

OCTOBER 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

OF THE
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) BOARD
2570 W. International Speedway Boulevard, Suite 100
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-8145

TPO Board Members Physically Present:

Commissioner Stacy Cantu
Mayor Karen Chasez
Commissioner Chris Cloudman, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Commissioner Victor Ramos
Councilwoman Christine Power
Commissioner Roy Johnson
Vice Mayor Bill Lindlau**
Council Member Jeff Allebach
Mayor Bill Partington
Mayor David Alfin
Councilman Eric Sander
Council Chair Jeff Brower
Council Member Barbara Girtman, 1st Vice Chairperson
Council Vice Chair Billie Wheeler, Chairperson
Council Member Danny Robins

Representing:

Daytona Beach
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Oak Hill
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast
South Daytona
Volusia County
Volusia County District 1
Volusia County, District 2
Volusia County, District 3

TPO Board Members Virtually Present:

Council Member Richard Bryan*
Commissioner Rick Belhumeur*
Council Member Scott Stiltner
Council Member Lois Paritsky*
Council Member Heather Post
Dr. Jason Aufdenberg (non-voting)

Representing:

Daytona Beach Shores
Flagler Beach
Port Orange
Ponce Inlet Alternate
Volusia County, District 4
BPAC Chairperson

TPO Board Members Absent

Commissioner Jeffrey Schuitema*
Vice Mayor John Rogers*
Commissioner Joe Mullins
Commissioner Rick Basso*
Commissioner Jason McGuirk (excused)
Mayor Samuel Bennett*
Ruben Colón (non-voting)
Kerry Karl (non-voting)
Becky Mendez (non-voting)

Representing:

Beverly Beach
Bunnell
Flagler County
Lake Helen
New Smyrna Beach
Pierson
Volusia County School Board
CAC Chairperson
TCC Chairperson

* Non-voting member in the Small City Alliance

** Voting member for the Small City Alliance

Others Physically Present:

Colleen Nicoulin
Stephan Harris
Anne Ruby
Anna Taylor
Sarah McNamara
Jim Cameron
Big John
Bobbie King
Melissa Winsett

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen
FDOT
FDOT
Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce
Press
Volusia County
Volusia County Traffic Engineering

Others Virtually Present:

Representing:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Kellie Smith
Jay Williams
Rafael Rodriguez
Mo Hassan
Tony Bevilacqua
Travis Hills
Lois Bollenback
Belinda Williams Collins

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
Inwood Consulting
Kittelson & Associates
Spokane Regional Transportation Council
TCC

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

The meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by TPO Chairperson Billie Wheeler. The roll was called and it was determined a quorum was physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with 15 voting members physically present; and with two voting and four non-voting members attending remotely.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mayor Alfin to allow TPO Board members attending remotely due to COVID-19 precautions to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Council Member Girtman and carried unanimously.*

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

III. Public Comment/Participation

Mr. Big John, press, addressed the Volusia County Council members who are also TPO Board members that are in attendance today; he has not heard any of them discuss the building of roads. He noted the number one economy in the county is growth and that the city of Daytona Beach has two large projects; he discussed the projects and noted that these projects will cause more traffic congestion. He mentioned several other developments that are underway or expanding and noted Commissioner Johnson is the only board member that talks about roads. He asked that board members start discussing building roads.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. September 29, 2021 River to Sea TPO Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. Treasurer's Report**
- C. Executive Director Search Committee Report**
- D. Legislative Issues Subcommittee Report**
- E. Executive Committee Report**
- F. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Report**
- G. BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Report**
- H. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Report**
- I. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Report**
- J. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report**
- K. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report**
- L. Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) Report**
- M. River to Sea TPO Board (R2CTPO) Report**
- N. Executive Director Timesheet Review Report**
- O. Review and Approval of Expenditure for the Madeline Avenue Turn Lane Improvements at Nova Road Feasibility Study (\$26,545.00)**
- P. Review and Approval to Reschedule the November 24, 2021 TPO Board Meeting to December 1, 2021**

Chairperson Wheeler noted that the Consent Agenda includes rescheduling the November 24, 2021 TPO Board meeting to December 1, 2021 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Councilman Sander to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cloudman and carried unanimously.*

V. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of Resolution 2021-20 Amending the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin stated this TIP amendment includes funding for four projects that are being advanced from an outer year to the current fiscal year. The four projects are: new transit funding for preventative maintenance and operations of Votran vehicles; additional funding for the utilities phase of the I-95 interchange at Pioneer Trail; for the design phase of the I-95 interchange at US 1; and for the design phase of the I-95 interchange at LPGA Boulevard. There has been one correction to the TIP sheet for the US 1 and I-95 interchange project; the \$3.3 million shown for the design phase in fiscal year 2022 is no longer a FDOT D-5 revenue source but stimulus funding. The three interchange projects are utilizing stimulus funding; there is additional stimulus funding coming to our planning area that Ms. Anna Taylor, FDOT, will discuss in the FDOT report

Councilman Sander asked if the stimulus funding is the reason for advancing these project phases from FY 2026 to the current year.

Ms. Nicoulin replied yes.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Councilwoman Power to approve Resolution 2021-20 amending the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Mayor Chazez and carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

B. Review and Approval of Resolution 2021-21 Adopting the Draft R2CTPO FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary

Chairperson Wheeler stated each year a public outreach summary is developed documenting the TPO's public involvement activities during the past fiscal year. Last month, Ms. Pamela Blankenship provided a presentation on the data and statistics of the activities. A link to the final summary report was provided in the agenda for review and approval.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Council Member Girtman to approve Resolution 2021-21 adopting the R2CTPO FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lindlau and carried unanimously.*

C. Review and Approval of a Letter of Support for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application for the Black Bear Scenic Trail

Ms. Nicoulin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant and explained that it is a cyclical grant that is available to Florida every few years. The Black Bear Scenic Trail runs along SR 40 and is on the TPO's List of Priority Projects (LOPP) as well as the Lake-Sumter and Ocala Marion TPO's priority lists; it is also on the Regional List of Priority Projects through the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC). She reviewed a map of the trail, explained the purpose of the FLAP program and noted the Black Bear Scenic Trail meets the requirements. All three MPOs are providing letters of support to proceed with the grant applications; letters of support from local agencies are also being obtained. The deadline for the application is December 15, 2021; the Lake-Sumter MPO is spearheading this application and putting the information together. The R2CTPO will be providing backup and support.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Cloudman to approve a letter of support for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant application for the Black Bear Scenic Trail. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramos and carried unanimously.*

VI. **Presentations and Discussion Items**

A. Presentation and Discussion of Recommended Changes to the R2CTPO Guiding Resolutions and Project Applications for the Annual Call for Projects

Ms. Nicoulin stated a discussion was held last month regarding the TPO's policies that govern the annual Call for Projects, project prioritization and funding. Since then, staff has met with the project review and TIP Subcommittees as well as FDOT to develop recommended changes to the policies. She reviewed the proposed changes to the project applications, priority process schedule and the guiding resolutions.

Council Member Girtman commented that she is pleased to see that staff is looking to see what barriers can be removed so that we can be more flexible and utilize funds to maximize opportunities.

Ms. Nicoulin continued to review the proposed changes to the policies. She referred to the resolution defining local match requirements, cost increases and overruns and the recommended change to eliminate the 10% threshold for Executive Director approval of cost increases and explained it would allow flexibility. There was discussion at the TIP Subcommittee and TCC meetings to increase the threshold to 25% or 30% but the recommendation from the TIP Subcommittee was to remove the threshold given the fact that these policies are reviewed every year. In order to employ this recommendation, there must be available funding in the current year.

Council Member Girtman commented that recent cost increases have been 20% to 30%; she believes it is a reasonable request and it is better to have the flexibility.

Mayor Chazez stated her concern is the unlimited amount of a cost increase; theoretically, we could have a cost doubled and the Executive Director can approve it without oversight which she is uncomfortable with. She agrees with Council Member Girtman that 10% is no longer a reasonable threshold but she is uncomfortable with unlimited authority for an Executive Director.

Chairperson Wheeler replied that although it needs to be changed, she also is concerned about the lack of oversight for an unlimited increase.

Mayor Alfin asked if this has occurred in the past with regularity.

Ms. Nicoulin replied there was a point where it did occur often but since the TPO separated cost increases versus cost overruns a couple of years ago, there has only been one request for additional funds. Projects are sometimes programmed out several years so using a current year cost estimate could cause a problem. Over the last couple of years staff has worked with FDOT to inflate the cost estimates to the program year.

Commissioner Cloudman noted that the existing terminology of a 10% threshold is a wide range; 10% for a \$500,000 project is much different than 10% of a \$5 million project.

Members continued to discuss the changes to this policy.

Council Member Girtman stated that we have previously discussed removing the barriers that has made us seem to be difficult to work with in getting projects programmed and this is one of those needed changes. There is still accountability as the policies are reviewed annually. As Commissioner Cloudman stated, even 10% is a wide range if it is a big project.

Ms. Nicoulin noted that in order to program additional funds to a project, it would have to be current year dollars. Currently, the TPO has approximately \$400,000 in current year funding; we do not typically have \$10 million in the current year. She explained that current year funding is also difficult to program as a project must be ready to move forward. The TPO has a process in place for local governments to request additional funds; they must complete an application and provide justification for the request. This process was put in place a few years ago when cost overruns and cost increases were defined.

Members discussed the threshold and making it between from 20% to 50% versus having no threshold.

Chairperson Wheeler commented that she agrees with both sides but is uncomfortable with an unlimited threshold although she is not saying that the Executive Director would not make good decisions; however, the board is ultimately responsible. She asked what the next step is.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that based on the discussion today revisions will be made and brought back next month for approval.

Mayor Alfin asked if staff could provide how many projects or dollars removing the cap would facilitate; what it really means in favor of projects being expedited. He asked if there was a way to forecast that.

Ms. Nicoulin replied she can provide information of what is in the Work Program in the current year and dollar amounts.

Discussion ensued and requests were made for TPO staff to provide how many projects were prevented from being programmed due to the 10% restriction; how many times it has occurred; and how many missed opportunities the TPO has had.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the recommendation came from FDOT as well as the TIP Subcommittee; they reviewed the policies to find restrictions that may not provide flexibility. FDOT has a timeline on when a project cost increase comes in to program those additional funds to keep the project on track; there have been a couple of times in the past this was an issue. However, since other measures were put in place, few requests for additional funds have been received. This change was to remove a self-imposed barrier that would limit flexibility. Staff will bring the requested information back next month for review and approval; the intent is to open the annual Call for Projects after the December 1, 2021 TPO Board meeting.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft R2CTPO 2022 Legislative Positions

Ms. Nicoulin stated the Legislative Issues Subcommittee met on October 6, 2021 and discussed proposed changes including supporting transit funding; increasing transportation funding and how to achieve that; and identifying new revenue sources and what we are willing to support to get that increased funding.

Commissioner Cloudman stated there is a need for increasing transportation funding statewide and nationwide due to more fuel-efficient vehicles, electric vehicles which has fewer users paying into the existing system and how it is equitable across the board for maintenance of the system. There was discussion about what maintaining is so that is why the language is changing to be clear on that.

Mayor Chesebrough asked if the TPO is supporting the implementation of mileage-based fees.

Commissioner Cloudman replied it was discussed at the MPOAC and there was a split opinion.

Members discussed mileage-based fees and what that would look like as well as how to increase transportation funding or find new revenue sources.

C. FDOT Report

Ms. Taylor provided the FDOT report and stated all paving operations for the resurfacing project along SR 44 are complete; they are finishing striping and lighting. They have received calls about purple lights along I-4 and she explained the bulbs have a malfunction and will be replaced by the end of January 2022. She announced FDOT's D-5 Work Program online public hearing is being held this week with an in-person open house in DeLand on October 28, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. She announced the district received \$90 million in stimulus funding for Volusia and Flagler Counties; she reviewed the projects that will receive this funding.

Council Member Girtman asked where the US 17 projects are in the Work Program.

Ms. Taylor replied she will find out and get back to her.

Council Member Robins thanked FDOT for the signs installed near the county jail along US 92; he asked if there

were any other safety devices that could be implemented near the bus stops.

Ms. Bobbie King, Volusia County, replied that Votran has looked at bus pull-offs along US 92 near Indian Lake Road and I-4; however, they are extremely expensive so they are looking at other methods. The speed on US 92 is a factor; it takes over a half-mile for buses to pull over and get back onto the roadway so it would have to be an extremely large bus pull-off. They are looking to install at least four bus pull-offs.

Council Member Robins asked what the cost would be.

Ms. King replied at least \$1 million each; perhaps even \$2 million each. They are working with FDOT to find other solutions and will likely reduce the number of bus stops.

Council Member Robins asked about lowering the speed.

Ms. King replied that is not within Votran's realm; it would be an FDOT discussion.

Volusia County Council Chair Brower referred to the purple lights along I-4 and asked if the re-installment of bulbs will cost anything to which Ms. Taylor responded no.

Volusia County Council Chair Brower commented he had a discussion with the County Manager, Mr. Jon Cheney, SunRail and FDOT D-5 Secretary Perdue regarding SunRail coming to DeLand; they are approving multi-model communities around the station. That traffic will be coming from SR 44 which is a bottleneck from the river to SR 15A; he asked Secretary Perdue when that road will be improved and have safe bicycle lanes. The answer he received was that it needs to be a priority for the TPO to give FDOT the ability to move it forward.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that segment of road is a priority that was identified in the development of the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) specifically because of the SunRail connection and is on the priority list. She will coordinate with Ms. Taylor to ensure they have that information and know that it is a TPO priority.

Volusia County Council Chair Brower asked if he could also receive that information to which Ms. Nicoulin replied yes.

Council Member Girtman asked about the pedestrian safety initiatives along US 17/92 in DeLand and Orange City and about the dangerous intersection in Orange City at Enterprise Road.

Ms. Taylor replied FDOT will be presenting on the Work Program at the December 1, 2021 TPO Board meeting and will highlight those projects.

Council Member Girtman asked if there is a pedestrian safety initiative along the major corridors that is part of an overall holistic approach. Parts and pieces are seen but not the whole picture of where we are making those investments.

Ms. Taylor replied she will work on getting that information.

VII. Interim Executive Director's Report

→ Update on Funding/Work Program

Ms. Nicoulin announced FDOT will be presenting on their Five-Year Work Program next month.

→ Update on Transportation Legislation

Ms. Nicoulin stated the TPO is monitoring the transportation legislation and will share information as it is received.

→ Update on Executive Director Search

Ms. Nicoulin stated the Executive Director Search Committee (EDSC) met with the recruiter from Strategic Government Resources (SGR) earlier this month to discuss expectations of the Executive Director position. SGR is developing a position profile brochure to market the position and it is anticipated to be ready for review soon; then the EDSC will reconvene to review and approve it. Once approved, the position will be formally advertised; it takes about three months from the time the position is advertised to board approval.

VIII. River to Sea TPO Board Member Comments

Council Member Allebach referred to Council Member Girtman's comments regarding the Enterprise Road intersection in Orange City and stated a safety study was conducted; it does not warrant a roundabout but the merge lane needs to be removed. It is in the works and funding can come from safety dollars versus road dollars.

IX. River to Sea TPO Chairperson Comments

There were no TPO Chairperson comments.

X. Information Items

- Citizens Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2021
- Technical Coordinating Committee Attendance Report – 2021
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Attendance Record – 2021
- September TPO Outreach and Activities
- Volusia and Flagler County Construction Reports
- Mobility Week Flyer

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the River to Sea TPO Board meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL VICE CHAIRPERSON BILLIE WHEELER
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 27, 2021 regular meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board, approved and duly signed this 1st day of December 2021.



DEBBIE STEWART, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) BOARD

ROLL CALL VOTE SHEET

TIP AMENDMENT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2021
MEETING TIME: 9:00 A.M.
MEETING LOCATION: RIVER TO SEA TPO CONFERENCE ROOM
 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 100
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114

QUORUM: 10 MEMBERS: YES / NO

YES / NO

<u>REPRESENTING:</u>	<u>TPO MEMBER:</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
DAYTONA BEACH	COMMISSIONER CANTU	✓	/
DEBARY	MAYOR CHASEZ	✓	/
DELAND	COMMISSIONER CLOUDMAN	✓	/
DELTONA	COMMISSIONER RAMOS	✓	/
EDGEWATER	COUNCILWOMAN POWER	✓	/
FLAGLER COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER MULLINS		/
HOLLY HILL	COMMISSIONER JOHNSON	✓	/
NEW SMYRNA BEACH	COMMISSIONER MCGUIRK		/
ORANGE CITY	COUNCIL MEMBER ALLEBACH	✓	/
ORMOND BEACH	MAYOR PARTINGTON	✓	/
PALM COAST	MAYOR ALFIN	✓	/
PORT ORANGE	COUNCIL MEMBER STILTNER		/
SOUTH DAYTONA	COUNCILMAN SANDER	✓	/
VOLUSIA COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN	✓	/
VOLUSIA COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS	✓	/
VOLUSIA COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER POST	✓	/
VOLUSIA COUNTY	VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR BROWER	✓	/
VOLUSIA COUNTY	COUNCIL VICE CHAIR WHEELER	✓	/

SMALL CITY ALLIANCE

BEVERLY BEACH	COMMISSIONER SCHUITEMA		/
BUNNELL	VICE MAYOR ROGERS		/
DAYTONA BEACH SHORES	COUNCIL MEMBER BRYAN		/
FLAGLER BEACH	COMMISSIONER BELHUMEUR		/
LAKE HELEN	COMMISSIONER BASSO		/
OAK HILL	VICE MAYOR LINDLAU**	✓	/
PIERSON	MAYOR BENNETT		/
PONCE INLET	COUNCIL MEMBER ISRAEL (VM PARITSKY)		/

TPO STAFF:

DEBBIE STEWART		/
PAMELA BLANKENSHIP		/
STEPHAN HARRIS		/
COLLEEN NICOULIN		/