

MINUTES

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization East Lake Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Agricultural Center, Training Room A
1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida

Governing Board

Commissioner Tim Sullivan, Lake County, D1
Commissioner Jimmy Conner, Lake County, D3
★Commissioner Leslie Campione, Lake County, D4
★Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County, D5
★Mayor Judy Tice, Town of Astatula
Mayor Kress Muenzmay, City of Eustis
Councilor David Nebel, Town of Howey
Councilmember Ryan Donovan, City of Mount Dora
Councilmember Norman Hope, City of Tavares
Council President Eric Olson, City of Umatilla
Pete Petree, Florida Central Railroad

Administrators

David Heath, Lake County
Kitty Cooper, Town of Astatula
★Dianne Kramer, City of Eustis
Brenda Brasher, Town of Howey
★Michael Quinn, City of Mount Dora
John Drury, City of Tavares
Glenn Irby, City of Umatilla

TAC (staff)

Fred Schneider
Amye King
★Dianne Kramer
Frank Watanabe
Mark Reggentin
Jacques Skutt
Richard Hatfield

CAC (citizens)

Steve Ferrell
Andy Dubois
Jamie Hanja
Bonnie Nebel
David Clutts

BPAC (bike/ped)

Lewis Michael
Rich Dunkel
Meredith Cheshire
Danielle Kittredge
Pam Hunt
Jim Ellrodt

★ Member Present

OPENING

Commissioner Welton Cadwell, D5, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

AGENDA UPDATE

None

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Request from FDOT for Local Match – Orange Blossom Express PD&E Study
 - a. FDOT prepared to program \$2 million toward a Project Development and Environmental Study
Currently, FDOT is looking for a commitment from all the partners before they will include the study in their work program. The consensus is that the study should only be programmed pending the results of the alternative analysis and local agreements are in place.

- b. FDOT requesting a 25 percent local match, \$500,000
With the Alternative Analysis study not finalized, it is difficult to determine how much of a stakeholder each of the impacted municipalities will be until they know what the final system will look like.
- c. The local match would be split among all partners, including Orange County, Orlando and Apopka
Members wanted to know how this split was to be distributed among the partners. Usually there is an even 50% split between Lake and Orange Counties, which is then further divided among the municipalities. Metroplan Orlando is working with Orange County, the City of Orlando, and the City of Apopka for how they will be splitting their local match. The MPO will be working with Lake County and the impacted municipalities to determine the proportional match for the remainder \$250,000.
- d. Public meeting Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Tavares Civic Center
T.J. Fish reminded the members that there is a public meeting scheduled this evening where they will be able to make comments on the Alternative Analysis. The next public meeting will be held in Orange County.
- e. Project Advisory Group meeting Dec. 19 to address shortlisting of modal options
Group will be addressing the different modal options and finalizing the shortlisted modes.
- f. Express Bus, Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Rail are the three shortlisted modes
The three shortlisted modes were briefly discussed.

2. FCEN Track Replacement Construction Project

Project is under construction. Work is scheduled for January through March for the Mount Dora/Tavares area. All work should be completed by late April 2014.

3. Public Transportation

- a. Implementation of the Transit Development Plan
Some of the proposed changes to route 3 will be implemented soon. Lake County Transit and the MPO are working with the City of Eustis to resolve some of the issues with the transfer stations. The possibility of changing the route names and/or using color coding was also discussed.
- b. Timing of Golden Triangle enhanced circulator service
The Golden Triangle enhanced circulator services was briefly discussed.
- c. Municipal role in incentive program for bus stop and bus shelter installation
A presentation will be given in January to the Board regarding the municipal role in funding public transportation. All current bus shelters were constructed using federal stimulus funds. Any future enhancements to the routes, including additional bus shelters will require a municipal budget commitment beginning this upcoming fiscal year. One of the options discussed is the possibility to add advertisement to the shelters.

4. Wekiva Parkway and Trail, and Associated Projects

- a. Wekiva Parkway Design, ROW and Construction Schedule
Some design issues are being worked with the City of Mount Dora. Right-of-Way and construction is scheduled for 2017 through 2020.

b. PD&E Study of Round Lake Road Extension

The MPO is requesting that study to be from the Lake/Sumter county line and extending on to SR 44, including the connection on Wolf Branch. This will address the issues of more connectivity and opening it up the employment center.

c. CR 437 Realignment

The CR 437 realignment was briefly discussed.

d. Need for Coordination with Orange County on CR 435, CR 437 and Round Lake Rd

The need for coordination with all partners is discussed. Part of the trail will be constructed with the parkway. The portion on the Neighborhood Lakes is currently under design. The possible traffic increase on CR 435 during construction was raised. A study may need to be done before construction to look at possible mitigation requirements to preserve the characteristics of the neighborhood along CR 435.

5. Status of East Lake Road Projects

a. Mount Dora/Eustis – SR 44 (US 441 to Orange Avenue/SR 44), 4-Laning – Not Funded for CST
Project is the top priority on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

b. Mount Dora – US 441 (SR 44 to SR 46, 6-Laning – Design funded FY 13/14
Project is currently under design. A small amount of ROW is needed but not yet funded.

c. Tavares/Howey-in-the-Hills – SR 19 (CR 561 to CR 48), 4-Laning – Design funded FY 13/14
Project is currently under design.

d. Tavares/Howey-in-the-Hills – SR 19, Little Lake Harris Bridge – Replacement Project FY 15/16
The replacement work should begin in 2 years.

e. Howey-in-the-Hills – SR 19 (CR 48 to Revells Road) – Corridor enhancements requested
The City of Howey-in-the-Hills is working to improve the safety and operations of SR 19 by requesting medians and pedestrian crossings.

6. Regional Trail Development

a. Tav-Lee Trail Gap in Downtown Tavares
The gap in downtown Tavares was briefly discussed.

b. Connection of Tav-Lee Trail to Wekiva Trail
The connection to link the Tav-Lee Trail to the Wekiva Trail was briefly discussed.

c. Eustis and Umatilla Trail Concepts
The trail concepts for Eustis and Umatilla were briefly discussed.

d. Extension of Tav-Lee Trail to Leesburg
Briefly discussed right-of-way issues to be able to extend the trail onto Leesburg.

7. Safe School Access Transportation Study

The completed study is posted online. A final presentation will be given to the MPO Governing Board on December 11, 2013.

8. Scenic Byway Update

The need for more corridor surveys was briefly discussed.

TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Welton Cadwell commented on the success of the "Stuff the Bus" food drive campaign despite the horrible weather conditions. He reported that the campaign collected over two tons of nonperishable food items.

Commissioner Welton Cadwell also expressed the need for the Parks & Trails division to possibly establish a separate funding source to be able to maintain the existing trails. One of the ideas was the possibility of adding a county-wide tax to fund parks, trails and libraries maintenance and future projects instead of relying on the MSTU as the only source of funds.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.