

CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2020**

**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

Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority

Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works

Donald Scott, Lee MPO

Kathy Heitman, DeSoto County

Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division

Everett Farrell, City of North Port Planning and Zoning

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office

Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools

Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)

Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development

Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Michael Tisch, FDOT

Wally Blain, Consultant, Tindale Oliver

Gary Harrell, MPO Director

Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Staff

Sai “Sammy” Edara. MPO Staff

David Urich, Citizen

Fabiana Solano City of Punat Gorda

Steve Luowinski, Corradino Group

Jordan Crandall, FDOT D1(VHB)

Jeffrey Jacquin, FDOT D1(Aims Engineering)

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. The roll call was taken using a sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

**2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Mr. David Urich, a former member of the Lee County Citizens’ Advisory Committee, made a few suggestions:  Two miles of new access road from Tuckers Grade to the Western end of the Frizone 88 acres.  It would save ROW and some costs to use Western Notre Dame (updated) for the connection to Burnt Store Road. He recommended conducting a cost feasibility study. He also stated there is a need for a feasibility study on connecting Cook-Brown Road on SR 31 to the existing Oil Well Road to allow relief to Babcock Ranch in the near term prior to long term construction of a new I-75 interchange in the area.

**3. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report**

Michael Tisch noted that FDOT is currently evaluating the project applications for project priorities.

1. **PD&E Presentation on Projects in Charlotte County**

Jeffrey Jacquin from FDOT District 1(AIMS Engineering Consultant) gave a presentation on Harbor View Rd PD&E study that was completed at the end of 2019. He made an update on the current status of the project. Mr. Jacquin noted that Harbor View Rd project is currently under the design phase and Right of Way acquisition is funded for FY 2023/2024-FY 2024/2025.

**4. Consent Agenda**

##### Approval of Minutes: TAC November 13, 2019 Meeting

**B. FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments/De-obligation**

**of (PL) Funds Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement**

**C. FY 2019/2020 – FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Amendment**

**D. FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement for FTA 5305(d)**

***Linda Sposito*** *made a motion to approve the consent agenda.* ***Donald Scott*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**5. Draft FY 2021 –FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement**

Gary Harrell mentioned the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Agreement is a scope of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the metropolitan planning area. The UPWP covers two years starting on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2022.

He explained that UPWP outlines the staff activities and efforts. For each objective of the MPO, a task is provided that identifies the required activities to achieve the objectives, the associated work products and the previous major accomplishments. The State Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2020. The UPWP includes a narrative of the work to be accomplished and the cost estimates for each task activity. Federal and state regulations, as reflected in the State of Florida Department of Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement, govern the types of activities that are eligible for federal and state funding. The timeline for the adoption of the FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP is listed below:

* March 15, 2020 – Deadline for MPO to transmit the Draft FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP to FDOT District One and reviewing agencies.
* April 15, 2020 – Deadline for District and reviewing agencies to provide the MPO with comments on the Draft FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP.
* May 15, 2020 – The MPO Board reviews the comments and adopts the Final FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP for distribution to the District and reviewing agencies.
* Within 10 working days of receipt – FDOT District One reviews the MPO adopted Final FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP. The MPO and District One staff resolves any outstanding issues. The District transmits the comments and responses to the FDOT Public Transportation Office and FHWA.
* No later than June 1, 2020 – District transmits Final UPWP to FHWA, FTA and Central Office recommending approval, conditional approval, or disapproval; and
* No later than June 30, 2020 – The MPO and District resolve any outstanding issues to prevent funding delays.

The Draft FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP includes Section 5305 (d) Transit Planning grant funds; Transportation Disadvantaged Planning funds and FHWA PL funds.

***Linda Sposito*** *made a motion to recommend the MPO Board forward the Draft FY 2020/2021 – FY 2021/2022 UPWP/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement to appropriate reviewing agencies, allowing staff to make appropriate revisions as needed.* ***Ron Ridenour*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**6. 2020 Project Priorities - Discussion**

Lakshmi N. Gurram stated 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 initial priorities be submitted by February 1, 2020 to begin their review process. The project priorities must be approved and submitted to FDOT by July 1, 2020. He stated we receive project candidates from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County which include Highway projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Mitigation/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box, and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects. Attachment 1 is the list of Project Priorities approved by the MPO Board at the May 2019 meeting.

Mr. Gurram mentioned, on February 3, 2020 the MPO Staff along with City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County submitted the following project information sheets to update the project priority list.

* Edgewater Drive/Flamingo Blvd. Extension from Midway Blvd. to US 41
* SR 31 at CR 74 Intersection Improvements
* SR 776 at Gulf Stream Blvd Intersection Improvements
* Cooper St – Complete St improvements
* Shreve Street Complete Street Improvements
* US 17 Complete Street Improvements
* US 41 Bridge Approach Decorative Finish Street Lights

Mr. Gurram noted that there are changes made for the 2050 LRTP fund request with continuing discussion for funding. Michael Tisch mentioned FDOT is in the process of selecting consultants for the Jones Loop Rd project and he said he will provide an update at the next meeting.

**7. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) For Fiscal Year 2020/2021 – Fiscal Year 2024/2025**

Gary Harrell stated that 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.

He said the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO is scheduled to review and adopt the TIP at the May 18, 2020 MPO Board Meeting. The MPO Board adopted the project priorities listed in this TIP on May 6, 2019.

Ravi Kamarajugadda asked a question on performance measures and if we have any additional funding source for performance measures projects. Lakshmi N. Gurram answered that there are no associated funds. The MPO adopted the performance measures from FDOT.

**8. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Status Update**

Lakshmi N. Gurram said the MPO is required to update its Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) at least every five years. The next update of the LRTP will have a horizon year of 2045 and must be adopted by the MPO Board by October 2020.

Wally Blain, Consultant, Tindale Oliver presented a status update on the Long Range Transportation plan. He said the MPO Staff has received the preliminary results of the 2023 Existing plus Committed (E+C) Network Deficiency Analysis from FDOT. This analysis includes the roadway projects that have been completed and those that are programmed for construction in the next five years. FDOT has provided a revised LRTP Model development schedule which revises the delivery of the E+C analysis to March 15th. Based on this analysis, the MPO will be able to identify the needed roadway projects based on future (2045) travel demand. By April 15th, the MPO will submit the first-round of 2045 transportation network changes to FDOT for analysis.

He said these network changes will initially be based on the 2040 LRTP Roadway Needs. Added to the 2040 Needs will be comments received from the public during the outreach activities currently underway as well as input from the MPO Board and Advisory Committees. Updates for the model development process will also include revisions to the allocation of population and jobs based on the LRTP Subcommittee’s review and comments.

Wally Blain stated the initial outreach on the 2045 Needs has been underway and includes the three workshops that were held on March 25th and 26th where more than 70 individuals attended and provided input on the development of the LRTP. Additional outreach activities include a short survey and an interactive mapping exercise. Both of these are available on the MPO’s website; [www.ccmpo.com](http://www.ccmpo.com). Through February 29th, more than 600 surveys have been completed. The interactive map was introduced last week during the public workshops and more than 40 users have provided feedback or comments on specific projects and locations.

No additional comments were made.

**9. Draft National Highway System (NHS) Justification Report**

Jordan Crandall, FDOT D1(VHB) presented the National highway systems report. Published by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One which provides justification for modifications to the National Highway System (NHS). This justification package requests the addition of two segments for NHS designation in Charlotte County as NHS Intermodal Connectors.

He said the Punta Gorda Airport (PGD) meets the FHWA’s enplanements criteria for major intermodal facility. The proposed additions (N Jones Loop Road (I-75 to Piper Road) and Piper Road from N Jones Loop Road to US 17) provide a connection to the I-75 and US 17 (existing NHS corridors in the vicinity of the PGD) providing regional and interregional access, and also better serve the PGD.

Mr. Crandall said proposed revision is made using the guidelines and procedures available on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) web site. Since 2007, PGD has seen significant and steady growth, with annual enplanements increasing every year except 2012.

Mr. Crandall stated that FHWA primary criteria, which must be met by a commercial aviation airport to achieve eligibility for an NHS intermodal connector includes the airport should service more than 250,000 annual enplanements or the principal connecting route should have 100 trucks per day in each direction. With 786,911 total enplanements in 2018 at PGD and 260 trucks per day traversing in each direction along Piper Road, the proposed additions (N Jones Loop Road (I-75 to Piper Road) and Piper Road from N Jones Loop Road to US 17) meet the requirements of NHS Intermodal Connectors.

***Linda Sposito*** *made a motion to recommend MPO Board accept the Charlotte County NHS Justification Report recommending to the FHWA the proposed additions (N Jones Loop Road (I-75 to Piper Road) and Piper Road from N Jones Loop Road to US 17) to the NHS.* ***Rick Kolar*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**10. Public Comments**

None.

**11. Staff Comments**

None.

**12. Member Comments**

None.

**13.Adjournment (NEXT TAC MEETING – April 15, 2020)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at the Eastport

Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 9:30 a.m.