

CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2020**

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN GO-TO-MEETING**

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

Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division

Everett Farrell, City of North Port Planning and Zoning

Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools

**MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN GO-TO-MEETING**

Kathy Heitman, DeSoto County

Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office

Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)

Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development

Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN GO-TO-MEETING**

Michael Tisch, FDOT

Wally Blain, Consultant, Tindale Oliver

Gary Harrell, MPO Director

Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Staff

Sai “Sammy” Edara, MPO Staff

Eugene Klara, MPO Staff

Wendy Scott, MPO Staff

Fabiana Solano, City of Punta Gorda

Debrah Chesna, FDOT

Bessie Reina, FDOT

June Farrell, FDOT

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

Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair, called the Go-To-Meeting to order at 9:30 P.M. The roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No Public.

**3. Chair’s Report**

Chair had nothing to report.

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

Michael Tisch noted that FDOT has released a new snapshot of the FDOT FY2020/2021-FY2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and that he is working on updating information for MPO staff. He noted that because of low traffic volumes caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, FDOT is accelerating projects statewide. Currently there are none in the Charlotte County area. However, FDOT staff is continuing to look to accelerate more projects as a stimulus for local areas.

Bessie Reina, FDOT District One Planning Manager and Planning Studio Project Manager for the Charlotte County US 41 Corridor Vision Plan provided a program update. She noted that a draft project brochure was available online. She recapped FDOT District One’s new approach to linking land use and transportation. She stated that the US 41 pilot project covers 28 miles in Charlotte County from the Sarasota County Line to the Lee County Line.

Bessie Reina described key project topics including the area of Charlotte Harbor at the US 41 bridges and transit along US 41. Two public meetings regarding the Corridor Vision Plan were held: one on October 15, 2019 in Punta Gorda and one on October 22, 2019 in Port Charlotte.

**5. Consent Agenda**

##### Approval of Minutes: TAC March 11, 2020 Meeting

**B. FY 2021 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Agreement**

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

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

Gary Harrell described the UPWP as the MPO’s budget. He noted that FHWA and FDOT staff members are currently reviewing the document. He referenced page 42 as a summary of the document (multi-year business plan). Gary Harrell noted that the FTA Section 5307 Transit funds (pgs. 36-37) recently were changed in dollar amounts due to adjustments provided by Transit staff after TAC agenda packet distribution.

***Linda Sposito*** *made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the Final Draft*

*FY 2021 and FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning*

*Organization Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign all required documents. The Motion*

*should allow for transmittal of the document to FDOT and required agencies, including the*

*ability for staff to make minor changes and adjustments based on comments and input*

*received.* ***Rick Kolar*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**7. FY 2020/2021 – FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

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.

Gary mentioned that the Section III, project location map was added to the document since the last meeting (March 11, 2020). He also stated that a new FDOT work program snapshot was released a day before the meeting. He said, any changes in projects or project funds will be noted and updated to the TIP document and he would inform the group of any major changes to the Draft 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.

***Linda Sposito*** *made a Motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the Charlotte County-*

*Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program FY 2020/2021 – FY 2024/2025,*

*and Authorizing Resolution # 2020-04. The Motion should allow for transmittal of the*

*document to FDOT, including the ability for staff to make minor changes and adjustments*

*based on comments and input received.* ***Rick Kolar*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**8. 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 had 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 received 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. Those project priorities have been incorporated into the proposed 2020 Project Priority List. Working with Sarasota/Manatee MPO, the MPO staff has also developed a Draft Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Project (TRIP) list which must be approved by both MPOs. Gary Harrell then went through each category of projects that are in the proposed Project Priority lists.

***Linda Sposito*** *made a Motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the identified 2020*

*Transportation Improvement Program (Highway, TAP, CM/TSM and TRIP) Project Priorities*

*for the upcoming FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program Cycle.* ***Matt Trepal*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**9. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Status Update**

Laks Gurram introduced Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver who gave an update on Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) activities. Wally Blain noted that a Highways needs map will be distributed by Laks Gurram, and there is still time to review it before it is adopted by the MPO Board on May 18, 2020. Transit improvements were in keeping with the recently updated Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Wally Blain stated that identifying projects for the Cost Feasible Plan is based on the project prioritization process and the availability of future revenues. Using specific weighted criteria, an effort is being made to prioritize projects that do not have fatal flaws. These 2045 LRTP Prioritization Criteria contain a new category (Local Economic Development) tied to the Federal Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Wally Blain discussed the impact on revenues given the current state of the economy. Sales and fuel tax collections and transit funding may change. The amount of time sheltering in place in dealing with the current pandemic is still unknown. Projects may need to be delayed a year or two, so some funds will be left on the table. Also unknown is the outcome of the non-indexed revenue source, the penny sales tax initiative.

Wally Blain reviewed the upcoming LRTP timeline. The LRTP Subcommittee will meet in early May before the next MPO Board meeting to review the Draft Needs Plan and Prioritization Criteria with the comments received from the TAC/CAC and make recommendations to the MPO Board on May 18, 2020 to approve the Draft Needs Plan and Prioritization Criteria. Coordination on modeling is ongoing with FDOT. The first round of Cost Feasible projects is scheduled for May. Coordination will occur with neighbor MPOs. The format of the next round of public workshops as part of the Cost Feasible Plan development is to be held in mid-July may be virtual or out in the community, depending on COVID-19 developments. The schedule is on track for October 2020 adoption of the LRTP.

**10. Public Comments**

None.

**11. Staff Comments**

Gary appreciated everyone’s cooperation with virtual meetings.

**12. Member Comments**

None.

**13.Adjournment (NEXT TAC MEETING – July 8, 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, July 8, 2020 either virtually or at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 9:30 a.m.