

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) BOARD
700 Catalina Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

TPO Board Members Physically Present:

Commissioner Jeffrey Schuitema**
Vice Mayor John Rogers*
Vice Mayor Michael Politis*
Mayor Karen Chasez
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 Gary Smith*
Councilman Douglas Quartier
Council Chair Jeff Brower
Council Member Matt Reinhart
Council Vice Chair Danny Robins
Rakinya Hinson (non-voting advisor)

TPO Board Members Virtually Present:

Commissioner Stacy Cantu

TPO Board Members Absent:

Mayor Chris Cloudman, Chairperson (excused)
Commissioner Rick Basso*
Mayor Samuel Bennett*
Vice Mayor Reed Foley (excused)
Vice Mayor Eric Sander (excused)
Council Member Jake Johansson (excused)
Council Member David Santiago
Ruben Colon
Ted Wendler (non-voting)
Dave Castagnacci (non-voting)
Brian Walker (non-voting)

* Non-voting member of the Small City Alliance

** Voting member for the Small City Alliance

Others Physically Present:

Donna King, Recording Secretary
Colleen Nicoulin
Stephan Harris
Pamela Blankenship
Emily Hanna
Vince Dyer
Jonathan Scarfe
Charles Kappernolle
Erika Shellenberger

Representing:

Beverly Beach
Bunnell
Daytona Beach Shores
DeBary
Deltona
Edgewater
Flagler Beach
Flagler County
Holly Hill
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Oak Hill
Palm Coast
Ponce Inlet
South Daytona
Volusia County
Volusia County, District 2
Volusia County, District 3
FDOT

Representing:

Daytona Beach

Representing:

DeLand
Lake Helen
Pierson
Port Orange
South Daytona
Volusia County, At-Large
Volusia County, District 5
Volusia County School Board
BPAC Chairperson
CAC Chairperson
TCC Chairperson

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Bike/Walk Central Florida
Bike/Walk Central Florida
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT

Others Physically Present:

Mark Trebitz
Bobbie King
Ralf Heseler
David German
Kelvin Miller
Bobbie King

Representing:

FDOT
Volusia County Transit Services
Volusia County Transit Services
Volusia County Schools
Volusia County - Votran
Volusia County - Votran

Others Virtually Present:

Maribel Lemke
Mackenzie Anderson
Bob Cunningham
Barbara Girtman
Tyler Malmberg
Omar Atallah

Representing:

TPO Staff
Bike/Walk Central Florida
Citizen
Ghyabi & Associates
Newkirk Engineering
Volusia County Traffic Engineering

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 1st Vice Chairperson Bill Partington. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held as a hybrid with fourteen voting members physically present and one voting member virtually present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

III. Public Comment/Participation

Ms. Bobbie King, County of Volusia, Transit Services Division Director, gave an update on the upcoming Mobility on Demand (MOD) service. She explained that MOD is a ridesharing service using 15-passenger vans. MOD is meant to provide the first-mile, and last-mile transportation for individuals that cannot get to a bus stop within a reasonable walking distance in the West Volusia County area. If approved by the Volusia County Council, MOD will replace a lot of the fixed routes in the Deltona and Orange City area and will also service SunRail in DeLand. Current and new users will be able to use the MOD app to schedule trips to their destination or to another fixed route line to go further on their trip. MOD is a premium service that will save money. She also gave an update on the intermodal transfer facility stating that the letter of support that the TPO provided earlier in the year for the grant application aided in the approval of the grant.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. August 23, 2023 River to Sea TPO Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Executive Committee Report
- D. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Report
- E. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report
- F. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report
- G. River to Sea TPO Board (R2CTPO) Report
- H. Executive Director Timesheet Review Report
- I. Review and Approval to Reschedule the November 22, 2023 TPO Board Meeting to December 6, 2023

Mayor Partington noted that the Consent Agenda includes the rescheduling of the November TPO Board meeting to December 6, 2023, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. He stated that item D was being pulled for further discussion.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mayor Alfin to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through C and E through I. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCool and carried unanimously.*

Ms. Nicoulin stated that item D is the BPAC Meeting Summary Report from September 13, 2023. The area up for discussion is regarding a discussion held at the BPAC meeting in reference to the Nova Road Coalition Corridor project. She explained the BPAC's concerns of not being consulted prior to an alternative being selected. They request that a letter be drafted to that effect and presented for approval at their next meeting to forward to the TPO Board for review. She explained that usually, the advisory committees make recommendations to the board and the board decides whether to act on the item. The BPAC's concern on this project stemmed from a timing issue. The project was on the TPO's Priority List as submitted by Ormond Beach and the TPO has been actively involved with FDOT on this project. She explained the funding for the project and the timing of the presentation to the BPAC. She noted that she brought the concerns to the board at the last meeting and noted that the other committees had no concerns. She emphasized that the proper process was followed and asked for direction from the TPO Board.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Vice Mayor O'Connor to approve Item D of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartman and carried unanimously.*

Council Member Reinhart stated that he was present at the BPAC's September meeting and that it sounded more like a preference to him. He added that even though everything was explained to the BPAC as to why the alternative was selected and that there was adequate public notice given, he is concerned this will delay the project. He also noted that the proper process was followed. One of their biggest concerns was the BPAC wanted to see an expansion of bike lanes; there will be lanes provided for bicycles. His concern is that this will delay the process even more.

Mayor Partington stated that nothing is changing as far as the size, only the medians and that is to slow traffic down. He wanted to be sensitive to BPAC's concerns.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that she had a discussion at the last BPAC meeting explaining the timing and the TPO's involvement. She had also spoken with three members of FDOT regarding the BPAC's concerns. She noted that the TPO cannot workshop projects at committee meetings, although that is sometimes desired. This project had a public meeting portion, and most projects are LAP projects which do not come back to the TPO. There were a lot of extra steps taken to ensure public input was received and there were members of our committees (both BPAC and CAC members) that attended the public meeting. Her concern with drafting a letter implies the proper process wasn't followed, which isn't the case.

Mayor Partington stated that the BPAC concerns are noted and had been discussed, but no additional action should be taken.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that she would report back to the BPAC regarding the TPO Board's discussion and let them know there would not be a letter drafted.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mayor Alfin to report to the BPAC the TPO Board's discussion respectfully acknowledging their concerns but declining the drafting of correspondence. . The motion was seconded by Council Member Reinhart.*

Vice Mayor O'Connor asked what the BPAC wanted to say in the letter.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that they wanted to put something on record that they were not happy with the way the project was presented.

Mayor Partington stated that he did not want staff to use their time to address this; it was an unusual circumstance and he hoped it would not happen again.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of Updated River to Sea TPO 2024 Policy Positions

Ms. Nicoulin gave a detailed account of the process for updating the policy positions. In the past, a Legislative Issues Subcommittee was convened in the fall of each year to make minor updates. Recent focus has been on three areas in transportation which are funding, technology, and safety. There has been a lot of discussion at the state level regarding TPO's goal in developing legislative positions and presenting them for consideration. The TPO has taken out all the references to legislative positions and changed them to policy positions. The MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) elected not to have policy positions this year due to guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding what can and cannot be funded with federal dollars. There has been some pullback from developing legislative positions among MPOs across the state. Last year, Ms. Nicoulin consulted the TPO's legal counsel and FHWA about the difference between advocating and educating. The TPO cannot lobby (advocate) with federal dollars. She spoke with MetroPlan Orlando, and they only use local funds for all the activities and staff salaries that are associated with the legislative positions. In the past, we have not used local funds to support staff salaries that are associated with any activities that the TPO does. It is necessary to decide if we want to continue what we are doing or take it a step further. It might be helpful to have a subcommittee throughout the year versus only in the fall.

Mayor Chasez asked if the time it took to prepare the Policy Positions for staff was worthwhile. These are goals not Legislative Positions; it is important to be careful.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that it took a couple of hours to update the Policy Positions. Additional time would come in if we convene the Legislative Subcommittee which would use staff and administrative time; travel for presentations and meetings is also a factor.

Discussion continued on the limitations on staff time. Ms. Nicoulin noted that some TPOs no longer develop policy positions. She added that she thought the TPO should recreate how we develop and present the policy positions and do it under the umbrella of local funds.

Discussion continued regarding the TPO's urbanized area being number one in the nation in the Dangerous by Design Report for pedestrian fatalities and the request from the BPAC for Volusia County to consider hiring a consultant on the east side for trail completion.

Members made comments and asked questions electric vehicles (EVs) and the shortfall they create with funding and if the TPO can push the Legislature to have permit fees for electric vehicles.

Council Member Robins asked if as transportation board a position on EVs could be taken.

Mayor Alfin asked if there was any reference to advocacy in the TPO's mission/vision statements.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that the TPO did not have those as an organization but that we cannot reference advocating.

Mayor Partington noted that the Executive Committee tried to create a broad document that did not take a particular side. He suggested changing the word "maximizing" under the Advancing Technology statement to "encouraging" and removing "supporting" under the background statement.

Vice Mayor O'Connor recommended adding a bullet to the background statement stating, "equitable contributions to support transportation."

Mayor Alfin asked to reach out to other TPOs to see if there was an interest in collaborating to push the agenda forward.

Ms. Nicoulin noted that that used to take place at the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC); they elected not to draft policy positions this last year.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Vice Mayor O’Conner to approve updating River to Sea TPO 2024 Policy Positions with the addition of a bullet on the advancing technology page stating, “equitable contributions to support transportation”. The motion was seconded by Council Chair Brower and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Approval of Resolution 2023-17 Supporting the Best Foot Forward for Pedestrian Safety Program

Ms. Emily Hanna, Executive Director of Bike/Walk Central Florida, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Best Foot Forward Program. This is a 501c3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to educating and advocating to make communities more walkable, bikeable, and rollable. The program is changing the culture of drivers versus walkers. They currently have a three-county footprint including Seminole, Orange, and Osceola Counties. With support from FDOT, they are hoping to expand their program to Volusia, Marion, and Brevard Counties this fiscal year. She gave details about FDOT’s Target Zero initiatives and the 4-E approach which includes Evaluation, Enforcement, Engineering, and Education. The launch date for Volusia County is expected to occur in October or November. They are asking the TPO Board to adopt a resolution in support of the program.

Ms. Hanna answered questions from members regarding the effective rate for rapid flashing yield signs, whether they will be improving all crosswalks in Volusia County, and consistency across the A1A corridor.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Vice Mayor Lindlau to approve Resolution 2023-17 supporting the Best Foot Forward for Pedestrian Safety Program. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor O’Conner and carried unanimously.*

VI. Presentations, Status Reports, and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of TPO Reapportionment Plan Scenarios

Ms. Nicoulin explained what the TPO apportionment is. She discussed the different potential scenarios which include the areas that the TPO covers, and the urban boundaries that are redefined. She explained the three possible scenarios. Flagler County will be discussing its options with the Board of County Commissioners next week. She discussed how the different scenarios would affect funding. She also discussed the voting membership and potential scenarios for voting representation. The scenario and voting structure approved by the TPO Board must be submitted to the state by November 14, 2023.

Members asked questions regarding updating the interlocal agreements, projects affected by the change in boundaries, future projects, Flagler County’s interest in being a part of the TPO, TPO staff impacts, and changes in voting membership.

Ms. Nicoulin agreed to bring back information at the next meeting for a vote supporting the incorporation of all of Flagler County and changing the TPO voting structure to one vote-per-member.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Florida Sunshine Law Refresher

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Florida Sunshine Law. She discussed the four basic requirements of the Sunshine Law and explained the purpose of the law. She gave detailed examples of general violations and noted the penalties for unintentional and intentional violations.

C. Presentation and Discussion of TPO FY 2022/23 Public Outreach Summary

This presentation was rescheduled for next month’s meeting due to time constraints.

D. FDOT Report

Ms. Rakinya Hinson, FDOT, stated the FDOT report was provided in the agenda. She referred the members to www.cflroads.com for the most up-to-date project information and noted she was available for any questions.

Vice Mayor O’Connor thanked Ms. Hinson for her help on the I-4 interchanges.

VII. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Nicoulin recognized the announcement of the Moving Florida Forward Initiative project for the US 1 at I-95 interchange rebuild. She noted that the TPO is finalizing the tentative Work Program with FDOT and with the additional funding this year, the TPO was able to move many projects off our Priority List and into the Work Program. She gave an update on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit: it is undergoing an in-house review by the OIG, and she hopes to receive the report soon. She also gave an update regarding the Federal Certification Review that occurred in June; she is expecting the report within the next month or so and there will be a presentation to the TPO Board in December. She recognized Ms. Hinson would be leaving FDOT and thanked her for her assistance through the transition.

VIII. River to Sea TPO Board Member Comments

There were no TPO Board Member comments.

IX. River to Sea TPO Chairperson Comments

Mayor Partington thanked the TPO Board Members for supporting the Moving Florida Forward Initiative.

Commissioner McCool announced the Wig Out for Cancer event being held in Deltona and stated that the proceeds would be allocated to Volusia-centric Cancer Charities.

X. Information Items

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2023
- Citizens Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2023
- Technical Coordinating Committee Attendance Report – 2023
- River to Sea TPO Outreach and Activities
- Upcoming Events Flyer
- Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the River to Sea TPO Board meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

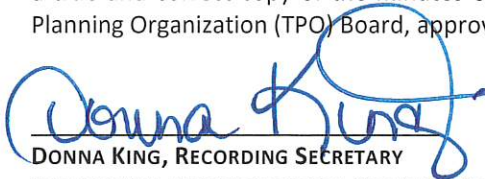
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



**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 September 27, 2023, regular meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board, approved and duly signed this 25th day of October 2023.



**DONNA KING, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**** A recording of the September 27, 2023 TPO Board meeting is available upon request.**