

**APRIL 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) BOARD**  
1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124

**TPO Board Members Physically Present:**

Commissioner Jeffrey Schuitema\*\*  
Commissioner Stacy Cantu  
Vice Mayor Michael Politis\*  
Mayor Karen Chasez  
Commissioner Chris Cloudman, Chairperson  
Commissioner Dana McCool  
Councilwoman Charlotte Gillis  
Commissioner James Sherman\*  
Commissioner Andy Dance  
Commissioner Roy Johnson  
Commissioner Randy Hartman  
Vice Mayor Bill O'Connor  
Mayor Bill Partington  
Vice Mayor Bill Lindlau\*  
Mayor David Alfin  
Vice Mayor Eric Sander  
Council Chair Jeff Brower  
Council Member Matt Reinhart  
Council Vice Chair Danny Robins  
Council Member Jake Johansson  
Kerry Karl (non-voting)  
Rakinya Hinson (non-voting advisor)

**TPO Board Members Virtually Present:**

Vice Mayor Reed Foley

**TPO Board Members Absent:**

Vice Mayor John Rogers\* (excused)  
Commissioner Rick Basso\*  
Mayor Samuel Bennett\*  
Vice Mayor Gary Smith\* (excused)  
Council Member David Santiago (excused)  
Ruben Colon  
Dr. Jason Aufdenberg (non-voting)  
Brian Walker (non-voting)

\* Non-voting member of the Small City Alliance

\*\* Voting member for the Small City Alliance

**Others Physically Present:**

Pamela Blankenship, Recording Secretary  
Colleen Nicoulin  
Stephan Harris  
Mariel Lemke  
Matt Gibbs  
Adam Burghdoff  
Ralf Heseler  
Bobbie King  
Kelvin Miller  
Joe Forte

**Representing:**

Beverly Beach  
Daytona Beach  
Daytona Beach Shores  
DeBary  
DeLand  
Deltona  
Edgewater  
Flagler Beach  
Flagler County Alternate  
Holly Hill  
New Smyrna Beach  
Orange City  
Ormond Beach  
Oak Hill  
Palm Coast  
South Daytona  
Volusia County  
Volusia County, District 2  
Volusia County, District 3  
Volusia County, At-Large  
CAC Chairperson  
FDOT

**Representing:**

Port Orange

**Representing:**

Bunnell  
Lake Helen  
Pierson  
Ponce Inlet  
Volusia County, District 5  
Volusia County School Board  
BPAC Chairperson  
TCC Chairperson

**Representing:**

TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
CES  
Kittelson & Associates  
Volusia County Transit Services  
Volusia County Transit Services  
Volusia County - Votran  
Holly Hill

**Others Physically Present:**

Catalina Chacon

**Representing:**

FDOT

**Others Virtually Present:**

Commissioner Lisa Martin

Tony Bevilacqua

**Representing:**

New Smyrna Beach

Inwood Consulting, Inc.

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Determination of Quorum**

The River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by TPO Chairperson Chris Cloudman. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with seventeen voting and five non-voting members physically present, and one voting member attending remotely.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Council Member Johansson to allow TPO Board members attending remotely to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor O'Connor and carried unanimously.*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**III. Public Comment/Participation**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. March 22, 2023 River to Sea TPO Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Report
- D. Executive Committee Report
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Report
- F. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Report
- G. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report
- H. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report
- I. River to Sea TPO Board (R2CTPO) Report
- J. Central Florida MPO Alliance Report
- K. Executive Director Timesheet Review Report
- L. Review and Approval of Expenditure for Volusia County's Mobility-on-Demand Design and Deployment Project (\$62,578.76)

County Chair Brower requested to pull item F: BPAC Report, for comment.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mayor Partington to approve the Consent Agenda absent Item F: BPAC Report. The motion was seconded by Mayor Chasez and carried unanimously.*

County Chair Brower stated that regarding Item F, the BPAC Report, there was a question from the BPAC to Volusia County about the east side trails and whether to use a consultant. He wanted to let them know that he has had conversations with county staff, the Deputy County Manager, and Tim Baylie, and they fully agree with what the BPAC said. The Deputy County Manager will be speaking with the city managers on the east side to offer help from the county; she stated that a consultant may be helpful. The Volusia County Trails Master Plan is open for discussion and comment; he recommended that the BPAC members submit their comments because changes can still be made to the Master Plan.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mayor Chasez to approve Consent Agenda Item F: BPAC Report. The motion was seconded by County Chair Brower and carried unanimously.*

V. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of Resolution 2023-06 Amending the FY 2022/23 to 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin stated that this item is for the addition of a rail safety project in DeLand on South Ridgewood Avenue just north of Old New York Avenue; it is to upgrade the rail crossing for safety. The upgrade will bring the rail crossing up to current standards.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Council Member Johansson to approve Resolution 2023-06 amending the FY 2022/23 to 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Council Member Robins and carried unanimously by roll call vote.*

B. Review and Approval of Updates to the River to Sea TPO Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

Chairperson Cloudman explained that the COOP ensures the continuity of essential office functions upon the occurrence of a major event, emergency, or disaster. Changes in the TPO's location and personnel have necessitated an amendment to the COOP.

Ms. Nicoulin reviewed the recommended changes to the COOP including updating the TPO's office location, staff's order of succession, contact lists, required equipment and software, and floor plan and evacuation meeting location; also, the addition of a statement to allow minor changes to the COOP that do not affect policies to be made as administrative changes.

Mayor Chasez asked if there was a benefit to specifically naming the Executive Director in the COOP. It may be better not to have specific staff named to positions. She added that the administrative modification statement is a good idea.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that in the body of the COOP, only titles and positions are referred to, not names. Attachment A lists the order of succession points of contact. She noted that other agencies' COOPs are typically done the same way.

Mayor Alfin asked if the municipalities could be made aware of when COOP updates are made so that the staff is current.

Ms. Nicoulin responded yes.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mayor Partington to approve the updates to the River to Sea TPO Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The motion was seconded by Mayor Alfin and carried unanimously.*

VI. Presentations and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the SR A1A Resiliency Plan

Ms. Catalina Chacon, FDOT, and Mr. Matt Gibbs, CES consultant, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the SR A1A Resiliency Plan. The presentation covered the damage that occurred after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the history of SR A1A, and the cost of the repairs in the last six months. The Resiliency Plan Strike Team, FDOT, and stakeholders looked at the focus area which covers thirteen miles, beginning in Volusia County at Roberta Road in Ormond Beach, and going to Osprey Drive in Flagler County. They reviewed the identified critical areas, viable options, and recommendations.

Discussion ensued on the Resiliency Strike Team and how to join the team.

Commissioner McCool asked where the money was coming from for this plan.

Ms. Chacon stated they were working directly with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); the cost is \$120 million. They have a special funding source in place; there is a process to follow with FHWA and they are hoping for reimbursement. Funding is only from federal and state sources at this time.

Discussion continued on the landscaping that would be put in place as well as the reasoning for picking the secant wall over the sheet pile wall.

County Chair Brower asked where the locations of the safety crosswalks will be.

Mr. Gibbs replied that the crosswalks would not be incorporated into this project because it involves federal funds; FDOT is adding them to two current projects; some locations have been identified and there will be upcoming public meetings. Each location was reviewed from a crash standpoint as well as existing data.

The method to replenish the sand was explained.

Vice Mayor O'Connor commented that the beach replenishment was not a permanent fix, whereas the wall would be.

Mr. Gibbs added that it came with a warranty of 50 years from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mayor Alfin stated it had been brought to his attention that the sea floor immediately off the beach has a profound effect on the dramatic effect of the storms; are they considering the relationship between the sea floor and the sand and the storms intensifying the impact?

Mr. Gibbs noted that coastal engineers have met and reviewed twelve options, some involving constructing a wall in the ocean to provide a barrier; it has many drawbacks including impacts to sea turtles and effects of the sand on the beach because it affects tidepools. To keep the beach at its current status, the wall and the Army Corps of Engineers' solution are the two best options.

County Chair Brower asked if they would replenish the sand in front of the secant wall at no additional charge.

Ms. Chacon replied yes, and they are working on a maintenance plan and funding.

Mr. Gibbs added that FDOT is handling the walls and the Army Corps of Engineers is handling the beach renourishment. He is not sure if there is cost sharing at this point.

Commissioner Sherman stated that the Army Corps of Engineers would not allow the secant walls in addition to having the sand pumped on the beach. It is a dire situation.

## **B. Presentation and Discussion of Reducing Bicycle Fatalities through Social Marketing**

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on a project that came out of a Social Marketing in Transportation course that she and Ms. Stephanie Moss, FDOT, completed through the University of South Florida and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). She reviewed the pilot project designed to reduce bicycle fatalities and how it was developed through the social marketing process. Ms. Moss is currently working on a scope for a task order to move the project forward with consultant support.

Mayor Chaisez pointed out that Bluetooth use was not addressed in the project; she asked what the position is on Bluetooth use.

Ms. Blankenship responded that Bluetooth use is just as distracting as picking up the phone. She explained that the use of Bluetooth devices is a cognitive distraction. That was not looked at under the scope of this project.

Mayor Alfin asked about e-bike usage and suggested incorporating it into the project.

Commissioner McCool stated that there was a death recently in Deltona due to a distracted driver; she immediately made a request to implement a distracted driving campaign. All the cities and counties need to get on board with the message of distracted driving and make it a number one priority.

Discussion ensued on how the target audience was selected and the data used.

Vice Mayor O'Connor commented that it was not easy to find the Do Not Disturb (DND) feature on the phone.

Ms. Blankenship added that she would send out the instructions on how to enable the DND function for Android and iPhones.

Council Member Johansson pointed out that safety hits a high point during a campaign and then dies down; it is important to be proactive rather than reactive. Perhaps we should look at having the cities and counties tasking a safety person to keep this message at the forefront. Walkers and bikers need to be looked at as well.

Ms. Nicoulin explained that the strategy for this project had to be very specific, but it is a process that can be applied to different problems and populations. With April being Distracted Driving Awareness Month, Ms. Blankenship has been giving a number of presentations as well as partnering with Palm Coast on the initiative. We are hoping to extend that to other jurisdictions to see what we can do as the TPO to be a resource to the local agencies. The TPO has been working very closely with the FDOT Safety Office. Perhaps this is an opportunity to develop a campaign that can be applied to both counties and their cities.

Commissioner Dance stated that the Community Traffic Safety Teams discuss and promote these campaigns. In regard to e-bikes, he rides one and is very familiar with the laws and regulations and would be happy to discuss them.

#### **C. Presentation and Discussion of Performance Measures Updates for PM2 (Bridge & Pavement) and PM3 (System Performance & Freight Movement)**

Ms. Nicoulin explained that federal transportation law requires state DOTs and TPOs to implement transportation performance management; a strategic approach to connecting investment and policy planning decisions to meet performance goals. She reviewed the PM1 safety goals and targets which are adopted annually; earlier this year, the TPO adopted FDOT's goal of Target Zero. The PM2 and PM3 goals and targets are required to be adopted every four years. Last time, the TPO supported FDOT's goals; in supporting the state's goals and targets, the TPO is agreeing to participate in the process and program projects that help them meet those targets. This year the TPO is proposing to support the state's targets. This will be back next month for action to adopt the targets.

Mayor Alfin stated he is supportive of the FDOT guidance. He added that Palm Coast often gets homogenized into Flagler County and the young age of Palm Coast doesn't get identified. There is a difference in road use and bridges. He added that he did not think we have the tools or ability to veer from FDOT's targets.

Mayor Chasez stated she is supportive of pursuing FDOT's targets.

Chairperson Cloudman commented that the TPO's safety targets were adjusted to match FDOT's Target Zero; he recommended staying with the state's targets.

#### **D. FDOT Report**

Ms. Rakinya Hinson, FDOT, stated the FDOT report was provided in the agenda; she referred members to [www.cflroads.com](http://www.cflroads.com) for the most up-to-date project information. This website can be shared with the members' constituents as well. If anyone has specific questions regarding a project, she can gather the information and provide it to the TPO to distribute. She gave an update on the truck parking signs noting that an analysis is being done. The signs are placed to prevent people from parking there and are a safer alternative than parking. In regard to the lighting and speed limit at Beville and Clyde Morris Boulevard, the FDOT team is looking at SR 400 from I-4 to Nova; speed shots are being collected to see if a speed limit change is warranted. They are looking at reevaluating where the Amazon warehouse is going. In reference to the inquiry about trash on the I-4 exits,

it should be cleared at this time, but she will look this afternoon when she is over there. She stated that she needed more information about the inquiry on the traffic light at SR 44 and Corbin Park. She was unable to find a project that matches that location.

Commissioner Cantu asked about the bike path on Beville Road from Clyde Morris Boulevard to Williamson Boulevard; she has been pushing for streetlights since the bike path started and was told they could expect the lighting to start in August or September of this year.

Ms. Hinson stated she would find out.

Commissioner Cantu asked about the timeline for the resurfacing in Pelican Bay.

Ms. Hinson stated she would check into that and let her know.

Commissioner Cantu noted that heading east on SR 400 at the ICI building, the turning lane to make a right turn cuts off and you have to come back out to turn right at the west gate. The grass area makes no sense and there have been complaints from the residents.

Ms. Hinson stated she would look into it.

Chairperson Cloudman encouraged the members to reach out to Ms. Hinson in between meetings if needed.

Council Member Reinhart thanked Ms. Hinson for addressing the lighting. He stated that he lives in Georgetown and cars use Yorktowne Boulevard to cut through between Beville Road and Clyde Morris Boulevard; it is causing congestion which needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he brought up the truck parking at the last meeting. There is only about 1% of parking for the number of rigs that are on the road. FDOT needs to look at the signs; the trucks park in front of the signs every night and it is like driving into a tunnel with a wall on each side. It is very dangerous.

Vice Mayor O'Connor thanked FDOT for addressing the Saxon Interchange so quickly. He commented that there is an issue getting off I-4 at the Saxon Interchange towards Orange City. He asked if signage can be looked at because cars are hidden.

Commissioner McCool stated that the interchanges need to be better maintained and beautified because people will have more respect for the area. They need to work together with FDOT to make the area more welcoming.

Vice Mayor O'Connor pointed out that the area includes the following interchanges: Dirksen (108), Saxon (111), and Exit 114.

Chairperson Cloudman asked if there were any updates on the Moving Florida Forward Initiative.

Ms. Hinson stated there were no updates.

## **VII. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Nicoulin gave a TPO staffing update and an update on the Request for Proposal for General Planning Consultant. She also noted that the TPO was recently notified by the Office of Inspector General that we are being audited. The process has begun, and no timeframe has been given. There will be regular discussions at the Executive Committee and information provided to the TPO Board as needed.

Ms. Nicoulin gave an update on the Moving Florida Forward Initiative. She also recognized Mr. Roy Walters, a long-time BPAC member representing West Volusia who recently passed away. The Daytona News-Journal printed a story on him.

Mayor Chasez asked about the time period during which the TPO was being audited; is it prior to the changeover of TPO staff?

Ms. Nicoulin responded that the time period covers the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which started on July 1, 2022.

**VIII. River to Sea TPO Board Member Comments**

Mayor Chasez stated that DeBary ran into an issue with the last trail segment on the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. The Homeowners' Association owns the property that the trail is going through, and they refused to provide the right of way; they want to sell it. She explained what happened and ultimately the Homeowners' Association agreed to provide the right of way without compensation. DeBary is working with FDOT for the rescoping project of US 17/92 from Saxon Boulevard to I-4. Traffic patterns will be changing and there are some things they want to see handled differently.

Mayor Partington thanked the TPO staff for all they do; it is a small staff that does an incredible amount of work with very limited resources. He fully supports the hiring of extra help. The amount of work we have put on them is unfair and it is the TPO Board's responsibility to take care of them. Regarding the Moving Florida Forward Initiative, he received an email from Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Ormond Beach's traffic consultant, and the funding is at risk; to make the program work we need the full \$4 billion as well as the revenue redirects so we can leverage the \$7 billion over an eight-to-ten-year period. He is trying to explain this to the legislators, but they do not understand it. He noted that he would forward the information to Ms. Nicoulin and asked if the cities would send a letter supporting the Governor's initiative fully without compromise, so we do not lose the projects.

**IX. River to Sea TPO Chairperson Comments**

Chairperson Cloudman stated that the Lieutenant Governor held a press conference on the Moving Florida Forward Initiative which he and Ms. Nicoulin attended. This would be a big boost to the state and our project (I-95 @ US 1 interchange). He pointed out the TPO staff also staffs the advisory committee meetings. He introduced Ms. Kerry Karl, the Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). He noted that prior to COVID-19, it was commonplace to have the committee chairs attend the TPO Board meetings. Perhaps that may begin to occur again.

**X. Information Items**

- Letter to Root Riverfront Partners re: Office Lease Termination
- Citizens Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2023
- Technical Coordinating Committee Attendance Report – 2023
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2023
- River to Sea TPO Outreach and Activities
- Upcoming Events Flyer
- SunTrail Legislation Press Release
- Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the River to Sea TPO Board meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

**RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**



**CITY OF DELAND MAYOR CHRIS CLOUDMAN  
CHAIRPERSON, RIVER TO SEA TPO**

**CERTIFICATE:**

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO Board certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 26, 2023 regular meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board, approved and duly signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.



**PAMELA BLANKENSHIP, RECORDING SECRETARY  
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

***\*\* A recording of the April 26, 2023 TPO Board meeting is available upon request.***