

# CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2019 CITIZENS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative Jim Brown, South County Representative

Joanna Drinkwater, Mid County Representative Dianne Quilty, Mid County Representative Michael Haymans, South County Representative Steve Schoff, West County Representative

# MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Logan, Mid County Representative (Excused) Pauline Klein, At-Large Representative (Excused) Ed Zubal, West County Representative

# VACANT POSITIONS

West County Representative At Large Representative

# OTHERS ATTENDING

Michael Tisch, FDOT

Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works Betsy Calvert, Sun Newspapers

Gary Harrell, MPO Director

Lakshmi N. Gurram, Principal Planner Wendy Scott, Planner

# 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 present.

# Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

# Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

*Although inadvertently omitted from the agenda packet, the reports were taken up next.*

# Reports

* 1. **Chairs’ Report**

CAC Chair John Burrage reported that there had been a recent joint MPO meeting held with the Lee County MPO. He was pleased that SR 31 at Bermont Road intersection work to add full signalization had begun.

He referenced 2 *Sun* letters to the editor for discussion purposes:

* February 4, 2019, Boundary Needs a Sidewalk, Daniel Caulkins, Englewood
* March 5, 2019, Sidewalks Remain an Englewood Issue, Bruce Pomeroy, Englewood East

# City of Punta Gorda Report

Due to other commitments, no City staff member attended.

# Charlotte County Report

Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that the Peachland Blvd/Loveland Blvd intersection improvements would be completed soon. Veterans Blvd’s eleven turn lanes will be audited; Accordingly, the eastbound Veterans Blvd right turn lane at Home Depot/Cochran Blvd will be reviewed for improvements (this issue was mentioned by Robert Logan at the last CAC Meeting).

Joanna Drinkwater inquired about developer requirements for sidewalk installation. Discussion followed on a number of sidewalk initiatives including the Charlotte Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, the Northwest Port Charlotte Master Plan, developer construction, Safe Routes to School locations, FDOT’s Complete Streets efforts, the City of Punta Gorda Master Plan, and the history of the patchwork sidewalk process.

# Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Michael Tisch stated that a public hearing for the Harbor View Road (Melbourne Street to I-

75) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study would be held on March 14, 2019 at 4 pm with a formal presentation at 5 pm at the East Port Environmental Campus Training Room. Additionally, comments would be accepted by FDOT until March 25, 2019.

Dianne Quilty inquired if the “exit only” signage for US 17 on I-75 SB would be restored. She has observed drivers correcting to avoid exiting at the last minute, perhaps thinking that there was just a widening of the road after exiting the bridge. Michael Tisch stated FDOT’s position that post-construction, the sign was not warranted. This was based upon Florida Highway Patrol data showing no accidents had occurred. Dianne Quilty planned to bring the matter up at the next MPO Board Meeting so that consideration might be given to asking engineers to review near misses.

# Consent Agenda

* 1. **Approval of Minutes: CAC January 16, 2019 Meeting**
  2. **Amended Public Participation Plan (PPP)/Title VI Program**

***Dianne Quilty*** *made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda (with corrections to the misspelling of her name throughout the Minutes).* ***Jim Brown*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

# FY 2018/2019 – FY 2018/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) De- Obligation/Amendment

Gary Harrell equated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the MPO’s budget over a two-year period. It describes the transportation planning activities for the MPO in narrative form and was approved by the MPO Board members at their May 5, 2018 meeting. Federal and State regulations govern the types of activities that are eligible for federal and state funding. The MPO is amending FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 UPWP by deobligating

$39,500 from FY 2018/2019 to include $30,000 from Task 1-Administration, $4,000 from Task 3-Public Participation Plan, $3,500 from Task 5-Transportaion Improvement Program (TIP), and $2,000 from Task 7-Regional Planning and Coordination and adding that total of

$39,500 into FY 2019/2020 UPWP. Also included will be updating of the resolution, various revision pages, statements and assurances forms and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement. Funding will help to fund an entry level planner position and a portion of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The de-obligation of Federal Planning (PL) funds releases federal funds previously authorized but not expended by the MPO in FY 2018/2019 allowing these funds to be “carried forward” into the FY 2019/2020 UPWP. These funds are then available for use by the MPO beginning on July 1, 2019.

***Jim Brown*** *made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) De-Obligation of PL Funds / Amendment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement /Statements and Assurances forms/Resolution allowing staff to make appropriate minor revisions as needed.* ***Dianne Quilty*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

# 2019 Project Priorities - Discussion

Gary Harrell reported 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. 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 projects.

# Highway Projects

Gary Harrell reviewed the projects:

The current number one MPO Highway project priority, Burnt Store Road Phase II has been programmed with TRIP funds for Construction in the FY 2018/2019 cycle. The number two project priority, US 41 at Carmalita St. Extension, has been funded as part of a resurfacing project with FPN # 441524 1. The number three MPO Highway project priority, Harbor View Road, is currently undergoing a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study programmed in FY 2016/ 2017, Design in FY 2019/2020 and ROW phase in FY 2022/2023.

The number four MPO Highway project, North Jones Loop Road (Burnt Store Road to Piper Road) programmed for PD&E was deferred from FY 2019/2020 to FY 2020/2021. The remaining unprogrammed projects are essentially requesting Complete Streets treatments.

There were no Complete Streets projects programmed in the previous cycle. SR 776 improvements (6-laning) conducted a PD&E in 2014 with the recommendation of the No- build alternative as development has not been as rapid as forecast. The Study was postponed until the need for improvements are realized. After discussion at the January 16, 2019 TAC Meeting the members considered the following projects as potential future project priorities.

* Kings Highway from Sandhill Blvd. to the DeSoto County Line - TRIP
* Prineville from Paulson Drive to Hillsborough Blvd- TRIP
* Edgewater Drive/Flamingo Blvd. Extension from Midway Blvd. to US 41-TRIP
* US 41 at Cornelius Blvd. and Hillsborough Blvd- Intersection Improvements

FDOT Staff asked that a Project Priority Information sheet be submitted by the City of Punta Gorda or Charlotte County for the Jones Loop Road widening project that are in the funding phase. MPO Staff is continuing discussion with FDOT, City and County Staff as how to address the Jones Loop Road widening project because of pending annexation discussions.

# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Projects

TAP projects are generally listed in priority order alternately between the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. Charlotte County’s number one project priority, a multi-use trail on Taylor Road from U.S. 41 (south) to Airport Road, is undergoing a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study. The project was divided into two segments with the first segment from Jones Loop Road to Airport Road programmed for Design in FY 2023/2024.

The second segment of multi-use trail listed as the number two TAP project priority, is from US 41 (South) to Jones Loop Road. It is not programmed for any phase beyond the PD&E. The number three TAP project priority is a Multi-use trail on the East side of US 41 from Conway Blvd. to Midway Blvd. Design phase was deferred from FY 2021/2022 to FY 2022/2023. Two other segments for US 41 sidewalks are programmed for Design in FY 2021/2022. They are US 41 east side from Melbourne St to Kings Hwy for Design that was deferred from FY 2021/2022 to FY 2022/2023; and US 41 east side from Midway Blvd. to

Paulson Drive /Enterprise Drive that is programmed for Design in FY 2019/2020 and FY 2021/2022.

Congestion Management/ Transportation System Management (CM/TSM)

Charlotte County has submitted two new projects to the CM/TSM category:

1. Intersection Modifications at State Road 31 and County Road 74 (aka Bermont Road)
2. Turn Lanes at various intersections on State Road 776 between Flamingo Blvd and Riverwood Drive. The intersections are: SR 776 at Charlotte Sports Park; SR 776 at Biscayne Drive; SR 776 at Cornelius Blvd; SR 776 at Jacobs Street.

The Number One Congestion Management project is the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) County-wide Master Plan Communications System. It is funded for Design in FY 2022/2023. Based on previous MPO Board action, the CM/TSM Box funding has been programmed for intersection improvements on US 41. The next intersections to be programmed for Design/Construction are US 41 at Easy St.; US 41 at Forrest Nelson Blvd/Crestview Circle; and US 41 at Carousel Plaza.

# Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)

FDOT has not programmed any TRIP funds for FY 2019/2020 towards Construction for Burnt Store Road Phase II, from North of Zemel Road to Notre Dame Blvd. Charlotte County is requesting continued funding for construction (Attachment 2).

*Agenda Item # 8-A. was taken up after Agenda Item # 9.*

# Draft FY 2019/2020 – FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Federal and State legislation require MPOs to adopt a 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP outlines federal and state capital improvements for transportation and is a staged, multiyear, intermodal program of transportation projects that is consistent with the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Technical and Citizens’ Advisory Committees formally review the development of the TIP.

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO is scheduled to review and adopt the TIP at the May 6, 2019 MPO Board Meeting. The Draft Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO TIP for FY 2019/2020 – FY 2023/2024 is Attachment 1. The MPO Board adopted the project priorities listed in this TIP on May 7, 2018.

Laks Gurram reviewed the draft version of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document with the CAC Members. He described the material contained in each section. He noted that a 30-day public comment period will be opened soon and remarks will be placed in the document.

The Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO entered into an interlocal agreement formalizing and specifying regional planning projects and timeframes to produce those projects. The Agreement calls for each MPO to identify regional priorities and

include said projects in the respective MPO’s TIP. Those priorities that were adopted last year are included, in accordance with the interlocal agreement in the TIP.

Michael Haymans wondered why rail or maritime projects (such as the Intercoastal Waterway) were not included in the TIP. Gary Harrell noted that FDOT provides project information directly to the MPO, and though these are significant concerns, they do not receive mention in the MPO’s TIP. However, rail will be discussed in the upcoming 2045 LRTP.

# 8A. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Consultant Selection

Laks Gurram noted that since May 2016, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO has had contracts with three consultants to perform General Planning Consultant (GPC) services over the next three years. They are:

1. Kimley Horn & Associates.
2. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc
3. Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc.

Recently, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO issued a request to these three GPC Consultants to prepare a “Task Approach” for the preparation of the MPO’s 2045 LRTP Update. MPO Staff provided copies of each GPC’s Task Approach to the GPC Review Committee for their assessment. Based upon review at the February 14, 2019 meeting, the Committee made a recommendation to select Tindale-Oliver & Associates (TOA) as the top ranked GPC consultant to perform the 2045 LRTP Update with an October 2020 adoption date. The MPO Board members will review the recommendation at the March 25, 2019 MPO Board Meeting. Once the MPO Board approves the GPC selection, negotiations will follow between the GPC and the MPO staff, so that final approval may be obtained at the May 6, 2019 MPO Board Meeting.

***Dianne Quilty*** *made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board Endorse the Review* *Committee’s recommendation of a GPC Consultant to undertake the MPO’s 2045 LRTP Update, so that the MPO Board may authorize Staff to negotiate a Work Assignment Order* *and Scope of Services with the selected consultant; and the MPO Chair may sign the adopted Work Assignment Order when finalized.* ***Jim Brown*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

# Public Comments

There were no public comments.

# Staff Comments

Gary Harrell reported on the joint meetings recently held with both neighboring MPOs.

Sarasota/Manatee MPO:

* FDOT’s I-75 interchange study potentially locating a new interchange in south Sarasota County (NorthPort) at Raintree Blvd or Yorkshire Blvd, and favorably impacting Kings Hwy and Veterans Blvd in Charlotte County
* River Road improvements in Sarasota County of benefit to Charlotte County citizens
* I-75 discussion to designate the interstate (statewide rather than just Ocala to the State line) as a Purple Heart Trail. This requires a state legislative action and endorsement by the Counties that it traverses.

Lee County MPO:

* Status report on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements
* Status Report on the Babcock Ranch Development and the SR 31 Improvements
* Update on the SUN Trail Projects in Lee and Charlotte Counties
* Information on the I-75 Purple Heart Highway Designation Efforts

Gary Harrell stated that the MPO has good relationships with its neighboring MPOs. He is looking forward to a regionally-oriented LRTP.

Wendy Scott announced that there is still a need for an additional West County CAC representative. She also stated that three Transit Development Plan (TDP) workshops would be held by Charlotte County Transit and Tindale-Oliver staff on Wednesday, March 20th in the three geographic sections of the County. An email with all the locations and times would be forwarded to the CAC Members.

# Member Comments

Jim Brown commented that obtaining the Right-of-Way on Burnt Store Road needed to be accomplished immediately.

Steve Schoff noted that Winchester Blvd in Sarasota County is in such bad condition that it is not drivable. Laks Gurram stated that an update to the budget is approved to resurface the Sarasota County portion of Winchester Blvd within the next two years.

Steve Schoff questioned why Bayshore Road is closed at the construction area for the new Sunseeker Resort. Michael Haymans answered that in order to overcome blight, reduce the shallow property height and calm traffic in the residential area, the CRA and the BCC had decided to aggregate the properties, market them all together, improve the area and vacate the public’s interest in the road. Thus, the consensus was that stopping the traffic from Edgewater Blvd crossing through the neighborhood would be a good thing. Bayshore Road was historically the Tamiami Trail, but it was left behind and became blighted. The County park would still be accessible through Parmely Street.

Dianne Quilty provided CAC Members with the Signing and Pavement Marking Plan for the Peachland Blvd/ Loveland Blvd intersection. These showed lane alignments and configurations of turn lanes. The intersection will be signalized and widened.

Dianne Quilty inquired if Sunseeker Resort would be handling improvements to Kings Hwy in light of the golf course acquisition. Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that nothing had been mentioned or expected.

Dianne Quilty mentioned that there were rumors circulating regarding the removal of homes along Harbor View Road because of the planned road improvements from Melbourne Street to I-75.

Ravi Kamarajugadda reviewed statements made in the “Boundary Needs a Sidewalk” *Sun* commentary letter regarding school bus stops and pet walking areas. He mentioned County staff’s policy that all school bus stops should have street lights. He requested that anyone knowing of a location in need of lighting send an email to him for consideration. He noted that all MSBUs have sent the County their lists.

Laks provided the CAC Members with TAZ information for the Travel Demand Model and discussed the forecast population figures. He noted that the information was validated by the FDOT consultant through 2045. He also discussed the schedule for the model.

Gary Harrell stated that staff would send the Transit Development Plan workshop schedule to CAC Members soon.

# Adjournment (NEXT CAC MEETING – April 17, 2019)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 p.m.