

CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2020**

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

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

Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works

Ron Gogoi, Lee MPO

Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division

Everett Farrell, City of North Port Planning and Zoning

Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools

Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development

Andrea McDonough, Charlotte County Transit Division

Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works

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

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda

Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development

Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority

Kathy Heitman, DeSoto County

Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office

Vacant, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)

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

Babuji Ambikapathy, FDOT Consultant

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

Chair and Vice-Chair were unable to attend this meeting, as per MPO Bylaws attending members must select a temporary Chair for the meeting. Ravi K. volunteered to Chair this meeting and all attendees consented. Ravi Kamarajudagga, TAC Chair, called the Go-To-Meeting to order at 9:40 P.M. The roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments received from the public.

**3. Chair’s Report**

Ravi K. informed the committee members that as agreed at the MPO Board meeting on May 18, 2020 he conducted a signal warrant study at Burnt Store Road @Home Depot entrance. The Study showed that a signal was warranted.

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

Michael Tisch noted that FDOT is getting ready to start the new gaming session for new projects that will be added to the FY 2025/2026 FDOT Work Program. Senior management are reviewing the revenues projected for the projects in the outer years and how revenues may be affected by current conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. **FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan Update**

A Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) Update presentation was given by FDOT Consultant Babuji Ambikapathy.  He reviewed the process and schedule for plan development.  He identified six projects in Charlotte County:

* I-75 at Tuckers Grade
* I-75 at North Jones Loop Road
* I-75 at US 17
* I-75 at CR 776/Harbor View Road
* I-75 at CR 769/Kings Highway
* US 17 (from Copley Drive to CR74/Bermont Road

FDOT is asking for MPO and stakeholder participation in this update to provide feedback on candidate SIS projects and to help prioritize projects in the plan. He requested TAC Member participation in the SIS CFP Update survey. The survey end date is July 27, 2020 and is found at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mV5cNo_260uJ2avstBsaG8CEHf41GGtEkRNSj0F_yqhUNjg5WlA0QkVIQUgzQ1dYNVNLRkJVVk5VQS4u>

FDOT contacts for this project are Lawrence Massey and Michael Tisch.

**5. Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2020 Meeting**
2. **FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) –**

 **Task 8 – FTA Section 5305(d) /Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA)**

 **Amendment**

**C. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update**

***Tony Conte*** *made a motion to approve the consent agenda.* ***Rick Kolar*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**6. FY 2020/2021 – FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Roll-Forward Amendment**

Gary Harrell reviewed the need for this amendment:  The State’s Fiscal Year ends on June 30.  Most projects scheduled in the current year of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) commence work in that current year.  However, for various reasons, it is sometimes necessary to defer the commencement of work beyond the current year of the approved TIP.   For example, projects that did not get authorized by June 30, require a TIP Amendment to “roll-forward” these project phases into the first year of the new TIP.  The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had requested that the MPO amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda FY 2020/2021 - FY 2024/2025 (TIP).

Due to unavailability of the proposed Roll-Forward amendment at time of agenda distribution, it was provided to TAC Members separately but well before the meeting.

***Ron Gogoi*** *made a Motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO’s TIP for FY 2020/2021 - FY 2024/2025 adding Roll-forward projects which could not be obligated during the State’s Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.* ***Rick Kolar*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**7. FY 2020/2021 FTA Section 5305(d) Grant Application**

Gary Harrell reviewed the terms of the grant application.  Annually, Section 5305(d) Funds are allocated to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and administered through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the purpose of metropolitan transit planning.  This year’s allocation of FTA funds is for $93,434.

 Agency participation for FY 2020/2021 is as follows:

             FTA grant                   $74,747

            FDOT state match       $  9,344

            Local match                $  9,343

                                    $93,434

***Ravi Kamarajugadda*** *made a Motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the FY 2020/2021*

*Section 5305(d) Planning and Technical Studies Grant Application including Resolution #2020-02, authorize the MPO Board Chair to sign all required documents, and authorize staff to make minor changes and adjustments as needed (including minor funding adjustments).* ***Ron Gogoi*** *seconded the motion.  The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

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

Gary Harrell introduced Wally Blain representing Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Consultant Tindale Oliver. Mr. Blain reviewed the status of the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan,

providing updated information on public outreach and virtual workshop efforts. Cost Feasible projects are those projects that can be afforded as opposed to the larger category those that are needed. The draft Cost Feasible Plan includes transportation projects funded through Local, State, and Federal transportation revenues. As a multimodal plan, the Cost Feasible Plan includes a list of roadways widening and intersection improvements, transit services (derived from the County’s Transit Development Plan) and candidate bicycle and pedestrian projects (obtained from the recently completed Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan). Prior to adoption of the LRTP, the MPO’s Public Participation Plan requires a minimum 30-day public comment and review period and in addition to the Draft Cost Feasible Plan there will be a Draft Executive Summary that summarized the Power Point presentation. The LRTP’s MPO Board adoption deadline for the Cost Feasible Plan is October 5, 2020.

***Tony Conte*** *made a Motion to recommend that the MPO Board endorse the Draft 2045 Cost Feasible Plan and the Draft Executive Summary (when available) and make the Plan available for a minimum 30-day public review period.* ***Ravi K.*** *seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**9. Public Comments**

None.

**10. Staff Comments**

Gary spoke about the updated MPO’s Public Participation Plan. He said the current public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic has led the MPO to include and use virtual public involvement tools and techniques to enhance and broaden the reach of its public engagement efforts. The MPO has revised this PPP to deliver and provide more convenient, affordable, and enjoyable public participation opportunities for greater numbers of people and to reimagine public engagement during a time of required social distancing. The purpose of this Plan’s guidance is to boost the use of virtual public involvement methods to broaden public participation and promote safe and prudent practices, particularly during emergencies, in a manner that meets all current federal and state public involvement requirements.

Gary Harrell described a discussion at the May 18, 2020 MPO Board Meeting, where FDOT District One Secretary L.K. Nandam recommended conducting a SR 776 Corridor Study.  This study would review development along the roadway and prioritize the completion of intersection improvements (as was done previously on US 41 in Mid County).  It would bring order to chaotic requirements.  He noted that intersection improvements might delay the need to widen SR 776 to six lanes. This proposed study had been discussed at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting earlier that morning.  County staff members including Ravi Kamarajugadda are developing a Project Priority information sheet for this proposal. Since this late-breaking item was not on the CAC agenda, Gary Harrell asked for CAC Member consensus to recommend to the MPO Board that the SR 776 Corridor Study be added to the 2020 Project Priority List to be submitted to FDOT.  After discussion the Committee was in consensus that the SR 776 Corridor Study be added to the 2020 Project Priority List and submitted to FDOT.

 **11. Member Comments**

Ravi K. asked about the schedule on the plans to improve Kings Highway in DeSoto County. Lakshmi Gurram responded saying he will find out the most recent update and inform the committee members.

**12.Adjournment (NEXT TAC MEETING – September 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 Tuesday, September 15, 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.