



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held in a hybrid format on March 2, 2023, utilizing Microsoft Teams® for virtual participation and in person at the Charlotte County Transit Facility, 545 Theresa Street Port Charlotte, Florida 33954

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, TAC Chair
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Vice Chair, Charlotte County Public Works (Virtual)
Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools (Virtual)
Corey Elijah, Charlotte County Airport Authority (Virtual)
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development (Virtual until 9:55)
Noah Fossick, City of North Port (Virtual)
Heidi Maddox, Charlotte County Transit Division

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

D’Juan Harris, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Principal Planner
Betty-Ann Sherer, MPO Planner
Wendy Scott, MPO Planner (Virtual)
Bekie Leslie, MPO Administrative Services Coordinator (Virtual)
Wally Blain, VHB (Virtual)
Robert Fakhri, Charlotte County Public Works (Virtual)
Edith Perez, FDOT District One (Virtual)
Katherine Chinault, FDOT District One (Virtual)
Corey Petrock, Airport Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development
Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division
Joan Fisher, DeSoto County
Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Austin called the TAC Meeting to order at 9:39 A.M.; Quorum was present until 9.55 a.m.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments received.

3. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: November 30, 2022, Meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, no vote was taken, Members present unanimously agreed to move this item to the MPO Board for approval

4. Chairs Report

None.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Transportation Alternatives Application & Project Priority Planning Process (4P) Overview (Edith Perez & Katherine Chinault)

Edith Perez, FDOT Community Liaison delivered a PowerPoint presentation on applications that get uploaded into the GAP portal and highlighted the following details and deadlines:

All applications must be submitted through the GAP Application (Grant Application Program) to be considered for funding.

Application categories:

TA (Transportation Alternatives) projects are funded through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. A Transportation Alternative (TA) project is a project related to transportation improvements or features which are considered enhancements since they are not typically included as part of the transportation system.

CM (Congestion Management) projects improve traffic operations and safety through the use of either strategies that reduce travel demand or the implementation of operational improvements.

TRIP (Transportation Regional Incentive Program) This program was created to improve regionally significant transportation facilities and incentivize regional planning efforts.

CIGP (County Incentive Grant Program) The Program allows the Department of Transportation to provide grants to counties for the improvements of transportation facilities on the State Highway System.

It was emphasized that applications should include clear narratives, a breakdown of cost estimates, a detailed scope, the phase of project for which the funds are being requested, maps and photos, and an engineer's estimate. Online resource links were provided as guidance. [Power Point Presentation](#)

The following submission deadlines were noted:

TA, CM and TRIP are due by March 31, 2023 and CIGP June 30, 2023

Katherine Chinault concurred; completeness of applications is key.

D'Juan Harris asked if 4P process is considered for LAP projects once they get programmed? Katherine informed that 4P is done before they get programmed, so when an application comes in a 2-page narrative is done and an LRE based on the scope of the work and that's what is used to assist in the programming and LAP agreement.

Mr. Harris followed up with a question and inquired if the ETDM (Efficient Transportation Decision Making) program would be reinstated. FDOT Staff stated that they were unsure, but would look into this.

A Quorum was achieved at 9:35 A.M

6. [2022 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) Amendments \(Laks Gurram\)](#)

Laks Gurram informed the committee members that FDOT Staff requested the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to approve the STIP/TIP Amendments to the FY 2022/23 – FY 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) at the March 20, 2023, MPO Board Meeting

He informed the criteria when an amendment is required by FDOT

He briefed the committee members on projects noted below:

434965-5 Harbor View Road from Melbourne Street to I-75 the ROW phase has been added under the new segment

451358-1 US41 at Midway Blvd- new project – Preliminary Engineering phase has been added

452491-1 5310 Operating – Small Urban UZA – New project – selected during the competitive application process for 5310 funding

452200-4, -5 Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment plan phase 1

These changes are required to be amended in the FY2022/23 through FY2026/27 TIP in order to receive federal funds and for planning consistency with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Attachment : [FDOT Letter for FY 2022/23 – FY 2026/27 Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) Amendment](#)

Motion made by Ravi Kamarajugadda to recommend the MPO Board approve [2022 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) Amendments](#) seconded by Tony Conte.

Quorum was lost at 9:55 a.m.

7. [2045 Long Range Transportation Plan \(LRTP\) Amendments \(Laks Gurram\)](#)

Laks Gurram presented the projects identified that require an amendment to receive federal and state funding for planning consistency purposes. Upon further review of the 2045 LRTP the MPO Staff identified projects that were not part of the 2045 LRTP.

1. [Projects - SR 776 Corridor Study](#)
2. [Projects - Veterans Blvd Corridor Study](#)
3. [Projects - Carbon Reduction Program Projects](#)

He indicated that the MPO is required to amend the Long-Range Transportation Plan when:

- › MPO amends the Long-Range Transportation Plan because of changes in the TIP
- › Major change to a project included in a LRTP; including the addition or deletion of a project or a major change in project cost, project phase initiation dates.
- › Deleting a full project from the Cost Feasible Plan (CFP)
- › Adding a new project where no phases are currently listed in the CFP
- › Moving a project from Needs Plan to CFP

Laks Gurram reviewed the projects consistent with the LRTP, projects in the 2022 Project Priorities and projects that are not consistent with both the LRTP and Project Priorities.

Chair Austin noted one item of interest mentioned in the Carbon Reduction Program projects is street lighting and traffic control devices with energy efficient alternatives. He informed that this may be a great opportunity for County and City streetlighting to receive a much-needed upgrade.

Tony Conte asked if the County would consider fixed route transit on US-41 both north and south as part of public transportation initiative similar to Lee transit or SCAT but with electric buses

Ravi Kamarajugadda asked if MPO must use the 2010 Urban Boundary Classification maps with CARL and CARM funds D’Juan Harris noted the 2020 Urban Boundaries will be used.

The TAC members present unanimously concurred with the LRTP amendments.

8. 2050 LRTP Consultant Selection (Laks Gurram)

Laks Gurram mentioned that on January 13, 2022 the MPO and the three GPCs executed a contract to provide General Planning Consulting services for the next three years.

February 9, 2023, the MPO Staff issued a Task Approach to all three of the MPO's GPC consultants to prepare a Power Point Presentation on how they would develop the MPO's 2050 Socioeconomic Data and the 2050 LRTP Update.

February 27, 2023 the subcommittee met with the consultants and their staff, for in-person presentations at the MPO Office. The LRTP Subcommittee ranked the consultants based on the criteria below:

1. Qualifications of the Staff/Project Manager (20 Points)
2. Understanding Project Scope (30 Points)
3. Equity/Resiliency (10)
4. Emerging/Innovative Technologies (20)
5. Current/Planned Workload (10)
6. DBE/MBE Requirements (5)
7. Response to Questions (5)

He informed that while initially there are three consultants being considered, VHB dropped out and presentations were given by Kimley-Horn and Benesch.

Upon tallying the scoring criteria, the subcommittee unanimously recommended Kimley-Horn as the consultant to perform the 2050 Socioeconomic Data development and 2050 LRTP update.

He informed that the MPO Staff with the support of the LRTP Subcommittee to develop a detailed scope of services. A Work Assignment Order will be signed by the MPO Chair and executed between the MPO and the Consultant, a Notice to Proceed will be issued to begin work on the project.

He also noted the individual task deadlines and informed that the deadlines are hard deadlines

No quorum was present, no vote was taken, but there was unanimous consent by those members present to recommend the MPO Board approve the LRTP sub committee recommendation of Kimley Horn as the planning consultants for the 2050 Socioeconomic Data development and 2050 LRTP update.

9. Review of FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2024 through FY 2028 (FDOT & MPO Staff)

D’Juan Harris indicated that the MPO Board and Advisory Committees annually review FDOT’s Draft Tentative Work Program (DTWP), which includes the new fifth year (FY 2028) of project programming based upon State and MPO priorities. At the previous committee meeting, the FDOT DTWP had not been released. It is now presented for TAC Members to review and provide comments.

03 02 2023 Adopted TAC Minutes

The DTWP will form the basis for the MPO's next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be adopted and submitted to FDOT by July 15, 2023. For federal funding to flow to the state and local governments, the TIP and FDOT's Work Program must be consistent.

The FDOT District One DTWP FY 2024 through – FY 2028, for Charlotte County can be found as Attachment 1. [FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2024 through FY 2028](#)

MPO staff has not provided comments to FDOT since the MPO's advisory committees have not had an opportunity to review. Comments received by the Advisory Committees would be compiled in a letter and provided to FDOT for their consideration.

No action is required at this time, documents provided are FOR review and comments.

10. [Draft FY 2023/2024 - FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) \(Laks Gurram\)](#)

Laks Gurram noted that Federal and State legislation requires MPOs to adopt a 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP outlines federal and state capital improvements for transportation and is a staged, multi-year, 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.

Laks Gurram stated that the document that is presented today is in Draft form and will be brought back to the committees on April 26, 2023, for final review. He indicated the Table of Contents page and stated that some of the sections requires an update.

He also informed that the TIP will be adopted at the May 15, 2023, MPO Board Meeting.

11. Draft 2023 Project Priorities – Discussion (Laks Gurram)

Laks Gurram reviewed the Draft list of 2023 Project priorities and informed that the MPO is required to annually develop a List of Project Priorities (LOPP) as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. A preliminary list of project priorities along with project applications will be submitted to FDOT District One by March 31, 2023. The project priorities must be approved by the MPO Board and submitted to FDOT by July 1, 2023.

He went through some of the key highlights of the Draft presented, reflects the changes based on the Draft Tentative Work Program that was released in December 2022. Below are the key highlights of the LOPP MPO Staff recommendations for funding:

- Received SL monies in FY 2024 & 2025 to cover the short fall for 2050 LRTP.
- Harbor view Rd from Melbourne St to I-75 ROW is funded in FY 2023/2024 for \$12.9 million
- US 41 from Peace River Bridge to Kings Hwy funded for Planning Study FY 2025 for \$150,000
- Taylor Rd – Phase 1 from Jones Loop to Airport Rd – Design advanced to FY 2024
- US 41 Bridge on S. Alligator Creek funded for in FY 2025 - \$290,000
- Cooper St Complete St projects funded for CST in FY 2028.
- SUN Trail projects funded for Design – approx. \$650,000
 - Myakka State Forest to Gillot Blvd
 - Gillot Blvd to US 41

He also stated that the Project Priorities Development timeline and stressed the importance of having a complete Project Priority application covered under FDOT report:

- January 18, 2023-FDOT issued request for projects
- March 31, 2023 -Preliminary list of priority projects (*but should be submitted to MPO staff prior to this date*)
- June 30, 2023-Final approved list of priority projects

D’Juan Harris noted regarding the SUN Trails projects Design funding was granted for the alignment of this project but an update on the construction estimates is needed.

Tony Conte asked if part of the N. Jones Loop project still calls for a roundabout at the Piper Road intersection. D’Juan Harris noted this will be part of ongoing discussion and coordination with FDOT. The roundabout was initially proposed as a goes with component of the truck parking facility project, to allow for better truck navigation on and off Interstate-75

12. Safety Performance Measures Targets Discussion (Betty-Ann Sherer)

Betty Ann-Sherer gave a presentation on Safety Performance Measures. MPOs are required annually to adopt these targets for tracking progress towards the Statewide/MPO targets for each of the transportation performance measures and meeting Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. [Five Year Rolling Average Cumulative Data for State of Florida & Charlotte County 2017 to 2021](#)

03 02 2023 Adopted TAC Minutes

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. Number of Serious Injuries
3. Fatality Rate per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
4. Serious Injuries per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
5. Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The MPO Board adopted FDOT's "Vision Zero" target (goal of no fatalities or serious injuries..."one fatality is one too many") for all five of the Safety Performance Measures at the December 15, 2022 Board Meeting. The MPO was required to accept FDOT's adopted targets or develop its own targets on or before February 27, 2023 to remain in compliance with FHWA for use of federal funding. The flattened rolling average data for years 2017-2021 was presented for both Charlotte County and Statewide.

Comments: It was noted the Charlotte County 5 year rolling average for pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries is down 2% which is hopefully a reflection of the safety improvements in the county.

D'Juan Harris added the information he presented at the previous TAC meeting in November was the raw crash data from Signal 4 Analytics. The information provided today is the flattened data, they present two different stories and we as a county still have a lot of work ahead of us. One item to note is that the MPO received the Safe Streets For All Roads (SS4A) grant funding to develop a comprehensive Safety Action Plan . This will allow us to take a deeper dive into our safety improvement needs.

13. Review of 2020 Census Data Discussion (D'Juan Harris)

D'Juan Harris noted that every ten years the Census Bureau provides updated population counts and designates the urban areas. For the MPO's that are already designated in our region, includes the following activities over the next eighteen months: the potential designation of Transportation Management Areas (over 200,000 population), the adjustment of Urban Area boundaries, the Apportionment Plans and working with FDOT on updated functional classification of roadways The new urban area boundaries and the population associated with those boundaries impacts the MPO's distribution of Planning funds and the allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant funding.

The Census Bureau released its new urban area population numbers at the end of December and in the beginning of January the maps were released. TAC Members were provided boundary maps for the Port Charlotte-North Port and Bradenton-Sarasota-Venice (southern portion) urban areas. The population and land area changes since the 2010 census are shown in the tables below (note that as the area changes the urban area name/order of the name has changed as well):

Urban Area Census Data for 2020:

2020 Urban Area	2020 Population	Land area (square miles)
Port Charlotte-North Port	199,998	134.7
Bradenton-Sarasota-Venice	779,075	404.3

Urban Area Census Data for 2010:

2010 Urban Area	2010 Population	Land area (square miles)
North Port-Port Charlotte	169,541	119.9
Sarasota-Bradenton	643,260	326.7

The Port Charlotte-North Port urban area population increased by 30,407 people and the land area increased by 14.8 square miles. One key element is that the data shown, reflects the population in Charlotte in Charlotte County is 199,998 , two people short of the 200,000-person threshold to become a Transportation Management Area (TMA).

An early designation is possible through concurrence of the United States Department of Transportation Secretary and the Governor of the State of Florida. The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board will further assess the advantages/disadvantages requesting an early designation prior to the March 20, 2023 MPO Board Meeting. [Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Census Presentation](#)

14. Public Comments

none

15. Staff Comments

D’Juan Harris stated the MPO had their Joint Certification review last week and once again we have been deemed a low-risk area.

The MPO was awarded a SS4A Safety Action Plan Grant.

He also informed that the MPO is accepting nominations for the Peggy Walters Award through June 30, 2023. Awarded posthumously to Jim Brown last year. He directed members to visit THE MPO website for additional information.

16. Member Comments

none

17. Adjournment (Next TAC Meeting – April 26, 2023)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m. The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, both virtually and in-person at the Charlotte County Community Foundation, 227 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 at 9:30 a.m.