

MINUTES

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Lake~Sumter MPO

1616 South 14th Street, Leesburg, Florida

OPENING

Chairman Steve Ferrell called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.; and he confirmed the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present. All present stated their name and affiliation.

Members Present

Steve Ferrell, Chairman	Lake County, D1
Ted Wicks	Lake County, D3
Jamie Hanja, Vice-Chairman	Lake County, D4
Iris Alfonso	Sumter County
Susy Gibson	City of Clermont
John Schaller	City of Fruitland Park
Peni Berger	City of Mount Dora
Stephen Stone	City of Wildwood

Members Absent

Brian Herman	Lake County, D2
Richard Nelson	Lake County, D5
Doug Tharp	Sumter County
Don Griffey	City of Eustis
Bonnie Nebel	Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
Regis LeClerc	Town of Lady Lake
David Clutts	City of Tavares

Staff Present

Pam Richmond	MPO Project Manager
Mike Woods	Transportation Planner
Francis Franco	GIS Manager
Sue Goldfuss	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Present

Vickie Wyche	FDOT
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REPORTS

A. Florida Department of Transportation

Ms. Vickie Wyche, MPO Liaison, gave an update of the construction projects in Lake and Sumter Counties. After a brief discussion regarding shoulder widening projects on US 441, Ms. Wyche advised the report is in need of updating.

B. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

None

C. County Reports

None

D. MPO Staff

Mike Woods stated the Central Florida Safe Routes Portal is up and running, and the study materials from the Safe Routes website are moving to the new web portal. He emphasized the analysis tool for demos at school meetings.

E. CAC: Members Comments and Reports

Stephen Stone, City of Wildwood, reported the snowbirds are concerned with the amount of traffic on SR 44 between Brownwood and Buena Vista. Brief discussion ensued.

Jamie Hanja, Lake County D4, asked when the LRTP and the Project Prioritization Subcommittees were going to meet; and Pam Richmond responded she is waiting to schedule the LRTP Subcommittee due to funding needed that will be explained in an agenda item. Ms. Hanja expressed concerns about the many accidents at US 27 and Hooks Street due to the alignment problem to which Ms. Richmond responded there was a lengthy discussion at the South Lake Task Force meeting last week once Mr. Jim Stivender, Director of Lake County Public Works, arrived at the meeting. Mr. Stivender was requested to look further into the situation. Ms. Hanja reiterated her concern with Hammock Ridge Road and Lakeshore Drive that continues to be a problem, and mentioned the form to post complaints is not on the MPO website.

Susy Gibson, City of Clermont, wanted to know why the minutes of the CAC meetings were not emailed to city council members to which Chairman Ferrell responded all agendas, minutes and audios of the meetings are posted on the MPO website. Ms. Gibson reported she has been approached by citizens for information regarding the impacts of cycling and the benefits of cycling, and she wanted to know if there was an informational brochure to hand out. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding ecotourism and the economic development benefits.

AGENDA UPDATE

MOTION was made by Susy Gibson to approve adding Action Items E and F to the agenda; seconded by Iris Alfonso -- **motion passed 8-0**.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. September 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Stephen Stone to approve the September 10, 2014 minutes; seconded by Jamie Hanja -- **motion passed 8-0**.

B. Update of Maps as Precursor to Long Range Transportation Plan Development

Ms. Richmond reviewed the Constrained Corridors Map and gave examples of certain roads that may need to change from two to four lanes due to future development. Brief discussion ensued regarding the reasoning for constraining roads; community vision; and land use changes affecting transportation planning. No action taken.

C. Regional Trail Resurfacing/Maintenance as a Funding Priority

Mr. Woods briefed the CAC on recent changes to state law enabling the use of state and federal funds for the development of regional trails. FDOT has clarified that MPOs can add resurfacing/maintenance projects on the priority lists. The need for surface maintenance of the South Lake Trail was a discussion at a Lake County Commission meeting. No action taken.

D. 2015 Draft Legislative Positions

Ms. Richmond reviewed the proposed list of positions and added staff is seeking input on any other issues or bills that should be monitored for the 2015 Florida Legislative Session. Brief discussion regarding the upcoming sunseting of the Lake County gas tax. No action taken.

E. Recommend Amending FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Woods reported FDOT's request for two amendments to the MPO's TIP based on the department's recent programming of funds for two projects. The first amendment would add funds for planning, design and right-of-way acquisition for the SR 44 bridge replacement over the St. John's River connecting Lake County east to Volusia County. Chairman Ferrell requested clarification as to whether the bridge itself or parts of the bridge was being replaced. The second amendment would add additional funds to the design phase of the South Lake Trail, Phase 4, from the Van Fleet State Trail in Sumter County east to Villa City Road (CR 565) in Groveland. **MOTION** was made by Susy Gibson to recommend amending FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Jamie Hanja -- **motion passed 8-0**. UPDATE: Replacement of SR 44 Bridge over St. Johns River Bascule Bridge with Mid-Level fixed bridge.

F. Recommend Amending FY 2014/15 – 2015/16 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Richmond explained the MPO's request to FDOT for additional funds to complete the Long Range Transportation Plan. FDOT has provided an additional \$125,000 in planning funds to support the MPO's development of the 2040 LRTP. In order for the MPO to be able to access the funds, an amendment to the UPWP is required. Ms. Richmond further explained how the MPO tasks for spending grant funding. **MOTION** was made by Susy Gibson to recommend amending FY 2014/15 – 2015/16 Unified Planning Program; seconded by Peni Berger -- **motion passed 8-0**.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Proposed Changes for TAC and BPAC Meetings

Staff briefly discussed the idea of moving the TAC and BPAC meetings in order to have all committees meet on the same day; however, the TAC was not agreeable to the change.

B. 2014 Horizon Award Nominations

Ms. Richmond explained committee members were encouraged to nominate deserving local governments for transportation projects or policies that were advanced during 2014. The awards will be presented at the Eighth Annual Horizon Awards Dinner January 28, 2015. Staff further explained the change giving committee members the ability to nominate for specific awards typically chosen by staff.

PROJECT UPDATES

A. Trails: Central Florida C2C Trail and Wekiva Trail

Mr. Woods gave a brief update on the recent C2C Trail Summit. The consultant is finishing up the remaining segments of the Wekiva Trail PD&E Study.

B. US 441 Corridor Alternatives Analysis (Orange Blossom Express Study – Orlando to Golden Triangle)

Ms. Richmond reported the ridership projections are dismal, and it is tentative whether it will move to the next phase.

- C. Minneola Interchange: Florida's Turnpike/North Hancock Road
The Turnpike has advertised for bids for design and build of the interchange, which may not be open until 2017. Construction of N. Hancock Road is tentatively scheduled to begin Jan 2015.

- D. Lake-Orange Parkway (US 27 to SR 429) and Wellness Way Sector Plan (South Lake)
There will be a public meeting in October on the Sector Plan.

- E. I-75/CR 514 Interchange Planning (Sumter County near Coleman)
No further update due to the lengthy process of the Interchange Justification Report.

- F. Villa City Development of Regional Impact (DRI)
There has been a delay due to a change of land uses and in legal counsel.

- G. Studies: US 301 PD&E Study, SR 50 Corridor Study
Ms. Richmond reported the US 301 PD&E Study will have a kickoff next week at the Coleman City Council meeting with a public kickoff on Nov 18. The SR 50 Corridor Study is a feasibility study from Mascotte to Hernando County through Sumter County, and will be an opportunity to address safety concerns.

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

It was confirmed that Steve Ferrell would be the CAC representative attending the Governing Board meeting on October 22, 2014 at 2 pm at the Lake~Sumter MPO.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Steve Ferrell, Chairman