



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

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2018
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Robert Logan, Mid County Representative
Jim Brown, South County Representative
Joanna Drinkwater, Mid County Representative
Steve Schoff, CAC Vice Chair, West County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grover Mudd, At-Large Representative (Excused)
Dianne Quilty, Mid County Representative (Excused)
Pauline Klein, At-Large Representative (Excused)
Michael Haymans, South County Representative (Excused)
Ed Zubal, West County Representative (Excused)

VACANT POSITION

West County Representative

OTHERS ATTENDING

D'Juan Harris, FDOT
Michael Tisch, FDOT
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Engineering Department
Gary Harrell, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Principal Planner
Wendy Scott, Planner
Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordinator

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. A quorum was not present.

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. Election of 2019 officers

Due to the lack of a quorum, Gary Harrell stated that Agenda #4 will be taken up at the January 16, 2019 CAC Meeting.

5. Reports

A. Chairs' Report

John Burrage discussed a Charlotte County engineer's report given at the recent South Charlotte County Coalition Meeting that detailed a timeframe for improvement to Burnt Store Road (Phase Two - Zemel Road to Notre Dame Blvd).

John Burrage noted that the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan was the subject of the last MPO Board Meeting. Commissioner Constance asked about the costs associated with some proposed projects in the plan.

B. City of Punta Gorda Report

Mitchell Austin described the status of Gilchrist Park enhancements, including restrooms and the playground. The Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge project will be out to bid later this month for construction. A Citywide Master Plan is underway, with a five-day public charrette in late March planned. Bob Logan praised the City's downtown Christmas lighting.

C. Charlotte County Report

Ravi Kamarajugadda discussed upcoming signal light installation projects: (1) Peachland/Loveland (starting February 2019 and ending July 2019) and (2) Winchester/Avenue of the Americas (starting May 2019 and ending Sept 2019).

Steve Schoff commented on traffic changes made in the Winchester/Fruitland area of the West County school zones including LA Ainger Middle School. These are quite difficult to drive through. Ravi Kamarajugadda said there is a plan to apply for sidewalk funding through the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program at these schools soon. He stated Charlotte County staff will coordinate with the Sheriff's Office on speeding issues.

Jim Brown asked when the Harbor Blvd. project will be completed. Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that it is taking time with sewer issues on this project. He estimated a February/March 2019 completion schedule. Bob Logan noted that when Charlotte County took over the

Utilities Company, General Development did not provide any plans detailing the location of sewer lines, which created issues with the Harbor Blvd. project.

Bob Logan had a question regarding the area of Peachland/Loveland/Veterans. He asked if a traffic study could be done regarding roadway markings. Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that the focus of a traffic study is on traffic, signals and the flow of traffic, rather than markings. A traffic study already has been done in that area.

6. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D’Juan Harris introduced his replacement, Mike Tisch. D’Juan Harris will be working in the Project Management Office at FDOT’s Southwest Area Office (SWAO).

Mike Tisch handed out copies of the FDOT Work Program. He noted that FDOT was currently in the e-Public Hearing phase. D’Juan Harris recommended that CAC Members review the FDOT video on the website before it is taken down at midnight.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2018 Meeting

No quorum was in attendance so agenda item number 7A. (Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2018 Meeting) was accepted without changes unanimously by the five members who were present.

8. FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Gary Harrell noted that the MPO closeout of the FY 2017 and FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) has \$46,931 remaining in that fiscal year. The MPO needs to move this amount into the current Fiscal Year 2019 and FY 2020 UPWP through an amendment. MPO staff recommends adding \$20,000 into FY 2020 Task 1 – Administration; and \$26,931 into FY 2019 Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The MPO is required to amend the FY 2019 and FY 2020 UPWP, updating figures to reflect these funds.

No quorum was in attendance so agenda item number 8 (FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program(UPWP) Amendment) was accepted without changes unanimously by the five members who were present.

9. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2019/2020 – FY 2023/2024, For Charlotte County

Gary Harrell welcomed FDOT Liaison Mike Tisch. He stated that Mike Tisch has worked in Charlotte County Public Works in the past, as well as in Lee County. Mike Tisch stated that there will be a second snapshot document of the FDOT Work Program in the Spring for approval by the Legislature.

Mike Tisch and D’Juan Harris reviewed the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program by noting the addition of projects, rescheduled projects and deleted projects in the five year work program. They answered questions from the members present regarding projects in the Work Program.

Although no vote was required, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2019/2020 – FY 2023/2024, For Charlotte County, was accepted by the five members who were present.

10. Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement

Gary Harrell stated that only local tax dollars were used to develop the legislative position statement annually. It was developed with assistance from the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC).

Bob Logan asked about the increased number of electric vehicles and resulting loss in gasoline tax revenues. Gary Harrell stated that the Legislature has been encouraged to develop alternate funding sources.

No quorum was in attendance, so agenda item number 10 (Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement) was accepted by the five members who were present.

11. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Safety Performance Measures Targets

The MPOs are required to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets every year for tracking progress towards the Statewide/MPO targets for each of the transportation performance measures and meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. The MPO adopted the FDOTs “Vision Zero” targets (goal of no fatalities or injuries) for all five of the safety performance measures at the December 18, 2017 meeting.

FHWA has established five national Safety Measures which all State Departments of Transportation and MPOs must address. Unlike other performance measures applicable only to the National Highway System (NHS), the safety performance measures apply to all public roads. The safety performance measures are:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The MPO has until December 18, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets, or develop their own targets. Of note, FDOT is required to provide safety performance data to the MPO. However, no new safety performance data is available from FDOT at this time. MPO Staff recommends the MPO Board re-adopt the Safety Performance measures provided last year.

No quorum was in attendance so agenda item number 11 (Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Safety Performance Measures Targets) was accepted by the five members who were present.

12. 2019 Project Priorities – Discussion

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 project information packages be submitted by February 1, 2019. The deadline to submit the preliminary list of priority projects is March 15, 2019 to begin the review process. The MPO receives project candidates from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County which include Highway projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Management/ Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box.

13. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

14. Staff Comments

Laks Gurram described the status of the MPO adopted Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan which awaits adoption by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in January 2019. The draft document is now posted to the MPO website. Once finalized, it will be incorporated into the MPO's upcoming Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The projects are listed in prioritized tiers for funding.

Laks Gurram also informed members that work on the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update is about to commence. The LRTP Update is the biggest project that the MPO conducts and is completed every 5 years. One of the MPO's General Planning Consultants (GPCs) will be selected by May to prepare the LRTP.

15. Member Comments

Steve Schoff noted that plans for the River Road project had changed dramatically. A swap has been done between Sarasota County and FDOT. FDOT will take responsibility for River Road from US 41 to I-75 and Sarasota County will assume responsibility for portions of Midnight Pass Road and Stickney Point Road. He described how the southern portion of River Road from Englewood to US 41 is no longer on anyone's radar. Gary Harrell noted that the Joint meeting with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO will be coming up on January 28, 2019, and River Road will be one of the agenda topics. Steve Schoff suggested that Lee County (Boca Grande) should also have representatives present.

Joanna Drinkwater noted that there are real issues at the DeSoto County Line. Mosaic is located 12 miles from the interstate resulting in lots of heavy truck traffic. Water quality also may be impacted here, as it was in Polk County by Mosaic operations. Also, near the County line a large development (with as many as 2,000 homes) is proposed that will impact the Kings Highway I-75 interchange.

Bob Logan noted the problem of development and Mosaic Operations in the two-county area. Plus, he noted that Mosaic gets their way on many issues.

Wendy Scott stated that the MPO has West County vacancies for both the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (BPAC).

16. Adjournment (NEXT CAC MEETING – January 16, 2019)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting is currently scheduled on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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