



POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) CAC

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, January 29, 2008

City of Bartow
County Administration Building, Commission Boardroom
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Members Present:

Paul Staes - *Chair*
Roger Smith – *Vice Chair*
Bernadette Brock
Mary Jeanne Morse-Lykes
Allen Keefer
James Muller
Howard Buck
Pam Childers
Dale Braiman
Ed LeDuc
David Hitchcock

Others Present:

Lori Carlton
Nicole Broome
Keith Slater
Lee Herbert
Jeff Trim
Amanda Warner
Michael Finch
Ryan Kordek
Brigitte D'Orval
Jacinda Head

Representing:

City of Lakeland
City of Polk City
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
City of Eagle Lake
Non Urbanized – At Large
Non Urbanized – At Large
At-Large Alternate
At-Large Alternate

Representing:

FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
FODT
Wade Trim
Wade Trim
City of Lakeland
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
LRP Office Manager

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Introductions, Roll Call

Chairman, Paul Staes welcomed attendees and called the CAC Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Jacinda Head took roll call and a quorum was present.

The Chairman gave introductions and welcomed new CAC Committee members. He asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Howard Buck moved to approve the CAC Meeting Minutes from November 27, 2007. Roger Smith seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

III. Presentation on the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study for US27 from Interstate 4 to US 192

Jeff Trim, Project Manager with Wade-Trim noted that the FDOT is currently conducting a PD&E Study for the planned four to six lane widening of US 27 between I-4 and US 192. The purpose of this study is to try and accommodate the anticipated traffic growth along the corridor, to help meet the social and economic demands in the area, to improve the safety of the roadway, and to make sure the improvements are consistent with the Polk TPO 2030 Plan. US 27 is an important regional roadway, it is on the Florida Interstate Highway System and is apart of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). The Polk TPO 2030 Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan both show this as a six lane roadway. The project needs and the existing traffic were reviewed. He reviewed the traffic counts and project limits.

The Preferred Build Alternative was reviewed for both segment 1 (from Richey Road up to Berry Road) and segment 2 (from Berry Road to US 192). Segment 1 will have zero parcels impacted and zero residences relocated with the total cost of \$49,500,000. Segment 2 will have zero parcels impacted and zero residences relocated with the total cost of \$75.8 Million dollars (including the US 27 Bridge replacement over US 192).

Mr. Trim discussed the public information Workshop held in June 2007 at the Omni Orlando Resort in Champions Gate. This workshop looked at two alternatives and received positive feedback on the preferred alternative that had sidewalks on each side with the widening on the outside of the road.

This study also looked at the NO-Build Alternative and noted that the advantages would be no inconvenience to traffic flow due to construction operations, no right of way acquisition, design, or construction costs, and no direct impacts to the adjacent natural and human environment. The disadvantages to the No-Build Alternative would be the increase in traffic congestion and road user cost, unacceptable levels of service on the

existing roadway, increase in air pollutants, and the road would not be consistent with the transportation element of the County Comprehensive Plan.

He also discussed Access Management along the corridor and noted that the goal was to increase safety, reduce conflict points, and lengthen turn lane storage. The environmental effects (social, cultural, natural, and physical) were also reviewed with noise concerns being the major feature of the study. A noise study was completed with 440 sites found feasible and currently looking into the possibilities of a sound wall or noise barrier. A public hearing was held in early January 2008, and most of the comments given were with concern of noise from the road.

Final design for this project is funded for FY 2008 though no funding for Right-Of-Way or construction is in the FDOT Work Program.

Project Website:
www.us27pde.com

Discussion

Staff Request approval of the preferred improvement alternative as consistent with the TPO's Adopted 2030 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Consensus: There was a consensus among the committee to approve the preferred improvement alternative as consistent with the TPO's Adopted 2030 Transportation Improvement plan with no dissent.

IV. FDOT Freight and Commuter Rail Feasibility Studies

Ryan Kordek, TPO Staff, introduced the FDOT Freight and Commuter Rail Feasibility Studies. He noted that there will be three distinct studies to analyze potential future rail operations and network in Polk County. The studies will focus on mitigation measures, freight relocation options and commuter rail needs. FDOT anticipates completing all three studies by the end of 2008.

Lori Carlton, FDOT, handed out a short description of each of the three studies that will be completed. She noted that the FDOT would bring more information to the CAC about these studies at a later date.

Discussion

This Item was presented for informational purposes only. No action was requested.

V. Review and Approve Draft Planning Tasks for FY 2008/09 through 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ryan Kordek, TPO Staff, reviewed the FY 2008/09 through 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP contains the planning tasks and associated grant budget for the fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30th, 2010). The Draft UPWP will be submitted for agency review and comment with adoption scheduled for April 10, 2008. Ryan discussed accomplishments within this Fiscal Year including the new TPO

Website, the Polk Consolidated Transit Development Plan 2008-2017, the 2030 Transportation Improvement Plan, updating the Population and Employment Forecast through the year 2030, the 2008 Transportation Trends and Conditions Report, the 2007 Polk County Roadway Network Database, the Ridge Scenic Highway, the Polk County Trail System Brochure, the RTO Website, the "Why Does Density Matter" Brochure, the Regional Transit Brochure, and the Future of Transportation in Polk County in the year 2030 Annual Poster Contest. Major Projects in this current Fiscal Year include the Traffic Count Program, the East Polk 2030 Network Plan, the updated Population and Employment Forecast, the 2050 Transportation Vision Plan, the Congestion Management Study, and the updated Public Involvement Plan.

Planning Projects in next Fiscal Year include the Traffic Count Program (in support of the Roadway Network Database), the 2035 Population and Employment Forecast (in support of the Long Range Transportation Planning), the 2050 Transportation Vision Plan, the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update (Due December 2010), Short Range Transportation Planning (Congestion Management), the 2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP) summary, the 2007 Plans and Data CD, the evaluation and update of the public involvement process, and other projects.

He discussed how these programs / projects would play out over the next two years. He noted that the Traffic Count Program would continue as well as the Congestion Management Plan / studies, General Planning Consultant work, 2030 LRTP update, etc.

Staff recommends approval of Draft Planning Tasks for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Motion: Mary Jeanne Morse moved to approve the Draft Planning Tasks for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 UPWP. Howard Buck seconded and the motion passed without dissent.

VI. Review of TPO's Public Involvement Process

Jan Johnson, TPO Staff, gave an overview on the Public Involvement Plan. The main purpose is to fulfill requirements set forth by the Federal Highway Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation. This plan must be updated every two years. She gave an overview of all the projects done over the last few years, including public involvement surveys, public education and outreach, Town Hall Meetings, Focus groups and workshops on the central Polk travel study, groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings, the TPO Website, the RTO Website, and PGTV. She also reviewed publications available, public meetings and workshops (with transportation related elements), and other miscellaneous activities and programs.

Ms. Johnson gave recommendations for Future Public Involvement activities, and discussed the next steps to finalize this plan at the next TPO Board meeting.

Discussion

The committee expressed concerns with several of the Public Involvement activities. They did not entirely approve of translating TPO documents from English into Spanish

(or other languages). They also noted some disapproval with having PGTV film the committee meetings.

Lori Carlton, FDOT, noted that she did not know if translating documents from English to Spanish was a requirement, but that it was strongly encouraged.

Discussion

Ryan Kordek asked the committee for a conceptual approval at this time and that Staff would take into consideration the committee's comments, and bring the Public Involvement Plan back before the CAC for final approval at a later date.

Motion: Howard Buck moved to table the final approval of the Public Involvement Plan until a revised version can be made taking into consideration the committee's comments. Edward Le Duc seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

VII. Annual Review of FDOT Resurfacing Projects

Brigitte D'Orval, TPO Staff, discussed the FDOT Resurfacing projects. The TPO with concurrence from the FDOT have developed a process, or means of communication for road projects between the TPO and FDOT. The process is intended to provide for early and continuing coordination on road projects to include major capacity projects and maintenance projects. The three maintenance projects reviewed include SR 37 - South Florida Avenue (from south of Poppell Drive to south of Imperial Boulevard), SR 60 (east of Peace River to Alan Loop), and SR 17 (north of East Cook Road and south of Townsend Road).

Brigitte reviewed the maintenance projects in regards to roadway features associated with non-motorized transportation and traffic safety. The basis for the evaluation is to help determine what, if any, additional roadway features should be included as part of the maintenance project to improve safety and encourage multi-modal travel.

Staff request approval of the list of maintenance projects and corresponding recommended features.

Discussion

Motion: Roger Smith moved to endorse the list of maintenance projects and corresponding recommended features. Edward Le Duc seconded and the motion passed without dissent.

VIII. Development of 2008 Priority Transportation Projects

Ryan Kordek, TPO Staff, noted that projects should be identified in the 2030 TRIP, should be construction ready, and provide an opportunity for partnering. In the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program, one of the recommendations is to move some of the FY 2011/12 monies into FY 2010/11.

The FDOT is boxing Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding for TE future year projects. TE projects include multi-use trail, streetscape, and sidewalks projects. This funding will not be programmed for a specific project until two years prior to the year funding is available in the FDOT Work Program.

The FDOT is also soliciting candidate Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects for FY 2010/11 and 2011/12 with about 19 Million dollars available in District One. Projects are adopted by the TPO Board, and must also be endorsed by a regional planning entity (West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee and the Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance).

Discussion

This Item was presented for informational purposes only. No action was requested.

IX. Election of Officers and Approval of the 2008 Meeting Calendar

Motion: Allen Keefer moved to approve Roger Smith as the CAC Chairman. Howard Buck seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

Motion: Roger Smith moved to approve Allen Keefer as the CAC Vice-Chairman. Allen Rowley seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

Motion: Howard Buck moved to approve the 2008 Meeting Calendar. Roger Smith seconded and the motion passed without dissent.

X. Communications and Reports

Ryan Kordek, TPO Staff, noted that he would discuss the candidate Congestion Management project from Lakeland (SR17 to Mountain Lake Cut Off Road) at a future meeting.

Discussion

XI. Adjournment

Motion: Howard Buck motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Edward Le Duc, and motion passed without dissent.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed by Jacinda Head, Long Range Planning, Office Manager.

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.