlotte County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)
Bob Logan, CAC Member and Peggy Walters Award recipient
JoAnn Drinkwater, CAC Member
Peter Gerhardt, CCP&Z, BZA
Betsy Calvert, Sun
Liz Hardaway, Sun

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

MPO Chair Stephen R. Deutsch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The roll call was taken, and the Chair noted that all members were present.

2. Invocation

John Burrage gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Addition and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Gary Harrell noted that Agenda Item #14 (FDOT SIS Coast Feasible Presentation) was moved to Agenda Item 9-F under the FDOT Report.

There was one Addition to the Agenda that had been made earlier in the week:

14-A. MPO Director Performance Evaluation Form

Commissioner Constance moved the changes to the Agenda, and Commissioner Tiseo seconded the Motion. It was approved unanimously.

5. Presentation of the “Peggy Walters” Citizen Mobility Award

Gary Harrell stated that the “Peggy Walters” Citizen Mobility Award has been given by the MPO since 2010 and recognizes achievement by an individual or group who, through their efforts and accomplishments, has made significant and noteworthy contributions to transportation planning in Charlotte County.

The MPO bestowed the 2018 award upon Bob Logan. Mr. Harrell read a list of Mr. Logan’s impressive and extensive contributions and leadership roles on behalf of citizen mobility.

Mr. Logan said it was an honor to receive this award, especially since Ms. Peggy Walters served as an inspiration to him when he was a new member of the CAC. She had served as his “mother hen,” who had taken him “under her wing” and taught him to be patient. She had stressed that it would take a long time to master the process, and he would learn a great deal. Mr. Logan noted that in the newspaper a few days prior, it was written that Charlotte County is only half built out. He stated that a vision would be needed regarding what our future transportation problems will be. He thanked the MPO Board Members for conferring the award upon him.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on Agenda Items.

7. Chairs' Reports:

A. MPO Board Chair's Report

None

B. Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair's Report

CAC Chair John Burrage stated that the CAC Members had recommended approval of MPO Board Agenda Items #11, #12 and #13. He noted that the Charlotte County Bicycle Pedestrian Regional Master Plan (CCBPRMP) would be available for the October round of meetings. He stated that CAC Member concerns were in the CAC Minutes. He remarked that Ed Zapke had resigned his CAC position mainly due to delays in Burnt Store Road progress.

C. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair's Reports

Mitchell Austin, City of PG Urban Design and TAC Chair, observed that there had been lively discussion at the TAC Meeting. He noted that the CCBPRMP was well underway, and a presentation would be discussed at the October MPO Board Meeting.

D. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair's Report

K. Stephen Carter congratulated Bob Logan on receiving his award. He noted that the BPAC had received some citizen concerns on sidewalk gaps: (1) Edgewater Drive (from Midway Blvd to Flamingo Blvd) and (2) Gasparilla Road (from SR 776 to the Boca Grande Causeway). The BPAC also reviewed a CCBPRMP presentation. There also was discussion of safety concerns: (1) construction debris in roadways, (2) at US 17 over Shell Creek, dangerous problems where expansion joints stick up and need to be ground down, and (3) the need for consideration of a possible roundabout at the Sports Park on SR 776. Mr. Carter thanked the Peace River Riders for volunteering to repair/refurbish the Charlotte County bicycle trailer and associated bicycle equipment used for teaching bicycle safety to the Charlotte County Public Schools students and others.

8. Local Government Reports:

A. Charlotte County Airport Authority

Commissioner Herston, as Chair of the Airport Authority (CCAA), provided a packet of materials regarding the following Airport Authority activities:

- CCAA Agenda for June 21, 2018
- Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for Seven Months Ending April 30, 2018
- Statement of Net Position (Balance Sheet) as of April 30, 2018
- CCAA Total Passengers CY 2012 Through 2018
- Fuel Sales Report 2017 vs 2018
- Operations Report by Tower/Allegiant Airlines Cities Served

- Marketing and Communications Report as of May 2018
- CCAA CEO's Report – Development Update June 21, 2018

Members noted that the only downturn in Airport activity was explained by the disruptions caused by Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Mr. Herston thanked FDOT staff for departmental assistance provided with T-Hanger door replacements.

Commissioner Constance thanked Commissioner Herston for his thorough presentation and observed that the Airport Authority had a healthy amount of reserves. MPO Board Members from Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda offered any assistance necessary regarding issues such as obtaining US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) comments on the Airport Master Plan Update and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of the Runway 15-33 extension. Additional discussion centered upon the Airport's passenger and landing fees, especially how reasonable these fees were relative to those of neighboring aviation facilities.

B. City of Punta Gorda

Councilmember Lynne Matthews reported on the following:

- Jones Loop Force Main is out for bid and due in August. Council is expected to award the bid by September.
- Alternate Harbor Water Access
 - Bird Section Cut Through (The Army Corps of Engineers approved purchase of Saltwater Mitigation Bank Credits. The City would consider going ahead with the purchase of saltwater mitigation credits pending full permitting approval. Negotiations are Underway with Owner of the property where the cut through would be located)
 - Vivante Condo cut through to the harbor (nothing new to report)
- Forty-one additional parking spaces at Laishley Park is underway
- Gilchrist Park Restroom Construction near Playground has commenced
- The City Master Plan Update, Request for Qualifications (RFQs) including Architectural Standards was approved and is moving forward.
- Permits for two business projects at US 41/Carmalita Street intersection are awaiting pickup

C. Charlotte County

Commissioner Tiseo provided a Roadway Update handout covering:

- Burnt Store Road Phase 2 (Notre Dame to North of Zemel Road), the County is working through permitting with SWFWMD, and starting ROW acquisition
- Midway Blvd (Sharpe Street to Kings Highway), completion date is November 1, 2018 and the contract is slightly ahead of schedule
- Olean Blvd (US 41 to Easy Street) 60% plans have been reviewed by the County

- Piper Road (Henry Street to US 17) a change order has been approved and completion date is now March 12, 2019
- Placida Road Multi-Use Path and Utilities Improvement (Rotonda Blvd. W. to Boca Grande Causeway) the project is substantially complete

9. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

It was agreed that new Item #9-F would be discussed first.

F. FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Presentation

Sarah Catala described how the SIS Cost Feasible Plan was a sixteen-year plan (2029-2045), developed in accordance with legislative requirements. She stated that it must be consistent with other plans such as the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the SIS Policy Plan with updated SIS criteria. Noteworthy SIS projects in the Southwest Florida area include the I-75 managed lanes and US 17 capacity improvements. FDOT District One is the third highest district for funding statewide with much anticipated growth. Available information now reflects the Year of Expenditure funding which is influenced by rising construction costs.

Commissioner Tiseo asked about I-75 improvements. Ms. Catala stated that with the six-laning of the interstate, based upon modeling, there is currently no need for additional capacity improvements. However, additional growth could change this scenario.

Commissioner Constance asked about SIS funding for Harbor View Road as it connects two State/federal roadways. FDOT and MPO staff stated that neither US 41 in Charlotte County nor Harbor View Road are eligible for SIS funding based upon SIS criteria. Harbor View Road improvements are funded in the current work program through the design and right-of-way phases. The construction phase funding will be discussed following completion of the earlier phases and may involve funding from partners beyond FDOT.

Commissioner Deutsch stressed how vital Harbor View Road is to the Sunseeker Project. Ms. Catala was thanked for her presentation.

D’Juan Harris addressed the following concerns listed under the FDOT Report:

A. I-75 Possible New Interchange North of Kings Hwy Interchange

FDOT District One will do a high-level assessment on the interchange request somewhere in the area between Kings Highway (Mile Marker 170) and Toledo Blade Blvd (Mile Marker 179). This initial feasibility study will assess whether the Interstate Justification Report (IJR) will meet the eight policy points between the two MPOs (Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO and Sarasota/Manatee MPO). Secretary Nandam noted that since the Sarasota/Manatee MPO put this project on its Priority List, FDOT District One reasoned that a high-level feasibility study should be incorporated before proceeding. Commissioner Constance noted that the project is better placed in South Sarasota County, whether at Raintree Blvd or Yorkshire Street. He applauded this great news and thanked FDOT staff. Secretary Nandam stated that

the study would first look at adjacent interchanges for possible upgrades. Both Commissioner Tiseo and Commissioner Constance stated that upgrading the Kings Hwy interchange would not be a solution. Commissioner Tiseo noted that when the MPO Board partners with its neighbors, it speaks volumes. The goal is to have FDOT consider the situation. He characterized the response as fabulous news.

B. SR 31 at CR 74 Intersection

Mr. Harris described how the short-term solution was on schedule to have a full signal in place by the end of the calendar year. FDOT was still developing a long-term solution with perhaps, roundabout installation by FY 2021. Commissioner Deutsch asked about whether any consideration had been given to fixing the worn soft shoulders on SR 31 near the intersection. Mr. Harris stated he had worked with FDOT Operations and they did not find soft shoulder areas on SR 31. He recommended contacting FDOT's Troy Norwood regarding this concern for a specific location of any soft shoulders.

C. US 17 at Nesbit Street Intersection Re-design

Mr. Harris stated that FDOT had received the FGCU students' report on the intersection. He noted that FDOT's utmost concern was safety, and until the line of sight obstructions to the east are removed, FDOT cannot make a change. Lynn Matthews observed that the City Council Members unanimously also did not believe it was in the interest of safety to make the change. Secretary Nandam suggested that the issue was closed and should be taken off the FDOT list. Council Member Matthews added that numerous discussions at great length had been held by the City, and she agreed that the issue now was closed. Commissioner Constance gave his views on why changes were needed at the intersection. Commissioner Deutsch observed that the City and FDOT agreed on the safety issue. Commissioner Constance stated that the matter should be left on the list for now.

D. I-75 Purple Heart County Signage

Mr. Harris reported that the FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee had responded that designating a portion of I-75 in Florida with Purple Heart County signage was not permissible. Commissioner Deutsch noted that he had recently discovered that some portions of the interstate system in the nation have been designated as a Purple Heart roadways. Secretary Nandam indicated that FDOT staff had contacted multiple offices and could not support such signage based upon current regulations. He stated that he had no knowledge of such segments elsewhere in the nation. Although FDOT could not allow this signage, there were other routes that the MPO Board could pursue. Commissioner Deutsch informally obtained MPO Board member approval to have Gary Harrell research the issue of Purple Heart Highway designation.

E. US 41/Carmalita Street

D'Juan Harris described how a site visit had revealed that no PD&E study was needed, so FDOT will change programmed phasing to Design instead. Council Member Matthews thanked FDOT staff for addressing this intersection, since it is a major safety concern.

At the end of his report, Mr. Harris announced the FY 2020-2024 FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program E-Public Hearings would be the week of October 15-19, 2018. The Draft Tentative Work Program will be discussed at the next MPO Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 29, 2018.

10. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2018 MPO Board Meeting**
- B. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Reappointments**
- C. 2018 Annual Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation**
- D. FY 2018/2019 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Administrative Support Agreement/Resolution**
- E. FY 2018/2019 Unified Planning Work Program – Task 8 - Transit & Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Amendment**

Commissioner Tiseo requested that Item 10-E be pulled for discussion. Commissioner Constance made a motion to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda (Items 10-A through 10-D). Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tiseo asked that Gary Harrell review the details of the UPWP Amendment in Item 10-E. Mr. Harrell explained that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) required that Charlotte County Transit Section 5307 funds being used to fund a state mandated Transit Development Plan (TDP) be displayed in the MPO's UPWP Task 8 as an area planning study. Mr. Harrell also reviewed the funding received by the MPO from various grants to cover staff personnel costs.

Commissioner Tiseo moved approval of Consent Agenda Item 10-E. Commissioner Constance seconded the Motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Transportation Performance Measures Targets/ Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP)

Mr. Harrell stated FHWA has established an additional set of performance measures for Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and System Performance for the National Highway System (NHS) freight, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) (PM3). Of note, the CMAQ does not apply to Florida as the entire State is in attainment for air quality standards.

The FDOT initial performance measures targets for PM2 and PM3 were released on May 20, 2018. Based on the 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, as it relates to managing its physical assets and laying out a set of investment strategies to address the condition and system performance gaps. Each of the MPOs have until November 16, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets, or develop their own targets. Guidance regarding implementation of adopted targets was provided by FDOT to the MPO staff in May 2018.

Additionally, by November 16, 2018, MPOs' Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) must include a narrative description of the Bridge and Pavement measures and system performance, freight, and anticipated effects the projects will have collectively on meeting these targets. 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. The narrative description is currently being vetted by MPOs throughout the State. At their July 18, 2018 meetings, TAC/CAC members recommended the MPO Board adopt the FDOT's Initial Targets for Pavement, Bridge, System Performance and freight.

Commissioner Constance made a Motion to adopt FDOT's Initial Targets for Pavement and Bridge measures (PM2) and System Performance, Freight and CMAQ (PM3). Commissioner Tiseo seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC MEETING:

A. PUBLIC MEETING: FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Roll-Forward Amendment

Gary Harrell reported that the MPO has received a request from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to "roll-forward" certain project phases into the first year of the new FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 TIP. He stated a Public Meeting is required to solicit public input. Following the Public Meeting, a roll call vote of the MPO Board is required to adopt the TIP amendments.

Chair Deutsch opened the Public Meeting. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to close the Public Meeting. Commissioner Herston seconded the Motion, and the Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Constance made a Motion to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's TIP for FY 2018/2019 – FY 2022/2023 adding: Roll-forward projects from FY 2017/2018 which could not be obligated during the State's Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018. Commissioner Tiseo seconded the Motion, which was followed by a roll call vote. The Motion was carried unanimously.

13. 2018 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)

FDOT has requested that the MPO together with our regional partner (Sarasota/Manatee MPO) submit a list of Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priorities. 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.

As 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 - Sarasota/Manatee MPOs. The Sarasota/Manatee MPO adopted the Joint TRIP list at its June 18, 2018 MPO Board meeting. At their July 18, 2018 meetings, TAC/CAC members recommended the MPO Board adopt the proposed Joint TRIP list.

Mr. Harrell reviewed the TRIP Project List with the MPO Board Members. He pointed out that both MPOs were hopeful that River Road in Sarasota County would receive funding, as had Burnt Store Road (in conjunction with the Lee County MPO) in the prior year.

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to adopt the 2018 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO-Sarasota/Manatee MPO and submit the list to FDOT. Commissioner Constance seconded the Motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Deutsch suggested that in the future, consideration would be needed to extend improvements on River Road further south.

14. FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Presentation

This item was moved under FDOT Report, Agenda Item 9-E.

14. A. MPO Director Evaluation

Commissioner Constance provided members with a sample County Director evaluation form that has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and some associated boards. It contains more categories than the current MPO Director Evaluation form. He suggested that it might be appropriate to consider using at some point in the future (though not this current year). Chair Deutsch had mentioned the proposed form to Attorney Janette Knowlton for her review. She indicated that it contained the same eight categories as the current form but allowed ranking on a broader scale. Whereas the County had budget planning and oversight categories, it would be different for the MPO. She noted that the Interlocal Agreement allows for changing the form, and it would be the MPO Board's choice whether to do so. Commissioner Constance remarked that he was bringing it up now so that the adjustment might be made in several years, prior to a new director being hired.

15. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

16. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell handed out a list of recent staff activities. He thanked the City and the County for their assistance with the Charlotte County Bicycle Pedestrian Regional Master Plan. He characterized it as a good plan and looked forward to bringing it forward at the next MPO Board Meeting.

Mr. Harrell stated that the MPO staff had been reviewing MPO position descriptions since MPO planning work was quite different from County planning efforts.

Gary Harrell stated that FDOT had provided a bicycle trailer which was maintained by the Charlotte County Public Schools Transportation. The trailer is used to conduct Bicycle Rodeos and safety training. A half-day course was required for physical education teachers to be trained in using the trailer. The prior Saturday, volunteers from the Peace River Riders Bicycle Club had cleaned and repaired the bicycles kept in the trailer, so that this valuable asset would remain usable for some time. Acme Bicycle Shop had provided tools and space for the effort.

Mr. Harrell noted that the MPO had been short staffed for several months. He welcomed Wendy Scott back to work following an illness.

17. Member Comments

Commissioner Tiseo remarked that he was glad to see work on Midway Blvd. nearing completion. He believed that when finished, it would alleviate traffic on Peachland Blvd. and Veterans Blvd.

Commissioner Herston congratulated Mr. Logan on his award, noting that he had worked with him on the DRC group. He also requested that FDOT review the US 41 and Harbor View intersection right turn lane issue. Before the intersection improvements right turns on red was allowed. Now that the intersection was improved a “No Right Turn on Red” sign had been installed, causing right turning traffic to back up on Harbor View road. Commissioner Tiseo stated that the same concern existed at US 41/Olean Blvd intersection. Secretary Nandam noted that FDOT staff would review these intersections.

Commissioner Deutsch thanked Wendy Scott for filling in for Bekie Leslie. He also asked about the status of the railroad at Burnt Store Road and a proposed mini intermodal project. Mr. Harrell stated that the railroad was not moving forward on any projects at this time. Commissioner Deutsch also asked about the discussions regarding FDOT’s old rest stop area at Jones Loop Road. Secretary Nandam stated that the land is on the market for purchase.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M. The next scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, October 29, 2018.