

**Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022**

CAC Members Physically Present:

Shawn Collins
Kerry Karl, Chairperson
Janet Deyette
Ed Fendley
Gilles Blais
Bob Storke
Fred Heyne
Alan Peterson
Paul Martel
Joe Villanella
Bobby Ball
Dave Castagnacci, Vice Chairperson
Edie Biro
Melissa Winsett (non-voting)
Anna Taylor (non-voting)

CAC Members Virtually Present:

Erika Benfield

CAC Members Absent:

Marcia Stevens-Foltz (excused)
Faith Alkhatib (non-voting)
Tisha Peterson
Rick Basso
Nora Jane Gillespie (excused)
Sue Elliott (excused)
Jack Delaney (excused)
Patricia Lipovsky
Elizabeth Alicia Lendian (excused)

Others Physically Present:

Colleen Nicoulin
Stephan Harris

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Martin Catalá
Victoria Perk
Jay Williams

Representing:

Daytona Beach
DeLand
Deltona
Flagler Beach
Holly Hill
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast
Pierson Alternate
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
Volusia County Chair
Votran (CTC)
Volusia County Traffic Engineering
FDOT

Representing:

DeBary

Representing:

Flagler County
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Flagler County Public Transportation
Lake Helen
New Smyrna Beach
Pierson
South Daytona
Volusia County D-2
Volusia County at Large

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)
Volusia County

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 13 voting and two non-voting members physically present; and with one voting member virtually present.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Villanella to allow members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peterson and carried unanimously.*

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of the February 15, 2022 TCC Meeting Minutes (TCC Only)

B. Confirm TCC Member Appointment to Serve on the Consultant Selection Committee for the General Planning Consultant (GPC) (TCC Only)

C. Review and Approval of the March 15, 2022 CAC Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Blais to approval of the March 15, 2022 CAC minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martel and carried unanimously.*

D. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2022-## Adopting the River to Sea TPO's Title VI Plan

Ms. Blankenship stated a presentation was given last month on updates to the River to Sea TPO's Title VI Plan; there have been no changes and no public comments have been received.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Peterson to recommend approval of Resolution 2022-## adopting the River to Sea TPO's Title VI Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blais and carried unanimously.*

E. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2022-## Adopting the River to Sea TPO's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

Ms. Blankenship stated a presentation was given last month on the River to Sea TPO's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan; there have been a couple of changes. The data in Tables 1 and 2 were updated to the most current and just released 2016-2020 data from the American Community Survey; she explained the data was changed from the top five languages spoken at home to the LEP household data in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The grammatically incorrect sentence below the tables was also updated.

Mr. Peterson asked what happens if there is a meeting or event scheduled in an area that does not seem like it would attract non-English speaking persons but does have them attend.

Ms. Blankenship relied staff would get their names and contact information as best we could and contact them at a later date with a translator for their input.

Ms. Benfield commented that as a Hispanic, she is appreciative of the TPO's plan; many Puerto Ricans have moved stateside as a result of hurricanes over the last five years, particularly in Deltona.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to recommend approval of Resolution 2022-## adopting the River to Sea TPO's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biro and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of Updates to the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan and Maps

Mr. Harris gave a PowerPoint presentation of proposed updates to the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan and maps; he explained the FGTS is made up of existing, planned and conceptual trails and ecological greenways that form a connected, integrated statewide network. He reviewed the history of the plan and the

schedule for the update for 2023 to 2027. They are currently in the period of accepting comments from the public and the stakeholders through May 31, 2022. It is expected that the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) will hold public workshops and create draft maps from input received and adopt new maps for 2023 to 2027 later this year. He explained there are a number of maps but the maps we are concerned with are the Land Trails Opportunity Maps and Priority Trails Maps. TPO staff is suggesting three revisions to the plan and maps; to upgrade the Palm Coast to Bulow Trail and the SR 40 Trail Corridor from the current opportunity trail corridor to a priority trail corridor. He noted that both trail corridors are in development; he gave the trail limits for both. The other revision was suggested by the stakeholders in Volusia County as an opportunity trail which is to have a trail corridor that would connect the SUN Trail network to the ocean in downtown New Smyrna Beach; it would utilize the North Causeway to Peninsula Drive to Gracye K. Barck Park which has a walkway to the beach. A PD&E study is programmed for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 that will determine an alignment for this trail corridor. The BPAC received this presentation last week and suggested an additional opportunity trail corridor from the lighthouse in Ponce Inlet to the Casements in Ormond Beach.

Mr. Peterson asked if the statewide system was set up and priorities given to pieces of them; and if switching one trail from an original opportunity to a priority is because funding has become available. He asked what changed that makes the proposed two trails priorities instead of opportunities; what happens when trails are added as opportunities; what that does to the priority trails that were deemed to be important as there is never enough money for everything.

Mr. Harris explained if a trail is already an opportunity it is on the adopted map; moving from an opportunity to a priority is a matter of public support; there must be a maintenance agreement in place so once the trail is developed the local government will maintain it; and it must be approved by the OGT. There are maintenance agreements in place for the Palm Coast to Bulow and SR 40 trail corridors. The other two trails are proposed to be added as opportunities.

Ms. Nicoulin explained that as the trail network develops there may be connections that were not previously envisioned that now are to connect communities to the trail system. The Coast to Coast Trail was supposed to end in Brevard County but Volusia County sees the opportunity for it to end here as well. As these trails and bicycle tourism evolves and as local governments build infrastructure there are opportunities that were not originally envisioned which is why these trail corridors are being requested to be added now. It does not take the other trail opportunities away but there is now another trail competing for funding.

Mr. Harris added that even though this is a statewide trail network, it is driven by local preferences and feedback.

Mr. Fendley commented that these trails are popular, good for your health, the environment and for businesses. He asked if the Palm Coast to Bulow Trail prioritization is approved and funding is secured if there is an opportunity to connect it from SR A1A to SR 100; he asked if that is on the map and if it is something county officials or the OGT would consider.

Mr. Harris explained that the portion of this trail corridor that crosses SR 100 is under construction now; it is part of the Graham Swamp Trail Phase 1. The connection to SR A1A on this trail corridor will be on the northern end; it will turn east along Palm Coast Parkway over the bridge to connect to SR A1A. At SR 100, it will come south through Flagler County and Volusia County to SR 40.

Discussion continued regarding the maps and the proposed trail corridors; it was explained that these are regional trails and that there are other trails that are connector trails from local governments that are not currently reflected on the regional network. It was also explained that the Florida statewide funding source for trails is the SUN Trail program and that eminent domain is prohibited with these funds. State and local governments try to stay within the existing right-of-way as much as possible but this is why there are gaps; there are obstacles that must be overcome.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the Current Status of the Flagler County Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Ms. Victoria Perk, CUTR, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Flagler County Transit Development Plan (TDP) major update; the TDP is a local document with regional considerations and involves effective public engagement. They have looked at what is needed versus what is attainable to be achieved over the next several years. The TDP is a living document and will continue to evolve and incorporate new ideas and opportunities. One of the last steps in the development of the TDP update is to find potential transit alternatives for the area; those alternatives are divided into two categories; existing services and new services that may be viable in the county.

Mr. Martin Catalá, CUTR, provided an explanation of those two categories; he reviewed the public engagement conducted and the responses received. The most immediate need is to improve reservation lead time; it is currently at two weeks out. New software has been purchased with grant funds that will improve their scheduling and they want to implement online and mobile reservations. He reviewed the other targeted improvements that are geared to drive ridership up; expanding service hours and days of service, hiring more drivers, developing hiring and retention policies, etc. All of the improvements are contingent on securing additional federal funding (FTA Section 5307). The expansion of services is being proposed as pilot projects; FDOT offers three-year grants that could be used to support pilot projects. Same day service is being considered as a pilot project as is traditional and deviated fixed route service. Another mode being considered for a pilot project is on-demand service; it could be a partnership with services such as Lyft or Uber. These are the improvements that will be included in the TDP.

Mr. Peterson commented he was on the Flagler County Commission about ten years ago when they first started to look at this and that very little has been done since then; he agrees with the steps they are taking to expand the on-demand service. Flagler County is not on a grid system so it is extremely difficult for the transit system; the neighborhoods do not connect with one another. He noted that the proposed deviated/zonal route shown from downtown Bunnell to the Advent Hospital along Moody Boulevard is primarily a commercial route and no one lives along that route; he asked if there are suggestions on how to get people out of their neighborhoods to connect to one of the fixed routes.

Mr. Catalá replied there is another alignment running north/south from that corridor into Palm Coast; the deviated route would travel along the route shown but when it gets into that zonal area where there are apartments and housing around the route is where it would deviate and go door-to-door within that zone and then get back onto the corridor. The deviated system would be designed to reach into the enclaves of neighborhoods and bring the riders back out to the corridor; the challenge is as it moves north those communities are circuitous with one way in and one way out. It would be very time constraining to the number of people they could pick up which would affect on-time performance. They will have to limit the number of people that are picked up within the neighborhoods. This is why they want to try it as a pilot project; alternatively, that could be where the on-demand Uber and Lyft type service could be utilized.

Mr. Fendley commented there are two areas in the county where there is a grid system and areas of density; Bunnell and Flagler Beach. He asked if there was any consideration to link those two areas.

Mr. Catalá replied the Flagler Beach is the other end of that corridor; the last TDP had a design that went all the way through that area and back but you do not want more than an hour headway; if Flagler Beach was included, another vehicle would be needed. It would be two separate routes that would connect; it would be a pilot project as well. FDOT's Service Development Grant Program is designed to operate pilot projects; it is a three-year grant and at the end the project is supposed to be sustainable. That is a corridor they want to explore.

C. Presentation and Discussion of Updates to the River to Sea TPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Ms. Blankenship explained the Public Participation Plan (PPP) outlines the strategies the TPO uses to ensure that the public is able to participate in the decision-making process in ways that are both meaningful and inclusive. In addition, the plan identifies how the TPO will promote and encourage public participation. She reviewed some of the major updates to the PPP that are being proposed; TPO staff listing has been updated; the Twitter page and Microsoft Teams were added as well as updates to the quick reference tables; to change the public notices from five business days to seven days which is in line with what we currently provide and allows for

holidays. The ongoing public participation strategies was also updated. The PPP goes out for public comment for 45 days on April 27, 2022 through June 10, 2022 and will be back for recommended approval in June.

D. FDOT Report

Ms. Taylor announced that District 5 Secretary Perdue has been promoted to FDOT Statewide Secretary and that an Interim Secretary has not been named at this time; more information regarding leadership changes will be forthcoming. She announced the week of April 11 -15, 2022 was Work Zone Awareness Week and FDOT partnered with the Edgewater Police Department and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office to promote work zone awareness in one of their project zones; no tickets were issued but safety information cards were distributed to those that were speeding through the construction area. She announced there will be a public open house next week for the Truck and Freight Site Analysis PD&E Study on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. They have been looking at the truck parking needs along the I-4 corridor. FDOT has already conducted public meetings in Osceola, Seminole and Orange Counties. The public meeting will also be available virtually. She noted truck parking is a regional problem and FDOT is trying to be in compliance so the truckers have a safe place to rest; they are looking for alternative site. They have not picked an opportunity yet as they are trying to get public input. All truck parking sites for all four counties will be on display; the documents that will be on display are available online.

Mr. Castagnacci asked if they will bring back the recommendation to this committee.

Ms. Taylor replied yes, FDOT will provide a presentation when they are ready to move forward.

E. Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports

Ms. Winsett gave the Volusia County Construction report; projects 22 through 28 under design are all new.

The Flagler County Construction Report was provided in the agenda.

F. Staff Comments

Ms. Nicoulin announced staff is trying to schedule the TIP Subcommittee meeting for the first week in May; she requested members that are on that subcommittee provide their availability as soon as possible. A doodle poll was sent last Thursday; they can respond to the doodle poll or email her directly.

VI. CAC Member Comments

Ms. Biro announced Votran is celebrating Earth Day on Friday, April 22, 2022 and providing free rides on all fixed routes and Flex route.

Mr. Blais asked if they will conduct a ridership count.

Ms. Biro replied they are going to try to see how many new riders it will attract; Votran staff will be on the buses to ask riders if it is their first trip. They will compare the numbers to the previous Friday's ridership. She noted they are experiencing a driver shortage and beginning Monday, April 25, 2022 they are cutting Routes 7 and 20 to hourly service from half-hour service.

Mr. Collins congratulated Ms. Nicoulin on the Interim Executive Director position and added that he supports her and wishes her success; she has the perfect personality for a tough role.

Chairperson Karl agreed and noted Ms. Nicoulin has done a great job with a limited staff.

Mr. Storke asked if Votran was asking for volunteers to ride the bus and try to attract new riders.

Ms. Biro replied yes; if members are interested, contact Mr. Ralf Heseler and he will provide them a reflective vest and clipboard.

Mr. Peterson commented that last month, Flagler County had a couple of accidents resulting in three fatalities; two of the accidents occurred in a sudden fog bank and with excessive speed. One of the accidents was a medical emergency which no planning, roadway or traffic system can prevent. He asked if medical emergency fatalities are included in the serious injury and fatality statistics the TPO gets each year or if they are factored out.

Ms. Nicoulin replied yes, they are included because it is a fatality; the causes are also listed. When the TPO downloads the information from Signal Four Analytics, the reasons for accidents are identified as well as the conditions including weather, etc.

Mr. Peterson commented that affects motor rates and insurance rates; he asked if those are included.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that is one of the reasons why the TPO looks at a specific target we can affect when developing the safety performance targets and did not go with a blanket adoption of zero; the TPO adopted what we could reasonably put in place recognizing there are certain circumstances we cannot affect.

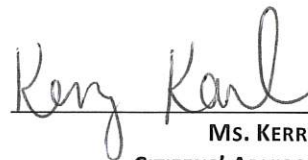
VII. Information Items

- CAC & TCC Attendance Records
- March/April TPO Outreach and Events
- TPO Board Meeting Report
- St. Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance Earth Day Trail Day on the A1A
- Florida Department of Health Family Fun Day Flyer

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the CAC meeting adjourned at 2:39 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 April 19, 2022 regular meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), approved and duly signed this 17th day of May 2022.



**DEBBIE STEWART, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**** A recording of the April 19, 2022 CAC meeting is available upon request.**