



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017  
EAST PORT ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPUS  
TRAINING ROOM B 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Economic Development  
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development  
Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works  
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County, Transit Division  
Ron Ridenor, Charlotte County Airport Authority  
Earl R. Hahn, DeSoto County  
Mark Gering, City of Punta Gorda Public Works  
Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools  
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda (Excused)  
Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office  
Don Scott, Lee County MPO  
Wayne Salladè, Charlotte County Emergency Management Development

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Bob Herrington, MPO Director  
Laks Gurrum, Planner II  
Gary Harrell, Principal Planner  
D'Juan Harris, FDOT  
Linda Janita, Charlotte County Public Schools  
April Santos, Public Works  
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Public Works  
Lynda Faieta, Charlotte County Public Schools

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Venkat Vattikuti, TAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

## 2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

## 3. Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair

Bob Herrington, MPO Director, temporarily chaired the meeting, and took nominations for the TAC Chair position. A brief explanation of the duties and time commitment of the Chair and Vice Chair positions was given.

*Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works, nominated Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, as the 2017 TAC Chair. Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development, seconded the nomination. Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools made a motion to close the nomination. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. Mitchell Austin was elected unanimously as the 2017 TAC Chair.*

Next, Bob Herrington took nominations for the position of 2017 TAC Vice Chair.

*Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division, nominated Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works, as the 2017 TAC Vice Chair. Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools, seconded the nomination. Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools, made a motion to close the nominations. Chris Whittaker seconded the motion. Venkat Vattikuti was elected unanimously as the 2017 Vice Chair.*

## 4. Chair's Report

Venkat Vattikuti, TAC Vice- Chair had nothing to report.

## 5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D'Juan Harris, FDOT Liaison the new Liaison for the Charlotte County- Punta Gorda MPO advised the Committee members that the SR 31 is considered as an Emerging SIS facility which opens an opportunity for new funding sources. He also stated that FDOT Secretary Mr. Buxold has resigned and the interim secretary is Ms. Rachel Cone.

## 6. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: August 10, 2016 Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2016 Meeting
- C. FY 2016/2017 –FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/ Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement Amendments and De-Obligation of PL Funds

Bob Herrington indicated that the Consent Agenda has been amended at the recommendation of the Earl Hahn, DeSoto County Representative, to include the August 10, 2016 minutes since there was no Quorum at the October 19, 2016 meeting.

*Matt Trepal made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. Rick Kolar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **7. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan-Amendment**

Laks Gurrum, MPO Staff, stated that Charlotte County has made a request to amend the 2040 LRTP to include the Babcock Webb Trail Corridor extension through the Webb Wildlife Management Area as a multi-use trail and to make it a priority trail.

He mentioned that the proposed trail corridor is 12.6 miles from Tuckers Grade Blvd to SR 31 and connects to the Multi- Use trails planned by Babcock Ranch. On September 27, 2016, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners adopted an amendment to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan to include the Babcock Webb Trail Corridor extension.

An amendment to the LRTP is required by FDOT to add projects in the 2040 Needs Plan to be consistent with the Department's 2060 Florida Transportation Plan.

*Mark Gering made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment to include Babcock Webb Trail Corridor extension through the Webb Wildlife Management Area as a multi-use trail. Debrah Forester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **8. 2017 Project Priorities – Discussion**

Gary Harrell, MPO Staff stated that this agenda item is to solicit candidate projects from member's entities as TIP project priorities. He also stated that as part of the TIP process the MPO is required to develop, annually, a list of project priorities and to submit the list to FDOT by July 1st of each year. He stated that most of the project priorities were unfunded last year. He reviewed the different funding sources for the proposed projects and briefed the Committee on the MPO staff's recommended ranking of the proposed projects.

He also mentioned that this Agenda Item is for information purposes only and does not require action.

## **9. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **10. Staff Comments**

Bob Herrington welcomed Ron Ridenor as the TAC member for the Charlotte County Airport Authority.

Bob Herrington indicated that the State Scenic Highway program officials contacted the MPO in regards to bringing back the Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail Scenic Highway program and asked if they contacted the County Staff. Matt Trepal mentioned the County Staff has been brainstorming the various options of reinstating the program.

Bob Herrington mentioned that the MPO Staff will be happy in assisting the County Staff .He also informed the TAC members of the various meetings and activities that the MPO Staff have been working on.

## **11. Member Comments**

Jill Mead introduced Lynda Faieta, the new Assistant Manager – Operations of the Charlotte County Public Schools.

Debrah Forester indicated the boardwalk project will be starting soon and workings towards fulfilling the requirements of grant applications.

Ron Ridenor informed that the Airport Authority website includes the capital improvement project reports along with the Airport meetings schedule. The mentioned that the Airport Authority is updating the Airport Master Plan and invited TAC members to attend the Airport Authority Master Plan update stakeholders meeting.

He further enquired about the Piper Road project status and was informed that the project is up for bids to construct.

Chris Whitaker emphasized the importance of securing funding for River Rd with the construction of the Atlanta Braves stadium and the increasing need of widening River Rd.

Laks Gurram informed the committee members about the 2015 model update and mentioned that he will be contacting the TAC members with requests for Socio-Economic data update that is required for the model.

## **12. Adjournment (Next TAC Meeting – April 12, 2017)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TAC will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B.