

**OCTOBER 25, 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:**

Vice Mayor John Rogers\*\*  
Vice Mayor Michael Politis\*  
Mayor Karen Chasez  
Mayor Chris Cloudman, Chairperson  
Councilwoman Charlotte Gillis  
Commissioner Andy Dance  
Commissioner Roy Johnson  
Commissioner Randy Hartman  
Vice Mayor Bill O'Connor  
Mayor Bill Partington  
Vice Mayor Bill Lindlau\*  
Vice Mayor Gary Smith\*  
Vice Mayor Eric Sander  
Council Member Jake Johansson  
Council Chair Jeff Brower  
Council Member Matt Reinhart  
Kia Powell (non-voting advisor)

**TPO Board Members Virtually Present:**

Commissioner Stacy Cantu  
Vice Mayor Reed Foley  
Ted Wendler (non-voting)

**TPO Board Members Absent:**

Commissioner Jeffrey Schuitema\* (excused)  
Commissioner Dana McCool (excused)  
Commissioner James Sherman\* (excused)  
Commissioner Rick Basso\*  
Mayor David Alfin (excused)  
Mayor Samuel Bennett\*  
Council Vice Chair Danny Robins (excused)  
Council Member David Santiago  
Ruben Colon  
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  
Jesse Blouin  
Jonathan Scarfe  
Mark Trebitz  
Kevin Hayden  
Barbara Girtman  
Victor Muchuruza

**Representing:**

Bunnell  
Daytona Beach Shores  
DeBary  
DeLand  
Edgewater  
Flagler County  
Holly Hill  
New Smyrna Beach  
Orange City  
Ormond Beach  
Oak Hill  
Ponce Inlet  
South Daytona  
Volusia County, At-Large  
Volusia County  
Volusia County, District 2  
FDOT

**Representing:**

Daytona Beach  
Port Orange  
BPAC Chairperson

**Representing:**

Beverly Beach  
Deltona  
Flagler Beach  
Lake Helen  
Palm Coast  
Pierson  
Volusia County, District 3  
Volusia County, District 5  
Volusia County School Board  
CAC Chairperson  
TCC Chairperson

**Representing:**

TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
TPO Staff  
FDOT Consultant  
FDOT  
FDOT  
FDOT  
Ghyabi & Associates  
HDR

**Others Physically Present:**

Travis Hills  
Bobbie King  
Ralf Heseler  
Tim Baylie

**Representing:**

Kittelsohn & Associates  
Volusia County Transit Services  
Volusia County Transit Services  
VC Parks, Recreation, and Culture

**Others Virtually Present:**

Jacob Lunceford  
Helen Hutchens

**Representing:**

Volusia County Transit Services  
Miami Corp.

**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 Cloudman. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held as a hybrid with thirteen voting members physically present and two voting members virtually present.

***MOTION: A motion was made by Council Member Reinhart to allow members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartman 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. September 27, 2023 River to Sea TPO Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Report
- D. Executive Committee Report
- E. TIP Subcommittee Report
- F. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Report
- G. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Report
- H. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report
- I. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report
- J. River to Sea TPO Board (R2CTPO) Report
- K. Executive Director Timesheet Review Report

***MOTION: A motion was made by Mayor Chasez to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johansson and carried unanimously.***

**V. Action Items**

**A. Review and Approval to Amend the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects**

Ms. Nicoulin explained the process of amending the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects and introduced Mr. Tim Baylie, Director of Volusia County Parks, Recreation, and Culture.

Mr. Tim Baylie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the request for an amendment to the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects. He gave a SUN Trail update that included Senate Bill 106 which was signed by the Governor on April 11, 2023. The new bill increased SUN Trail's recurring funding from \$25 million to \$50 million and added \$200 million in non-recurring funds allocated to the SUN Trail program for trails in the SUN Trail network. This allows for the development of trails in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The bill allows for paved

trails such as asphalt, concrete, or other hard-packed surfaces on disturbed lands in the corridor but that does not include conservation land. He is proposing a wildlife corridor connection to the Coast-to-Coast Trail and the use of articulated concrete in the areas of conservation land.

Mr. Baylie answered board members' questions regarding the paths on the map; where Farmton is; if there were any undisturbed land in the wildlife corridor that would have to be disturbed for the trails in question; if hunting is allowed on any of the land; and how e-bikes fit in with the non-motorized trails.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Vice Mayor Sander to approve amending the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor O'Conner and carried unanimously.*

#### **B. Review and Approval of Resolution 2023-18 Adopting the River to Sea TPO Apportionment Plan**

[Handouts provided]

Chairperson Cloudman explained the Apportionment Plan in detail and stated that after each decennial census, the TPO must review the composition of their membership and metropolitan planning area boundaries. Following that, the TPO must submit an Apportionment Plan to the state. At last month's meeting, TPO staff gave a presentation of three scenarios for consideration; after discussion, the TPO Board provided direction to draft an Apportionment Plan that expands the TPO boundaries to cover all of Flagler County, adds an additional Flagler County voting member, splits the Small City Alliance into two groups (one that represents Volusia County small cities and one that represents Flagler County small cities), adds the town of Marineland to the Flagler County Small City Alliance and removes the weighted voting structure such that each seat equals one vote of equal weight.

Ms. Nicoulin noted that all MPOs are currently going through this process, and the Apportionment Plan is required to be submitted to the state by November 14<sup>th</sup>. She reiterated all that Chairperson Cloudman had mentioned regarding the Apportionment Plan. She gave more details regarding how the Small City Alliance voting rotation works. She noted additional information that was included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Dance noted that there was unanimous consensus among the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners to include all of Flagler County.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rogers to approve Resolution 2023-18 adopting the River to Sea TPO Apportionment Plan. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Sander.*

Vice Mayor Rogers commented that the Bunnell Commission was in support of including all of Flagler County.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **VI. Presentations, Status Reports, and Discussion Items**

##### **A. Presentation and Discussion of the LPGA Blvd PD&E Study from US 92 to Williamson Blvd**

Mr. Mark Trebitz, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the LPGA Boulevard Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, from US 92 to Williamson Boulevard. He reviewed the project's purpose and need. He showed the alternatives that were evaluated, and the corridor improvements being proposed. He also reviewed the Tomoka River Bridge improvements along with many of the I-95 improvements. He noted that the improvements would include three roundabouts and reviewed the benefits of those. He discussed the environmental evaluation and presented the preferred alternative of a signalized turbine interchange.

Ms. Chasez asked why there were no medians or landscaping on the bridges to aid with water drainage. With all the retention ponds in the area, it seems that a landscaped median would assist with water drainage and make it more attractive.

Mr. Trebitz stated that the bridges will only be concrete and will have medians without landscaping. He explained his background and education and stated that it is best not to have landscaping on a bridge due to inspections of the steel and cracked concrete.

Ms. Chasez stated that this bridge looks very massive with concrete, a 26 ½ foot wide median and not a very appealing look. She stated that she understands the use of concrete if it's more common, cost effective and makes it safer.

A number of other board members agreed with adding landscaped medians on the bridge.

Mr. Trebitz stated that he would take the TPO Board's comments back to his team.

Mr. Trebitz answered other questions regarding bigger retention ponds; if there are any wildlife traffic studies under the existing bridge; if the shared use path will be on the east side and west side; are negotiations still going on between the county and the state regarding Peninsula Drive, west of I-95 on LPGA; and are they going to consider a traffic signal in front of the Preserve at LPGA, when the Dunn extension is finished.

**B. Presentation and Discussion of VoRide Mobility on Demand Service Provided by Via Transportation D/B/A River North Transit, LLC**

Ms. Bobbie King, Volusia County Transit Services Director, introduced Ralf Heseler, Head of the Planning Department for the Transit Services Division that oversees Votran's operations. Mr. Heseler gave a PowerPoint presentation of the VoRide Mobility on Demand Service. He provided in-depth details of the new service to be provided on the west side of Volusia County. He discussed the areas of the intended routes, the benefits, and the hours of operation of the new service. He explained how the service works, provided details of the cost for customers, and discussed plans to expand to other areas of Volusia County in the future.

Mr. Heseler answered TPO Board member questions regarding how far in advance the service needs to be scheduled; the number and type of vehicles that will be used to implement phase I; the determining factors on the length of time before starting additional routes; and the plans to expand east past the New Smyrna Beach-Oak Hill area.

**C. Presentation and Discussion of an Amendment to the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

Ms. Nicoulin discussed the I-95 at the US 1 interchange project in Ormond Beach. She stated that this project is part of the Moving Florida Forward Initiative to fund significant infrastructure projects across the state. She explained the initiative and noted that this project wouldn't have been funded for at least 10-15 years, if not for this initiative. Because the project received funding, the TPO is required to amend its LRTP. This will ensure that the funding identified in that plan matches up with how the funding will be coming to the TPO, including the dollar amounts and the timing of the funding. The TPO will open the proposed amendment up to a 30-day public comment period and bring it back in December for approval.

**D. Presentation And Discussion of TPO FY 2022/23 Public Outreach Summary**

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on the TPO's FY 2022/23 public outreach. She gave statistics on the attendance of all the advisory committees of the TPO; the TPO's website; and social media platforms. She mentioned that the TPO's monthly newsletter goes out to an average of 675 different organizations. Last year, the TPO attended 31 outreach events which is a 29% increase over the previous year. She provided highlights of some of the different outreach events the TPO attended during the last year and noted that the TPO partnered with FDOT for a lot of those events.

Ms. Blankenship answered TPO Board members' questions regarding expanding the TPO's social media presence to Next Door; and encouraging the cities to appoint members to the Advisory Committees.

**E. Presentation and Discussion of the River to Sea TPO's Guiding Resolutions and Project Applications for the Call for Projects**

Ms. Nicoulin discussed the TPO's Priority Project process in detail. She explained that the call for projects opens at the end of the year and gave examples of the different kinds of projects that can be submitted. She noted that the projects are ranked based on criteria that are established in the applications and that is what populates the Priority Lists which are submitted to FDOT for programming. Following that, the TPO reviews the process to see if there are any changes that need to be made. This year the subcommittees looked at the resolutions and policies that guide this process. She discussed changes to the Bike/Ped Project implementation application and resolutions. The recommended changes would remove the protected status of the top five projects and give the TPO the ability to potentially re-rank some projects. She also added that the TPO requires local governments during this time to submit any projects that they want to be considered for TRIP and SUN Trail funding. The TPO will be bringing these items back at the next meeting for adoption.

**F. FDOT Report**

Mr. Jonathan Scarfe, FDOT District 5 MPO Liaison Administrator, introduced Ms. Kia Powell, the new MPO Liaison for River to Sea TPO and Ocala/Marion TPO. He mentioned some of the projects in the monthly construction report. He referred board members to [www.cflroads.com](http://www.cflroads.com) for the most up-to-date project information. He noted that the current Work Program Public Hearing virtual option began on October 16<sup>th</sup> and ran through the 20<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be accepted until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He announced that FDOT will provide a presentation on the Work Program at the next TPO Board meeting.

**VII. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Nicoulin announced that since the last board meeting, the TPO received notification from FDOT that we were released from special conditions status. She noted that the TPO will continue invoicing the same as we have recently been doing and FDOT will reassess risk during the next certification in the February/March timeframe. She recognized the TPO staff's effort and time in getting the us to where we are now and gave special thanks to Ms. Mariel Lemke, Accounting Manager, for her hard work.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that the TPO has been undergoing an Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit. The last update received was that the draft report was finished and being reviewed in-house. She noted that the TPO received the Federal Certification Review Report that showed no corrective actions, six noteworthy practices, and two recommendations. The FHWA will attend the next TPO Board meeting to give a presentation of the report.

Ms. Nicoulin announced that next month's TPO Board meeting will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Daytona Beach International Airport in the Dennis McGee room, which is located upstairs.

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

Commissioner Dance announced the Palm Coast Bike Rodeo on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also wanted to know how to start the process of having the Old Dixie Highway and Old Kings Road interchange looked at to include pedestrian accessibility as there is no pedestrian connectivity from Old Kings Road to the Publix.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that she would start that conversation with FDOT and noted that a study on the I-95 corridor is beginning.

Vice Mayor Sander congratulated the TPO staff on clearing the special conditions and he thanked the staff for all the hard work that went into getting the special conditions status lifted.

Vice Mayor Lindlau announced the hiring of a new city manager in Oak Hill and provided their credentials. He also asked for an update on the relocation of the TPO office.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that the office relocation will be discussed at next week's Executive Committee meeting and that the core area is being looked at.

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

Chairperson Cloudman thanked Mayor Partington for covering last month's TPO meeting in his absence.

**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 10:49 a.m.

**RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

  
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**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 October 25, 2023 regular meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board, approved and duly signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DONNA KING, RECORDING SECRETARY**

**RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**\*\* A recording of the October 25, 2023 TPO Board meeting is available upon request.**