

**Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023**

CAC Members Physically Present:

Shawn Collins
Kerry Karl, Chairperson
Janet Deyette
Greg Feldman
Gilles Blais
Bob Storke
Paul Martel
Wayne Josvai
Elizabeth Alicia Lendian
Edie Biro
Anna Taylor (non-voting)

CAC Members Virtually Present:

Erika Benfield
Bobby Ball

CAC Members Absent:

Bliss Jamison (excused)
Ed Fendley (excused)
Faith Alkhatib (non-voting)
Tisha Peterson
Rick Basso
Fred Heyne (excused)
Sue Elliott (excused)
Jack Delaney (excused)
Patricia Lipovsky (excused)
Dave Castagnacci, Vice Chairperson (excused)
Sean Castello (non-voting)

Others Physically Present:

Colleen Nicoulin
Stephan Harris
Mark Trebitz
Celine Bounds
Jesse Blouin
Claire Hartman

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pamela Blankenship
Jennifer Carver
Steven Buck
Donna Graybill
Claire Hartman
Victor Muchuruza
Nathan Silva

Representing:

Daytona Beach
DeLand
Deltona
Flagler County
Holly Hill
Orange City
Pierson Alternate
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County At Large
Votran (CTC)
FDOT

Representing:

DeBary
Port Orange

Representing:

Edgewater
Flagler Beach
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Flagler County Public Transportation
Lake Helen
Ormond Beach
Pierson
South Daytona
Volusia County D-2
Volusia County Chair
Volusia County Traffic Engineering

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
Ghyabi Consulting

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT
FDOT
Ghyabi Consulting
Ghyabi Consulting
HDR, Inc.
RS&H

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Determination of Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Kerry Karl called the meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to order at 1:15 p.m. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with ten voting and one non-voting member physically present; and with two voting members virtually present.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that as a result of COVID-19 and an Executive Order issued by the Governor, the TPO started holding 100% virtual meeting participation beginning in March 2020; when that Executive Order expired, we were still allowed to meet virtually as long as a physical quorum was present. Those members attending virtually were permitted to vote on based on an extenuating circumstance; COVID-19 has been the extenuating circumstance up to this point. The Executive Committee discussed virtual meeting participation earlier this month and agreed that it is important but the reference to COVID-19 needs to be removed. Moving forward, any member needing to attend virtually will need to provide a reason and members physically present will vote to approve virtual participation on an individual basis. She asked that when members RSVP their meeting attendance to provide a reason if they are requesting to attend virtually.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Feldman to allow members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Storke.*

Mr. Collins expressed concern regarding virtual participation as society is becoming less brick-and-mortar and more virtual.

Ms. Nicoulin explained this is supported by the TPO Bylaws and it is the direction of the Executive Committee; there must be an extenuating circumstance for virtual participation. She noted there is no definition of an extenuating circumstance; it will be up to the members physically present to determine if a situation is an extenuating circumstance.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Chairperson Karl introduced new Ponce Inlet CAC member, Mr. Wayne Josvai.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of the January 17, 2023 CAC Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Blais to approve the January 17, 2023 CAC minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biro and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2023-## Adopting the 2023 River to Sea TPO Safety Data and Targets

Ms. Nicoulin stated that each year in February, the TPO adopts its annual safety targets; over the last five years the TPO has adopted an independent target based on a 2% annual reduction. FDOT adopts a target of zero for each performance measure in the safety category. A presentation and discussion were held last month regarding a change in the methodology; the TPO will be adopting FDOT's target of zero. This is for a number of reasons including that safety is a priority for the TPO and its partners, and we will be striving for a common goal of reducing fatal crashes on our roadway network to zero. Also, the TPO filed for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant through the US DOT which requires a commitment to Vision Zero for each of the five safety performance measures; she announced the TPO was awarded this grant.

Mr. Feldman asked if there are other funds that are influenced either positively or negatively by this commitment; if there is a penalty if the numbers do not decrease.

Ms. Nicoulin replied there is no penalty at the TPO level; we report our information to FDOT. It is not tied to our funding or programs.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Martel to recommend approval of Resolution 2023-## adopting the 2023 River to Sea TPO safety data and targets. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blais and carried unanimously.*

C. Appointment/Reappointment of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Members

Ms. Nicoulin explained the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee reviews the project applications received through the annual Call for Projects for traffic operations/safety and planning studies. The Call for Projects is currently open and will close on February 28, 2023. Once all the applications are received, staff will contact TIP Subcommittee members to schedule a meeting to review and rank the applications. The current TIP Subcommittee members representing the CAC are Mr. Bobby Ball, Mr. Bob Storke, Mr. Gilles Blais, and Ms. Elizabeth Lendian; she asked if they wanted to continue to serve and if any other members would like to serve.

Mr. Ball, Mr. Storke, Ms. Lendian and Mr. Collins all confirmed they will continue to serve.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Feldman to reappoint Mr. Bobby Ball, Mr. Bob Storke, Mr. Gilles Blais, Ms. Elizabeth Lendian and Mr. Shawn Collins to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biro and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of FDOT's Resilience Action Plan

Ms. Jennifer Carver, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation on FDOT's Resilience Action Plan (RAP) which is under development and required by the state. She provided information on FDOT's family of statewide plans. FDOT's resilience policy was adopted in 2020 and resilience is defined as the ability to adapt to changing conditions, and prepare for, withstand, and recover from a disruption of the transportation system. They will identify risks related to storms, flooding, sea level rise, etc.; and incorporate strategies to avoid, mitigate, or eliminate impacts. She reviewed some of the tools FDOT has developed including a sketch mapping tool that TPOs can use to incorporate resiliency into their long range transportation plans (LRTPs). She explained how FDOT is incorporating resiliency into their projects and noted that resiliency is not just a coastal issue but includes inland flooding, detours, causeways, and supply chain issues. The Regional Planning Council worked with the TPO on a resilience plan for this area. She explained the three specific goals of the RAP identified by the Legislature and the required elements of the RAP, some of which are rolled into a vulnerability assessment of the state highway system. The next steps for the RAP include finalizing the vulnerability assessment and prioritization; continuing outreach; finalizing the strategies; technical assistance and the database. FDOT plans to hold a public comment period for the RAP in May. She explained the federal Promoting Resilience Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program that is part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); it funds specific resilience improvements and resilience portions of projects. There are formula funds allocated to FDOT districts and discretionary grant funding will also be available that local municipalities will be able to apply for. This program also includes an optional Resiliency Improvement Plan similar to the RAP but it includes a few additional requirements; once FDOT has completed the RAP, they will enhance it to meet the requirements of the federal plan. Once that plan is approved by FHWA, it will allow anyone receiving PROTECT funds in the state an opportunity for a higher federal share.

Mr. Collins referred to the flooding that occurred in Daytona Beach with Hurricane Ian and asked how FDOT defines coordination; if it is just involvement at the TPO or are the cities involved.

Ms. Carver replied the districts work closely with the local governments, communities, agency partners and the TPOs; it depends on the district.

Ms. Taylor referred to FDOT's SR A1A resiliency team and stated that is a good example of how District 5 approaches these types of issues; a task team was put together that included local officials and others from different agencies. A public meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 in Volusia County and March 21, 2023 in Flagler County to discuss resiliency for SR A1A.

Mr. Mark Trebitz, FDOT, added that FDOT looks at resiliency for all projects; for example, they just completed a study for Mason Avenue and they looked at drainage improvements that can be implemented. It may not be a resiliency specific project, but they incorporate it into all projects.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that from the TPO's perspective, a resiliency scenario was developed to identify vulnerable facilities when the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was developed. As we advance into the next plan development, we will look to incorporate some of the strategies identified in FDOT's Resilience Action Plan (RAP) into the TPO's planning documents. There is coordination between many agency partners.

Mr. Martel asked how much the sea level has risen.

Ms. Carver replied she would have to get back to him on that; the numbers are different for various locations around the state.

B. Presentation and Discussion of I-95 Interchanges at US 1 and LPGA Boulevard

Mr. Mark Trebitz, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the I-95 at US 1 interchange; he announced a public hearing will be held in March regarding this project and the preferred alternative. The existing interchange is one of the oldest in the state and some of its features are sub-standard. He reviewed the purpose and need of the project. A public meeting was held regarding the alternatives and the preferred alternative is a diverging diamond interchange; US 1 will be widened to six lanes and the bicycle/pedestrian features will be upgraded. He explained how the diverging diamond interchange will work and the overall benefits of it. He noted a video is available of the project at www.cflroads.com. The project will replace the bridges over US 1 and the FEC railroad tracks and will require the acquisition of right-of-way of the existing Sunoco station/Florida Citrus businesses in the southeast quadrant as well as partial right-of-way impacts for the frontage road and intersections. He reviewed the project schedule; he announced a hybrid public hearing will be held in March; virtual on March 29, 2023, and in-person on March 30, 2023 at The Chapel in Ormond Beach. There is an overlap between the PD&E and design phases that is currently ongoing; both phases are fully funded. The right-of-way phase is partially funded for FY 2027 and construction is currently unfunded; however, if the Moving Florida Forward initiative is approved, it would provide full funding for the project and advance construction.

Mr. Feldman asked if you were heading north on US 1, where the lanes would switch from six to four lanes; it would be better if it occurred past the traffic signals.

Mr. Trebitz replied the lanes will taper down after the traffic signals; the project limits go outside both traffic signals.

Ms. Celine Bounds, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the I-95 at LPGA Boulevard interchange; the project limits are from US 92 to Williamson Boulevard and include the Tomoka River Bridge. She noted that the project area is experiencing unprecedented growth that is expected to continue as there is more development coming. She reviewed the existing safety concerns and provided crash statistics for 2015 to 2019, including bicycle/pedestrian crashes. These crashes are directly correlated to congestion in the area. She reviewed the project's purpose and need; and the project schedule; they are currently in the PD&E phase which is overlapping with the design. Right-of-way is partially funded, and construction is currently unfunded.

Mr. Collins commented that he loves the design and that signage will be important. He asked if the median would be grass for the entire stretch of the project.

Ms. Bounds replied her understanding is that it will be grass throughout; it allows the opportunity for landscaping. The interchange operates only one-way so it is hard to make a wrong-way turn; it will be intuitive for drivers.

C. FDOT Report

Ms. Taylor announced the SR A1A resiliency team is hosting a public meeting regarding the resilience plan for Volusia County on March 8, 2023 and for Flagler Beach on March 21, 2023. FDOT has been partnering with the TPO recently on bike helmet fittings; she thanked TPO staff for their partnership. She announced FDOT's safety team held an initiative to allow elementary school students to learn about bicycle/pedestrian safety, signage, etc.; they held a bike lane design contest and McInnis Elementary School in DeLeon Springs and Wadsworth Elementary School in Palm Coast were the winners in Volusia and Flagler Counties. FDOT will be working with the school board to install the winning designs.

Mr. Collins inquired about an FDOT grant opportunity for clean-up; he would like information on it and what the limitations are; it would be for the Daytona Beach Midtown area.

Ms. Taylor replied she will look into that and get back to the TPO with information.

D. Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports

The Volusia County and Flagler County Construction Reports were provided in the agenda.

V. Staff Comments

Ms. Nicoulin announced the TPO was awarded the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant; the application was submitted this past fall in partnership with Volusia and Flagler Counties. The grant amount is \$320,000 with a match of \$80,000 provided by Volusia and Flagler Counties for a total amount of \$400,000 to develop a comprehensive safety action plan for the two counties. She referred to the TPO's adoption of safety targets and Vision Zero, the local governments are also developing a Vision Zero action plan; it is a catalyst for everyone to work together to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. She referred to the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative mentioned during the I-95 interchanges presentation; there were 20 projects identified in the state for this initiative and we are fortunate that the I-95 at US 1 interchange is included; this initiative moves the project forward by a few decades and will fully fund construction. The TPO has worked with FDOT staff to get the funding for the initial stages of this project which has it lined up perfectly for construction funding.

Chairperson Karl noted that Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Ghyabi Consulting, is in the audience today; she is a champion for transportation infrastructure in our area.

Ms. Nicoulin announced the TPO is relocating its offices this Thursday; the day-to-day operations will be moved to the Florida Tennis Center; it is a Daytona Beach property located on PGA Boulevard. The committee and board meetings will be held temporarily in the Airline Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport. Parking will be validated. This is a short-term, temporary move while the TPO evaluates options for a long-term relocation.

VI. CAC Member Comments

Chairperson Karl stated she, Ms. Lendian and Mr. Storke attended the Active Transportation Workshop recently which raised her awareness of bicycle/pedestrian safety; she encouraged members to learn more about bicycle/pedestrian safety.

VII. Information Items

- CAC & TCC Attendance Records
- River to Sea TPO Outreach and Events
- Upcoming River to Sea TPO events
- TPO Board Report

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the CAC meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



MS. KERRY KARL, CHAIRPERSON
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 21, 2023 regular meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), approved and duly signed this 21st day of March 2023.



DEBBIE STEWART, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**** A recording of the February 21, 2023 CAC meeting is available upon request.**