



MEETING AGENDA

Please be advised that the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE will be meeting on:

DATE: Wednesday, November 2, 2022
TIME: 9:30 a.m. (or immediately following the Executive Committee meeting)
PLACE: River to Sea TPO Conference Room
 2570 W. International Speedway Blvd., Suite 100
 Daytona Beach, FL 32114

NOTE:
 A Microsoft Teams link has been established for remote participation

Legislative Issues Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022 @ 9:30 am (EDT)
 (or immediately following the Executive Committee meeting)

Join the Legislative Issues Subcommittee meeting on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 287 009 444 877

Passcode: 4X3dXB

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Phone Conference ID: 917 668 29#

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Volusia County Council Vice Chair Barbara Girtman, Chairperson Presiding

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT/PARTICIPATION

Beverly Beach	DeBary	Flagler Beach	New Smyrna Beach	Palm Coast	South Daytona
Bunnell	DeLand	Flagler County	Oak Hill	Pierson	Volusia County
Daytona Beach	Deltona	Holly Hill	Orange City	Ponce Inlet	
Daytona Beach Shores	Edgewater	Lake Helen	Ormond Beach	Port Orange	

III. BUSINESS

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2022 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES *(Contact: Debbie Stewart) (Enclosures, pages 3-7)*

B. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND UPDATES TO THE RIVER TO SEA TPO'S LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS FOR 2023 *(Supporting materials will be sent under separate cover).*

IV. STAFF COMMENTS

V. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Legislative Issues Subcommittee Members:

Volusia County Council Vice Chair Barbara Girtman, DeLand Commissioner Chris Cloudman, Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington, Palm Coast Mayor David Alfin

Note: Individuals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in need of accommodations for this public meeting should contact the River to Sea TPO office, 2570 W. International Speedway Blvd., Suite 100, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114-8145; (386) 226-0422, extension 20416 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date.

Note: If any person decides to appeal a decision made by this board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings including all testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. To that end, such person will want to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.

Note: The River to Sea TPO does not discriminate in any of its programs or services. To learn more about our commitment to nondiscrimination and diversity, visit our Title VI page at www.r2ctpo.org or contact our Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Pamela Blankenship, at 386-226-0422, extension 20416, or pblankenship@r2ctpo.org.

**Legislative Issues Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2022**

Members Physically Present:

Commissioner Chris Cloudman
Mayor Bill Partington
Mayor David Alfin
Council Member Barbara Girtman, Chairperson

Representing:

DeLand
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast
Volusia County

Others Physically Present:

Colleen Nicoulin
Stephan Harris
Anna Taylor

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff

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

The meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Legislative Issues Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Barbara Girtman. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with four voting members physically present.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Business Items

A. Discussion Regarding the TPO's Legislative Positions for 2023

Ms. Nicoulin stated the Legislative Issues Subcommittee meets annually to discuss the priorities of the TPO; this is common amongst all the TPOs within the state. The MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) develops a set of statewide legislative positions as well. Last year's positions are included in the agenda; they typically carry forward each year with minor tweaks or additions. The positions are broken down into three categories; funding, safety and advancing technology; there are bullets within each category to focus on.

Commissioner Cloudman noted a lot of time was spent tweaking these positions last year so that the entire TPO Board was satisfied. Much of this is ongoing; there has been no movement on changing the funding models. If the League of Cities knows about certain bills or priorities for the state they may tailor something to those but at this point, he has not heard anything transportation related other than the push for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. He does not think that is an answer as EV infrastructure caters to people with higher incomes and they do not pay the gas tax for the upkeep of the roads. He does not understand why we want to spend so much money on free charging stations.

Chairperson Girtman replied that she has a differing opinion; if we are trying to change the culture of how people drive and go more to an electric system, it is a way to incentivize them. We have to invest in EV infrastructure for those who can afford to do it.

Commissioner Cloudman stated he understands the environmental side but in terms of the transportation funding side disagrees as electric vehicles put the same wear and tear on the road network as other vehicles do.

Mayor Partington commented that he is not convinced of the environmental aspect; he has not yet seen the data that supports it.

Chairperson Girtman replied that we are trying to change the culture to be more environmentally friendly and she thinks it has been proven. Just like trying to get people to take transit instead of driving, we have to do something to encourage them to make that shift. She is curious to know if there are areas of the legislative positions considering the infrastructure bill and funding coming; how to leverage and maximize those funds into Volusia and Flagler Counties.

Mayor Alfin stated he does not see the term “resiliency” built into the priorities; it is not a concept he has heard discussed at the TPO much but it is a magnet for future funding. He asked if there is a way to weave resiliency into our future plans.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the TPO has developed resiliency plans for Volusia and Flagler Counties in the past through the regional planning councils. A resiliency scenario was completed that looked at the infrastructure that could be impacted during storm events when the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was developed. Resiliency has been discussed but has not been woven into the legislative priorities yet. She has attended workshops regarding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and submitting funding grants; resiliency is something they are looking for within the grant opportunities along with safety and social justice.

Mayor Partington commented that SR A1A is a prime example of a roadway that needs to be resilient.

Mayor Alfin added that there are other corridors coming off of SR A1A that are evacuation routes that need to be safe and resilient.

Chairperson Girtman stated that Hurricane Ian concerned her with the potential need for evacuation; bridges may have been compromised.

Mayor Alfin noted that Palm Coast is the pep tank king; once power is lost for more than four hours, it becomes a community safety hazard as the lift stations for sewage begin to send the sewage back into the homes and people can no longer stay there. During Hurricane Ian, the city went up and down the streets pumping out water to prevent that from happening. There are a number of these types of critical issues that we may not have considered in the past.

Mayor Partington commented that these are great legislative priorities but he would like to focus on distracted driving; he has spoken to Ormond Beach’s Police Chief about it. As a bicyclist and a member of law enforcement he sees distracted driving occur constantly. He would also like to see how we could encourage reducing speed which has been a problem since the pandemic.

Chairperson Girtman noted that she does not see law enforcement monitoring speed as she once did. Deaths from speeding in this region seem greater than in other areas. She asked Ms. Taylor if she had any FDOT data regarding deaths on the roadways.

Ms. Taylor replied not with her but FDOT’s Safety Office has a huge initiative with Vision Zero; they are trying to engineer roadways for less serious injuries rather than fatalities. They are looking at target speeds and other safety aspects such as curb and gutter, landscaping, narrower travel lanes, etc. However, we have to change driver behavior; people drive how they are comfortable and will go faster on a four-lane undivided roadway. If curbs and landscaping are added it may encourage people to drive with more caution.

Mayor Alfin commented that until we enforce speed reduction and traffic safety, we are not going to convince drivers to slow down.

Ms. Taylor noted that Volusia County participates in FDOT’s High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) grant program each year; FDOT’s Central Office reviews the state and areas where many accidents occur and lets those counties know where the hot spots are. The grant program pays off-duty officers to monitor those hot spot areas and

write tickets, give warnings or provide safety information. Not every city qualifies for the program but it is a statewide program that is available each year.

Chairperson Girtman asked if those funds go directly from FDOT to the Sheriff's Office or county and if the TPO was involved in that.

Ms. Nicoulin replied correct; although the grant program is discussed so the local governments are aware of it.

Chairperson Girtman stated we need to encourage the program and find out how it is being applied; because of the pandemic and lower staff levels officers are on overtime all the time.

Ms. Taylor replied she would provide a status report on HVE in Volusia County. There is a pre-determined set-aside budget for the program but there are opportunities for FDOT to provide additional monies if a department needs it. District 5 has been leaving quite a bit of money on the table because not all of their agencies can meet the threshold. FDOT hosted a roundtable meeting with the Sheriff's Offices for an information session at the Sanborn Center where they heard it requires a lot of administrative overhead to complete the paperwork for the HVE program; FDOT is working to see how they can assist with that as the grant only provides reimbursement for the officers' time at the intersections and not administrative costs or consultant work. Brevard County refused to participate this year even with their huge budget because the process is so tedious.

Members continued to discuss the HVE program and how to mitigate the issues involved with it. Funding should not be left on the table if we have these tools in the toolbox.

Commissioner Cloudman referred to the draft statement that the League of Cities will be discussing on Friday; they support legislation directing FDOT to provide financial assistance and incentives to develop and implement mobility plans that optimize a mix of different modes of transportation tailored to municipalities transportation demands well integrated into their county and regional systems. They also support identifying additional transportation revenue to fund innovative infrastructure (EV) and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demand driven by the dramatic growth throughout Florida.

Mayor Alfin asked if their suggestion is to supplement the gas tax.

Commissioner Cloudman replied it was hinted at but the Florida Legislature has no appetite for new taxes.

Chairperson Girtman asked if they included anything regarding resiliency.

Commissioner Cloudman replied no; but there are multiple legislative committees and a separate committee is focused on environmental and public works. The committees then combine their priorities into one document. The focus of his committee is going to be more on affordable housing; secondary is transportation. He asked if there were any additions or changes to the TPO's priorities as it will go before the full TPO Board later this month for discussion.

Mayor Alfin stated the priorities are fairly broad and he does not have any suggested changes.

Chairperson Girtman suggested adding a statement that we support resiliency.

Commissioner Cloudman replied there is a statement from former TPO Board Chairperson Billie Wheeler in the introduction regarding resiliency.

Mayor Partington asked if there was a place within the three legislation positions to add the word "resiliency". His only suggested change would be to the second position regarding safety to include discouraging distracted driving and enforcing posted speeds.

Chairperson Girtman suggested adding resiliency of new and/or existing transportation systems.

Mayor Alfin asked if there was any advantage to tying these positions into the Vision Zero policy.

Commissioner Cloudman replied that at the time these were developed the TPO had a reduced goal; not FDOT's goal of Vision Zero.

Ms. Nicoulin added that the safety priority could see some changes in terms of incorporating Vision Zero which the TPO has not yet adopted; safety targets are adopted in February of each year. In the last few years the TPO has adopted a 2% reduction of each performance measure; when they were initially adopted, we wanted to adopt a target that we could affect; however, the question is what message does that send? It is more appropriate to have a target of zero fatalities.

Commissioner Cloudman commented it is referenced in the safety section and he suggested putting more emphasis on it.

Ms. Nicoulin stated the TPO has applied for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant, which if awarded, we would develop a Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. We are heading in that direction but have not yet formally adopted Vision Zero. Discussions at the TPO Board have been regarding what change we could affect. The federal requirement is that we can adopt the state's target of Vision Zero or our own target and in the years past we have developed our own.

Chairperson Girtman commented she would like to tie this into the regional message of Vision Zero. She asked what the advantage is of one over the other and if funding is attached to adopting these targets.

Ms. Taylor replied not to her knowledge; they were trying to take a realistic approach to how TPOs set their targets and if it is an achievable goal.

Mayor Alfin stated that if we have a certain timeline, we might want to weigh in with the state; he knows of several people that would want to align with the state's target.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that if the TPO receives the SS4A grant, we would need a commitment from the board that we are working towards Vision Zero.

Ms. Nicoulin referred to the handout regarding information for the transportation disadvantaged; Mr. Harris attended a conference earlier this summer where they discussed legislative positions.

Mr. Harris stated the handout is regarding increasing the budget authority for the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) to spend funds that are already in the TD trust fund on the Trip and Equipment Grant Program and a second grant program for innovative TD services. He explained the history of the grant. He is asking in the first paragraph of the TPO's legislative positions that increased budget authority be requested that supports the existing and projected revenues of the TD trust fund.

Mayor Partington asked if the funds were decreased because of a lost funding source.

Mr. Harris replied they lost the authority to spend the money in the budget; the funds are already in the TD trust fund. It is not additional monies but the authority to spend the funds.

Chairperson Girtman asked why the authority was lost.

Mr. Harris replied it was embedded within the M-CORES law that was repealed.

Members continued to discuss the budget authority being requested and how to take the message to Tallahassee. The Volusia and Flagler Counties delegation meetings have all state representatives and senators attend so every organization pitches their requests then. The TPO cannot lobby which why the MPOAC was formed to lobby for all the TPOs. It was suggested to invite the local delegates to the TPO for an informal discussion with other elected officials to discuss all of the TPO's legislative positions.

Mayor Alfin stated he represents realtors and has a good relationship with the senators and suggested having a casual roundtable discussion with them.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that the subcommittee recommended updates for the 2023 Legislative Positions will be presented to the TPO Board in October for discussion and feedback.

IV. Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

V. Legislative Issues Subcommittee Member Comments

There were no member comments.

VI. Adjournment

The Legislative Issues Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER BARBARA GIRTMAN
CHAIRPERSON, LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE**

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 5, 2022 regular meeting of the Legislative Issues Subcommittee, approved and duly signed this 2nd day of November 2022.

**Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization**

***** A recording of the October 5, 2022 Legislative Issues Subcommittee meeting is available upon request.***