



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

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 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
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Jerry Mallet, Charlotte County Emergency Management

ADVISORY MEMBERS

D’Juan Harris, FDOT Liaison
Michael Tisch, FDOT

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office
Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)
Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority (Excused)
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development
Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools
Earl Hahn, DeSoto County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gary Harrell, MPO Staff
Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Staff
Karen Barnett, MPO Admin. Temp
Bekie Leslie, MPO Staff

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

3. Election of 2019 officers

Gary Harrell opened the nominations for 2019 TAC Chair and Vice Chair. He asked for nominations and election of the TAC Chair.

Venkat Vattikuti nominated *Mitchell Austin* as TAC Chair. *Rick Kolar*, seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion was passed unanimously, and *Mitchell Austin* was declared TAC Chair.

Newly-elected Chair *Mitchell Austin* called for nominations for TAC Vice Chair. *Venkat Vattikuti* nominated *Matt Trepal* as TAC Vice Chair, and *Rick Kolar* nominated *Venkat Vattikuti* as TAC Vice Chair. *Rick Kolar* made a motion to close the nominations. *Chris Whittaker* seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Mitchell Austin asked for a vote for those in favor of *Matt Trepal* as TAC Vice Chair. *Matt Trepal* received seven votes, and was declared TAC Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

4. Chair's Reports

The Chair had nothing to report.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D’Juan Harris introduced Michael Tisch, his replacement as FDOT Liaison and gave a brief overview of his background and experience. He noted he will check to see if he will also be the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Representative.

D’Juan also noted that it was the last day of the E-Public Hearing for the FDOT Tentative Work Program and stated it will officially close at midnight. He gave the website address and stated that comments will be accepted until December 28, 2018.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2018 Meeting

Matt Trepal made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. *Linda Sposito* seconded the Motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.

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

Gary Harrell stated that the UPWP is the MPO’s two-year budget. At the end of each year, the MPO may have money remaining which can be rolled forward into other years for different tasks.

Gary Harrell stated the MPO closeout of the FY 2017 and FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) had \$46,931 remaining. The MPO needs to move this amount into the current Fiscal Year 2019 – 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 – FY 2020 UPWP updating figures to reflect these funds.

Gary Harrell stated the funding for the LRTP will not be available until after July 1, 2019, which is the start of the State’s Fiscal Year. He noted the MPO would like to choose an LRTP consultant by the May MPO Board Meeting so that funds will be available to start the process.

Linda Sposito made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board amend the FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/FDOT Amendment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement adding \$20,000 into FY 2020 Task 1 – Administration and \$26,931 into FY 2019 Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Motion allows for transmittal of the amendment to the FDOT allowing for staff to make minor changes and adjustments based upon input received; and authorize the Chair to sign Resolution # 2018-06. Rick Kolar seconded the Motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.

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

Gary Harrell introduced D’Juan Harris and Mike Tisch, FDOT. He noted that Michael Tisch has worked for both Charlotte County and Lee County and he looks forward to working with him.

D’Juan Harris stated that FDOT leans heavily on the MPO and its committees in determining the project priorities. He stated that FDOT funds as many projects as they can once they have closely looked at the feasibility of each one. He then presented the FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program and reviewed the line items of Attachment 3, (Summary of rescheduling, additions and deletions). He explained each one briefly and discussion took place on some of the listed items. Areas of concern were SR 776 from Spinnaker Blvd. to Sunnybrook; Washington Loop to the DeSoto County Line; US 41 from S. Payne St. to North of Rio Villa Drive; US 41 from Midway Blvd. to Paulson Rd. After discussion, D’Juan Harris noted he will clarify and make requested changes.

Gary Harrell noted Ron Ridenour, Project Manager at the Airport, was unable to attend this meeting, but he had recommended that a roundabout be considered at the intersection of Jones Loop Road and Piper Road or otherwise, consideration be given to having Jones Loop Road be the stop street due to the high volume of traffic.

Venkat Vattikuti asked for clarification regarding moving the funds from the deleted project US 41 at Port Charlotte Blvd. D’Juan Harris stated he will ask David Wheeler, FDOT Safety Office, for more information regarding the funding, including which project inherited the funding.

Linda Sposito asked for clarification on the traffic signal project on US 41 from Carmalita Street to Marion Avenue. Mitchell Austin stated that the US 41 intersections at Taylor Road, Virginia Avenue, Olympia Avenue and Marion Avenue are all being reviewed as part of this project because they have signals. He also asked FDOT for clarification on the description of the project prior to giving it to the MPO Board Members. D’Juan Harris stated he will make the description clearer prior to the MPO Board Meeting or he may refer to it as “just North of Carmalita,” because there is no signal at that intersection.

Gary Harrell stated that the deletion of the US 41 at Carmalita Street intersection extension project combined that work with a US 41 resurfacing project. Construction was accelerated two years by deleting and combining projects.

Gary Harrell noted that the recently adopted Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan identifies projects on the SUN Trail network. The feasibility study addresses one of several projects that are on the SUN Trail network. That grant was awarded in the FY 2019/2020 funding year starting July 1, 2019.

Don Scott inquired as to whom will be conducting the study. Gary Harrell stated it will either be Charlotte County Economic Development or Charlotte County Public Works. He then requested any other comments be given to Laks or himself after the meeting, so that they can be directed to Mike Tisch for a response.

9. Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement

Gary Harrell explained that the Annual 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement is being brought to the Board prior to commencement of the 2019 Florida Legislative Session. When adopted by the Board, this position statement will be used to set the MPO’s legislative platform for advocacy in the 2019 Florida Legislative Session. The Board’s Legislative Position Statement will be provided, at a minimum, to the area’s Legislative Delegation to assist them in accurately identifying what the MPO’s position is on issues that affect transportation planning. The legislative delegation may use this information when considering legislation affecting the MPO. The MPO Legislative Position Statement focuses on those issues most relevant to the MPO.

He noted that no State or Federal funds were used in the preparation of this legislative position statement. County funds were used.

Venkat Vattikuti, made a Motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement and authorize its distribution to the area’s Legislative Delegation and other agencies. Chris Whittaker seconded the Motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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

Laks Gurram stated 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 to meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

requirements. The MPO adopted the FDOT's "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

He indicated 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 readopt the Safety Performance measures provided last year.

Rick Kolar made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt FDOT's safety targets for all five national safety measures. Linda Sposito seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

11. 2019 Project Priorities – Discussion

Gary Harrell noted the 2019 Project Priorities are scheduled to be adopted by the MPO Board at the May Meeting. He explained the deadlines for the information packages and suggested members submit additional information sheets with the forms including the required project details. He said if anyone needs assistance with the project information sheets, Laks Gurram would help.

Linda Sposito noted there is a high incidence of accidents at the exit of US 41 at Burnt Store Meadows. She stated it is a dangerous U-Turn, and she questioned the criteria on determining change to the intersection. Mitchell Austin stated this would have to be a new project from the planning perspective. Linda Sposito stressed the importance of finding funding to make a logical and safer solution. After further discussion, Gary Harrell suggested the Burnt Store Meadows Homeowners Association be notified so that they could work with the City for a possible new project submission.

Gary Harrell noted that February 1, 2019 is the deadline for Project Priority inputs.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

13. Staff Comments

Laks Gurrum stated that the MPO Board recently adopted the Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan. It is currently awaiting adoption by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). County staff intends to take it to the BCC at its first meeting in January 2019.

Laks Gurrum noted that work on the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update is about to commence. He stated the LRTP Update is the biggest project that the MPO conducts and is completed every 5 years. He noted that given recent technology changes, it will be interesting to see whether capacity is increased, maintained or decreased.

14. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

15. Adjournment (NEXT TAC MEETING – January 16, 2019)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 9:30 a.m.