

**Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021**

CAC Members Physically Present:

Ed Fendley
Gilles Blais
Paul Martel
Elizabeth Alicia Lendian
Edie Biro
Melissa Winsett (non-voting)

CAC Members Virtually Present:

Erika Benfield
Kerry Karl
Nora Jane Gillespie, Chairperson
Bob Storke
Roger Strcula
Alan Peterson, Vice Chairperson
Susan Elliott
Bobby Ball
Dave Castagnacci
Rakinya Hinson (non-voting advisor)

CAC Members Absent:

Janet Deyette (excused)
Mary Dioguardi
Marcia Stevens-Foltz (excused)
Faith Alkhatib (non-voting)
Tisha Peterson
Rick Basso
Joe Villanella (excused)
Jack Delaney (excused)
Patricia Lipovsky (excused)

Others Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Colleen Nicoulin
Pam Blankenship (virtually)
Stephan Harris
Emily Nice

Representing:

Flagler Beach Alternate
Holly Hill
Pierson Alternate
Volusia County at Large
Votran (CTC)
Volusia County Traffic Engineering

Representing:

DeBary
DeLand
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast
Pierson
Port Orange
Volusia County Chair
FDOT District 5

Representing:

Deltona
Flagler Beach
Flagler County
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Flagler County Public Transportation
Lake Helen
Ponce Inlet
South Daytona
Volusia County D-2

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen

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

Chairperson Gillespie 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 not physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with five voting and one non-voting members physically present and nine voting and one non-voting members virtually present.

Ms. Nicoulin stated the CAC was unable to achieve a physical quorum which is a requirement to hold an official CAC meeting. The meeting will still be held to discuss the items on the agenda and receive the presentations. However, no formal action will take place but recommendations can be made and a general consensus can be reported to the TPO Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of the May 18, 2021 CAC Meeting Minutes

Ms. Nicoulin stated this item will be brought back for action at the August 17, 2021 CAC meeting.

B. Nomination and Election of CAC/TCC Officers for FY 2021/22

Ms. Nicoulin stated this item will also be brought back for action at the August 17, 2021 CAC meeting. The CAC Bylaws require that a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson be elected each year to take office at the beginning of the new fiscal year beginning July 1. Chairperson Gillespie has served two consecutive terms and cannot serve again as has Vice Chairperson Peterson. If anyone is interested in either position, please let her know.

C. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-## Adopting the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin stated a presentation was given last month on the development of the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This document is updated and adopted each year; it is a five-year programming of the transportation funds within the TPO's planning area. The TIP includes all different types of projects; not just bicycle/pedestrian or capacity projects but also resurfacing, maintenance, lighting, landscaping, aviation, transit and any projects funded with federal or state funds in our planning area. Last month she highlighted the ten new bicycle/pedestrian projects that are moving into the TIP in some phase of funding. A link to the draft TIP as well as a link to a comparison report was provided in the agenda; the comparison report reflects the significant changes between the current TIP and the proposed TIP. She highlighted the bicycle/pedestrian projects being added into the TIP last month but there are also some capacity projects moving into the TIP; the I-95 and US 1 interchange is funded for design in FY 2026; the I-95 and LPGA Boulevard interchange is currently undergoing a PD&E study and design has been funded for FY 2026; the roundabout at Tomoka Farms Road and Pioneer Trail is currently funded for right-of-way and construction is funded for FY 2024; and additional right-of-way funding has been added for the SR 40 widening west of Ormond Beach.

D. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-## Amending the FY 2020/21 and 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin stated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the TPO's two-year work plan that identifies the work products completed at the staff level and how those are funded. We are at the end of the first year and the UPWP must be amended to add additional funds that have become available. The TPO utilizes Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding to support planning activities related to public transit in both Volusia and Flagler Counties. The TPO operates off of a grant that expired at the end of the last calendar year and those monies have been reissued to the TPO in the amount of \$99,357 which is being added to the UPWP. Also, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) planning grant the TPO received was adjusted to add an additional \$954 which is used to support the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB).

E. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-## Adopting the 2021 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Ms. Nicoulin stated the TPO's List of Priority Projects (LOPP) is used by FDOT to develop their Work Program for next year which will roll into the TIP that the TPO will develop next year. The LOPP is a series of eight lists; the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) list and the Regionally Significant non-SIS list come from the LRTP. There are also three lists for traffic operations, bicycle/pedestrian and planning studies; the projects on those lists are submitted to the TPO by local governments through the annual Call for Projects. Those lists are broken down

into different tiers; Tier C are feasibility studies, Tier B are projects awaiting funding and Tier A are projects that have received funding for one or more phases or are fully funded. The projects compete for the TPO's set aside SU federal funding. At times, the TPO is able to utilize state funding for these projects as well; when there are opportunities to do so, the TPO works with FDOT to leverage those funds. There is also a SUN Trail list which are projects specific to the SUN Trail program; it includes gaps and segments being developing in our planning area. For the transit project list, the TPO defers to Votran and Flagler County Public Transportation to determine project priorities for transit. The LRTP was recently amended to include the SunRail Phase II North expansion on the transit list. The Transportation Regional Incentives Project (TRIP) list includes projects that receive state funding from documentary stamps; the TPO requests local governments identify projects that are ready to move when TRIP funding becomes available. TRIP projects within Volusia County require a 50% local match and the local governments must commit to that. The draft lists were presented last month and no changes have been made regarding the ranking of projects; local governments are required to submit updated cost estimates each year and some of those have been updated. One project on the bicycle/pedestrian Tier C list for a feasibility study is being removed; it is the Volusia Gap project and it is being removed at the request of the county. The TPO received that information after the agenda was sent out.

Ms. Benfield asked why they requested the project to be removed.

Mr. Harris replied the project was originally submitted several years ago and it laid out three routes to be evaluated to connect the Spring to Spring trail or the Coast to Coast trail to the DeBary SunRail station. It ranked very low on the priority list and as years passed, development was such that the connections that were to be evaluated in the feasibility study have already been built so the application is obsolete. Since the project ranked low and the TPO was not going to be able to undertake the study for at least another year, Volusia County decided to withdraw the project rather than revise and resubmit it.

Ms. Benfield asked if when he said Volusia County if that included the city of DeBary as this is the first she has heard about this.

Mr. Harris replied no; this was a Volusia County study. In the meantime, DeBary has submitted other applications that will cover a portion of the scope of the Volusia Gap feasibility study; that study was obsolete and would have to be revised and resubmitted.

Ms. Benfield asked if a copy of the study could be provided to her.

Mr. Harris replied yes.

Chairperson Gillespie commented she saw this project earlier this year when the traffic study was discussed.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that this year the city of DeBary submitted a traffic operations feasibility study for the US 17/92 corridor as a whole.

Chairperson Gillespie stated it showed other items that were up for discussion or under a study by the city which is why she questioned it being pulled.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the TPO will provide additional information to the CAC.

Mr. Fendley expressed interest in the potential bike route connection; expected ridership at the SunRail station has been discussed at previous meetings and the more people that can walk or bike there with safe access the more the ridership will be. He hopes we can continue to sponsor this project and be supportive and hopefully there will be a solution despite the development occurring. As development occurs, having a plan and options offers the opportunity to do something in coordination with a private development.

Ms. Winsett asked if the Volusia Gap project was removed because it has already been constructed and was no longer needed.

Mr. Harris yes; the project is being withdrawn at the request of Volusia County. There were three alternatives that would have been evaluated and two have been completed or are underway.

Chairperson Gillespie asked if it is an alternative, how it can be underway.

Mr. Harris replied there is a trail connection underway that has not been completed; it will go from the intersection of US 17/92 and Fort Florida Road to connect that intersection to the Coast to Coast trail. It was originally called out in the Volusia Gap feasibility study but the city of DeBary is now developing this project.

Ms. Benfield stated that last year, the city of DeBary approved the connection of the trail from Blue Springs State Park to add an additional extension to Gemini Springs and it is supposed to be completed by this summer; that is the only trail the city voted on regarding closing that gap. She is not sure what has changed or if this is in addition to that but it is a combination of SunTrail funding to complete that trail and it will be the responsibility of the city to maintain it once built. Volusia County chose the contractor. She would like to see what was originally submitted compared to what is being built now; to her knowledge, it has not been on any agenda since the voting and approval of the trail of something being removed.

Ms. Nicoulin stated she will send additional information regarding this project to the CAC members.

F. Cancellation of July CAC and TCC Meetings

Chairperson Gillespie stated the CAC is under a constitutional set up of ten meetings per year and there is no business of urgent need at this time so the CAC will not meet in July.

IV. Presentation Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of Sea Level Rise and Resiliency

Ms. Bollenback gave a PowerPoint presentation of sea level rise and transportation resiliency to explain what the TPO has been doing to build a resilient transportation system. She explained that resiliency is any disruptive event or anything that disrupts our transportation system such as flooding, hurricane impacts, wildfires or major traffic incidents on our interstates or major corridors. It is important to be able recover and best to be able to forecast in advance and be prepared; we want to create a transportation system that is not disrupted so commerce is not interrupted and we have a reliable transportation system. This is important because if we do not manage flooding well we do not have access to our evacuation routes and we will not be able to return after a storm event. If we have not planned our stormwater and drainage systems well we will have flooding that will undermine the infrastructure of roads. The challenge is all of the action that is needed costs money; if we do not strengthen the existing system it will have to be rebuilt. We need to build more fortified structures for new facilities which drives up construction costs. She discussed other actions that could be taken. She reviewed related projections and trends to consider such as hurricanes and evacuations, tidal flooding, and wildfires that affect the transportation system and the costs associated with them. The high point in Volusia County is 120 feet above sea level whereas the high point in Flagler County is only 58 feet above sea level; we have work to do to prepare for sea level rise.

Ms. Biro asked where the high point in Volusia County is located.

Ms. Bollenback replied she believes it is in the DeBary area. She continued with the presentation and stated the TPO is required to address sea level rise and resiliency by state and federal law as well as executive orders. She reviewed some of the things the TPO has done to address sea level rise and resiliency starting with an initial vulnerability assessment for Volusia and Flagler Counties. She explained the modeling program used through the University of Florida (UF) that identified the elevations of roadways and facilities to see what flooding would look like. She went over some of the other activities the TPO has done and stated resiliency is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP as well as in project ranking criteria. There are many other government agencies working on resiliency; she listed some of those agencies including FDOT and regional planning councils. It is required to be included in local governments comprehensive plans and coastal management. She explained

the seal level scenario sketch planning tool developed by UF that will show neighborhoods and what flooding could look like in a specific area. She reviewed the results of the vulnerability assessments in Volusia and Flagler Counties and clarified most are segments of roadways. The best case scenario is to fix these issues when doing routine maintenance or resurfacing of roadways. The TPO will continue to work on resiliency; she explained the TPO's role is to collect information and inform the TPO Board and local governments. The TPO is required to ensure a 3-C planning process: continuing, cooperative and comprehensive. The TPO will be updating the vulnerability assessments, continuing to work with our partners and raising awareness so people understand the impacts of existing programs. The TPO Board may also put in place additional policy direction.

Mr. Blais asked about flood gates; canals drain into river and could be controlled with the tides.

Ms. Bollenback replied that is a good point as our stormwater system is based on gravity; it flows toward the river but when the river rises the flow does not occur. This is happening in South Florida where they are spending millions to install flood gates and raise property; all of that is the potential future here.

Ms. Lendian asked where the highest elevation is in Volusia County.

Mr. Harris replied it is in West Volusia

Ms. Biro confirmed it is Lake Marnie Road in DeLand.

Discussion continued.

B. FDOT Report

The FDOT report was provided in the agenda.

Mr. Peterson stated some of the projects listed on the report show an estimated completion date of summer 2021; he asked if that is the original estimated completion date of if it changes as the project is constructed. He asked if the estimated completion date is accurate.

Ms. Hinson replied the information presented in the report is accurate as of the end of May; even if the date changes as projects progress the information in the report is up to date and accurate.

C. Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports

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

V. Staff Comments

Ms. Emily Nice, citizen, stated her family has lived in the Daytona Beach area for 40 years on beachside; she is here today because she is very active as a volunteer of the Neighborhood Watch, the Seabreeze Neighborhood Watch Group, the Beachside Watch Group as well as the Mayor's Beachside Advisory Committee. She stated International Speedway Boulevard (ISB) is the gateway to beachside and commented on how dismal it is; it establishes the gateway to the beachside and it affects the attitude of visitors. She suggested putting up temporary signs that state construction is coming or something that shows visitors we are working on it and we see the blight. She has also made this suggestion to FDOT and stated there are a number of sites where signs could be installed. She knows this is not standard procedure but beachside property owners are seeing a decline in property values. To the average visitor, it looks like nothing is being done to improve East ISB. She also suggested the consideration of planting shade trees instead of palm trees because the area is very hot and not fit for pedestrians. She referred to the crosswalk lighting improvements on Seabreeze Boulevard; that choice of lights contradicts the new lights the city will be installing on Seabreeze Boulevard. She would like to have more cooperation early on so we do not have the same problem on ISB where crosswalks are also planned. They were able to get the black lights instead of silver so there is consistency in appearance. Mason Avenue is another gateway to the beachside and she strongly suggest on behalf of the residents and hotel owners she represents

that we have medians in the turn lanes, wider sidewalks for pedestrians, shade trees, landscaping and matching lighting. The city needs help with its appearance along the gateways and she appreciates whatever can be done.

Chairperson Gillespie suggested Ms. Nice also make her comments at the TCC meeting following the CAC meeting as they are the engineers and city representatives. However, she suggested taking information about the TPO committee meetings and the TPO website to her groups to help with getting with the word out.

Ms. Nice replied the CAC Daytona Beach representative position has been vacant for a while but that is about to change so hopefully that will improve the communication.

Chairperson Gillespie stated most people do not understand that things are being done behind the scenes; between the time a PD&E study is completed and construction begins it can be six years to complete a project. People need to understand the delay in the phases of a project. Attending the TPO meetings is very educational and she would like to see Ms. Nice come back.

Ms. Nicoulin recognized the outgoing Chairperson, Ms. Nora Jane Gillespie, for her service over the last two years including a year and a half of adapting to hybrid meetings due to COVID-19. The TPO appreciates her for a job well done and being able to shift in a new direction. She also recognized the outgoing Vice Chairperson, Mr. Alan Peterson, for stepping in and running the meetings in person and calling the meetings to order. She thanked them both for a job well done.

Chairperson Gillespie asked what year the TPO was formed.

Ms. Blankenship replied she believes it was 1977.

VI. CAC Member Comments

Ms. Biro announces the Votran route changes will begin Sunday and Monday; the SR 44 route is changing to a flex route; Route 24 in Pierson is being eliminated and replaced with transportation disadvantaged (TD) Gold service; Route 25 in Deltona was cancelled by the county which has been suspended since April 2020 and will also be eligible for Votran Gold TD service.

Ms. Lendian stated there was a wonderful turn out for the DeLeon Springs ribbon cutting last week for the new trail segment; it was very well organized. Mr. Harris, Ms. Blankenship and Mr. Storke all attended.

VII. Information Items

- CAC & TCC Attendance Records
- May TPO Outreach and Events
- May 26, 2021 TPO Board Meeting Report

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the CAC meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

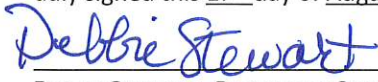
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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 June 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), approved and duly signed this 17th day of August 2021.



DEBBIE STEWART, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION