



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

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2017
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Steve Fabian, Jr., At-Large Representative
Ed Zapke, South County Representative
Bob Logan, Mid County Representative
Joanne Drinkwater, Mid County Representative
Ed Zubal, West County Representative

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Dianne Quilty, Mid County Representative
Grover Mudd, At Large Representative
Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative
Steve Schoff, West County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Brown, South County Representative

OTHERS ATTENDING

D'Juan Harris, FDOT
Deborah Chesna, FDOT
Robert M. Herrington, MPO Director
Gary Harrell, MPO Principal Planner
Lakshmi N.Gurram, Planner III
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Engineering Department

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

John Burrage, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. The roll call was taken using a sign-in sheet.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. Reports:

A. Chairs' Report

John Burrage welcomed Joanna Drinkwater as the new CAC member representing mid-county. Joanna Drinkwater said that she lives in Lake Suzy area and familiar with the area since she moved back in early 1990.

John Burrage CAC Chair, briefed the CAC about May 1, 2017 MPO meeting and the list of items that the CAC members have taken action and he was also concerned about the list of items that were discussed at the last CAC meetings and lack of feedback from the staff.

Bob Herrington said that there are two different methods to address the member comments. Either the concerned staff would brief at the following CAC meeting or he can forward those comments to the CAC members once he receives from the Staff.

Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that the comments that were discussed at the last meeting were already addressed by his department and also apologized for not updating the Committee members earlier.

B. City of Punta Report

City of Punta Gorda Staff was not present at the meeting because of a conflict with City of Punta Gorda Council meeting.

C. Charlotte County Report

Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Engineering Department, followed up with the list of concerns that members had at the April 11, 2017 meeting

1. Traffic concerns with the opening of a gas station at the intersection of SR 776 and Pine Street (Ed Zubal) - *No traffic study was discussed and not aware of studies in the pipeline but will be updated with any reports available in the future.*
2. Need for a turn lane at the intersection of the SR 776 and the Winchester Blvd Extension (Steve Schoff provided a handout) - *Completed*
3. Status on ongoing FDOT construction at US 41/Kings Highway (Fabian)-*No Report Available.*
4. Current and future traffic concerns in the area of Peachland Blvd/Veterans Blvd/Kings Hwy/I-75 especially in light of proposed new development (Bob Logan) -*The County is proposing a signalized intersection at Loveland and Peachland Blvd and at the Veterans Blvd approaching Kings Hwy will have three left turn lanes. The signalized intersections in the area will be synchronized for a smooth flow of traffic.*

5. Concern over a County work truck being parked on the side of Peachland Blvd so that schoolchildren were forced into heavy traffic (Mudd) –*Public works dispatch verified and was told that the truck might be there for couple of minutes to finish last minute work.*
6. Preference for the use of reground asphalt rather than dirt to make patch repairs to local roadways (Mudd) – *Maintenance and Operations department were notified about the issue and repairs will be performed at the earliest time possible.*

Ravi Kamarajugadda addressed Joanna Drinkwater's concern regarding a flashing yellow signal at the I-75 ramps. Once the intersections improvements are completed the signals will be coordinated.

Bob Herrington mentioned that similar concerns were raised by Commissioners in regards to the improvements at I-75 and Kings Hwy.

Bob Herrington addressed Robert Logan's comment about the Veterans Blvd connection to I-75. The discussion will take place at the next MPO Board meeting which is on August 12, 2017.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

FDOT Liaison, D'Juan Harris, addressed the six laning project of I-75 from Harborview Rd to Kings Hwy scheduled to be completed by end of the 2017.

Bob Herrington addressed members about the Construction updates in Charlotte County. He informed that he will forward the FDOT's Road Watch program updates in District One to the Committee members.

D'Juan Harris informed the CAC about the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2019-2023 and the e-public hearing workshops from October 10-16, 2017 is an online meetings where public will have an opportunity to comment on the Work Program. An In-person public workshop will be on October 11, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Mid-county Library, on Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

D'Juan Harris responded to a Bob Logan's question regarding the line marking on I-75. Bob Herrington informed that FDOT works during the nights and lane markings change because of on-going work.

Ravi Kamarajugadda addressed Joanna Drinkwater's concern regarding pot holes on Kings Way Circle which is in Charlotte County. He mentioned that he will contact his maintenance and operations department and update the CAC on the status.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2017 Meeting

Ed Zapke made a motion for approval of the April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Ed Zubal seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. FDOT Complete Streets Initiative Presentation

D’Juan introduced Deborah Chesna, District One Complete Streets Coordinator. He informed the committee members that she previously worked at the Collier County Health Department and will roll out the details of Complete Streets ties with Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) goals and objectives.

Deborah Chesna FDOT, Systems Planning Office, informed the CAC that the Complete Streets initiation was started in 2014 and the Plan was created in 2015. The Complete Street Handbook is now ready for review with core concepts for planning and design and will need revision based on comments from local planning departments and AASHTO and federal guidelines. She informed that that complete streets is not a specific project but a design that will accommodate all users and contains context classifications zones for every state roadway. Complete Streets initiative were driven by safety and mobility and designed to accommodate all modes of transportation to reduce conflicts on roadways for better access management. She informed that no new funding is involved but gives FDOT projects a whole new approach of implementation that are funding with state and federal funds.

She informed that by January 1, 2018 implementation of the roadway context classification is required to utilize the criteria highlighted in the FDOT design manual. She also informed that a Context Classification workshop is scheduled for September 19, 2017 and all members are encouraged to participate in the workshop.

Deborah Chesna responded to Ed Zubal’s question about the funding the projects and its status as far as compared to other projects. The complete streets initiative is sparked from safety point of view and Florida has been deemed number one in fatalities related to Bike and Pedestrian. FDOT is considering complete street initiative as a standard policy in designing roads as moving forward.

D’Juan Harris mentioned that FDOT has already started leveraging opportunities and implementing complete streets with 3R projects. The 3R projects are resurfacing, repairing and reconstructing projects.

Deborah Chesna addressed Bob Logan’s question regarding the local governments involvement in implementing the Complete Street program by amending the Comprehensive plan to include this policy.

Gary Harrell responded to Ed Zubal’s question regarding the funding these projects. He mentioned that any road widening or resurfacing projects are designed according to the new guidelines. The project cost will be expensive compared to previous guidelines since it includes sidewalks, landscaping and other elements of complete streets initiative.

Bob Herrington addressed Bob Logan’s concern about time consuming process to implement a project. The funding is a major role in implementing projects, even if we raise gas taxes. The various stages of implementing a project takes years to construct a project.

Bob Herrington addressed Ed Zubal concern about a meeting at Tringali Library. He confirmed that it is MSBU meeting and the increase in taxes is part of the MSBU process.

8. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Roll-Forward Amendment

Bob Herrington, MPO Staff, stated that every year end there are projects scheduled in the current year of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to commence work in that current year. However, for various reasons, it is sometimes necessary to defer the commencement of work beyond the current year of the approved TIP. For example, projects that did not get authorized by June 30, require a TIP Amendment to “roll-forward” these project phases into the first year of the new TIP. The MPO staff has received a request from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda FY 2017/2018 – FY 2021/2022 (TIP) to include projects that are to be roll-forward for the next fiscal year FY 2018.

Gary Harrell informed that the resurfacing projects that are in Design phase had to be redesigned to implement the complete street concepts in all future resurfacing projects.

Steve Fabian made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO’s TIP for FY 2017/2018 – FY 2021/2022 adding Roll-Forward projects which could not be obligated during the State’s Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. Ed Zapke seconded the Motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan Consultant Selection

Gary Harrell stated that the MPO Staff is working with Charlotte County Parks and Recreation to develop a county wide Bicycle/Pedestrian master plan. The impetus for the Bicycle-Pedestrian master plan is the Parks and Recreational Master Study that was completed and adopted by Charlotte County.

On May 2017 Charlotte County–Punta Gorda MPO and Charlotte County Government entered into an interlocal agreement to use Parks and Recreation funding to complete the plan. The MPO invited the three General Planning Consultants (GPC) to submit a Task Approach as how to perform the task. The three consultants were Kimely Horn & Associates, Jacobs Engineering Inc. and Tindale-Oliver& Associates. A review committee consisting of members from the MPO, City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County is recommending Jacobs Engineering, Inc. to perform the Master plan.

Once the Consultant is approved by the MPO Board it will take approximately a year to complete the plan and will include public outreach programs for the input from the citizens of Charlotte County. Once the completed Master Plan is approved it will become part of the MPO’s LRTP.

Gary Harrell mentioned that the Agenda Item is for informationally purpose only and do not require any action. Bob Herrington mentioned that the committee members will be updated on the status of the project moving forward.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Staff Comments

Mr. Herrington reviewed a number of recent activities of the staff including the mandatory Safe Routes to School Program training at the FDOT SWAO Office.

Bob Herrington informed the committee that member Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative requested information about a traffic light at Fruitland Ave and Winchester Blvd. Ravi Kamarajugadda informed that the traffic signal at that intersection is in the design stage and expected to be completed in 4 months.

Gary Harrell stated the next CAC meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017 and requested that the members to be flexible about the meeting date based on the availability of the FDOT Work Program.

12. Member Comments

Ed Zubal is concerned about the information of the projects and use of Consultants to perform the studies to implement the projects.

Bob Herrington responded that the MPO process requires having an LRTP and TIP which are federal requirements and needed to be updated periodically. He also mentioned that once the projects are funded in TIP and LRTP it doesn't affect the funds allocated to that project but the scope of the project can change depending on the policies adopted by FHWA and FDOT.

Gary Harrell responded to Ed Zapke about the status of Burnt Store Rd Phase II project. The county is in the process of acquiring ROW for the project. Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that he will follow up with more information.

Steve Fabian highlighted that the complete streets projects are in the future, but the commissioners are focused on issues that are current. Gary Harrell responded to Steve Fabian's concern regarding no left turn lanes or signs on Burnt Store Rd starting from Home Depot south to Presbyterian Church. The City and the County departments will be notified about the issue and the CAC will be updated at the next meeting.

Ravi Kamarajugadda addressed Bob Logan's traffic issues at Cochran Blvd, Peachland and Veterans Blvd not having a right turn lanes only at these intersections. He mentioned that the County has to meet certain standards to include a right turn lane at intersections. He also mentioned that a development is being considered at northwest corner of Cochran and Peachland Blvd and requested the developer conduct a traffic study should a right lane turn be required at that intersection. He further added that a traffic study is under consideration for signals on Cochran Blvd from US 41 to Veterans Blvd and that the traffic signals are synchronized at these intersections

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M. The next scheduled meeting of the CAC will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 beginning at 1:30 p.m.