



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

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2017
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Economic Development
Matt Trepal, Charlotte County Community Development
Ron Ridenour, Charlotte County Airport Authority
Linda Sposito, City of Punta Gorda Public Works
Earl R. Hahn, DeSoto County
Jill Mead, Charlotte County Public Schools
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Gerard Mallet, Charlotte County Emergency Management
Rick Kolar, Charlotte County Transit Division

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Nichole Gwinnett, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Sgt. Tom Scott, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Chris Whittaker, City of North Port Planning and Zoning

OTHERS ATTENDING

April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works
D'Juan Harris, FDOT
Deborah Chesna, FDOT
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development
Dianne Quilty, CAC Mid County Representative
Robert M. Herrington, MPO Director
Gary Harrell, MPO Principal Planner
Wendy Scott, Planner II

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Venkat Vattikuti, CAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The roll call was taken using a sign-in sheet.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

3. Chair's Report

Venkat Vattikuti indicated that he had nothing to report.

4. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D’Juan Harris stated FDOT was in the process of developing the Work Program development cycle for FY 2018/2019 to FY 2022/2023. The FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program is scheduled to be released for an ePublic meeting the week of October 16-20, 2017. FDOT representatives will be available for face-to-face meetings one day during that week at the Charlotte County Library on Forrest-Nelson Blvd. The specific date and time for the face-to-face meeting will be announced well before the actual meeting. There will also be presentations at the TAC, CAC and MPO Board meetings.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2017 Meeting

Earl Hahn noted that he had attended the last meeting, but had shown up late, he was not absent and asked for a correction.

Earl Hahn made a motion to approve the April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes as corrected.
Debrah Forester seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. FDOT Complete Streets Initiative Presentation

D’Juan Harris introduced presenter Deborah Chesna, FDOT District One Complete Streets Coordinator. She reviewed how Complete Streets ties in with the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) goals and objectives. The Complete Streets Initiative started in 2014 and in 2015 the Complete Streets Plan was initiated. The 2017 Complete Streets Handbook is now ready for review providing core concepts of context-based planning and design to non-limited access state roadway projects. Other FDOT handbooks will be revised based on the Complete Streets concepts of land use and development patterns to accommodate all users. The 2017 Complete Streets Handbook contains context classifications zones for every state roadway. Community vision is important so roadways match community goals for land development. Early collaboration in roadway improvement projects is critical so clear policies delineated in local Comprehensive Plans will be followed to the extent possible. No new funding is involved. The timeline for implementation is by January 1, 2018 project priorities will require roadway context classification. Training at FDOT District 1 Headquarters in Bartow,

Florida, is scheduled for Sept 19, 2017. Training webinars are available at www.flcompletestreets.com.

Earl Hahn commended FDOT in moving forward with the longstanding Complete Streets movement because it is important to look at context design. The challenge is now for local government to step up and participate. Deborah Chesna stated this is a shift in thinking especially for engineers.

Diane Quilty asked if Florida is taking the lead with this program. Deborah Chesna stated the program has been documented in federal manuals for a long time, Florida has lagged but is now embracing the initiative.

Venkat Vattikuti asked if projects designed before the January 1, 2018 implementation date would be included in the Complete Streets initiative. He stated the Harbor View Road PD&E has commenced and he wanted to ensure that it is involved with Complete Streets. Deborah Chesna stated she was working within the Department to intercept ongoing projects to ensure Complete Streets context is considered and part of the project. There are exceptions such as those projects that are too far along and have budget constraints. She stated that during a PD&E is a good time to intercept projects. Venkat stated that the Harbor View Road PD&E has begun, and has generated interest by the bicycle/pedestrian committee, and that he wanted to make certain that local interests are addressed. Deborah Chesna stated the project will be vetted with the locals during the PD&E phase. Addressing the ROW phase will take a little longer as the Design phase will identify what ROW will be needed. She offered to look at those projects not yet in design phase that she can intercept. Several projects that were already designed such as the US 41 resurfacing did not receive additional funding to meet Complete Streets guidelines. It is important to identify the resurfacing projects early because the Complete Streets requirements could increase the costs for 3R (resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation) projects. Venkat stated that the current resurfacing project on US 41 may not have been done within the Complete Streets context and it will probably not be looked at again for approximately 10 years when the next 3R project is considered. Of importance, the US 41 intersections at Harbor View Road and Kings Hwy are under the previous design constraints before Complete Streets.

Venkat asked that the SR 776 project from West County line to Gasparilla Bridge be intercepted for Complete Streets. Deborah Chesna stated she will get with Gary Harrell on the details of the project.

Gary Harrell stated the City of Punta Gorda has a list of Complete Streets project priorities including one that is now in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) listed as a resurfacing project. The limits are US 41 from Airport Road to Carmalita St. which is four years out. Deborah Chesna stated the City of Punta Gorda had requested a bike corral on US 17 (Marion Ave.) at Sullivan St. in the downtown part of the City. FDOT approval is on the way based on the Complete Streets context. This is a change because there was previously no basis on allowing such a facility on State roads. The contextual requirement of Complete Streets will affect other types of transportation projects including Hurricane Evacuation, bike/pedestrian facilities around schools and the Punta Gorda Airport which is an emerging Strategic Intermodal System (SIS).

Deborah Forester noted that the Harbor View Road PD&E was started before the Complete Streets Initiative which will be officially adopted by FDOT in January. Discussion continued how future or current projects will ensure the Complete Streets Initiative is applied to projects. Deborah Chesna stated going forward FDOT will always consider Complete Streets, and that future project priority submissions through the MPO to FDOT will have a section on the Project Information form where the requestor will note the local requirements for Complete Streets. The cost of a project may be higher, but the increased cost may be justified by the benefits of making the system available to more users.

Deborah Forester made a motion that FDOT ensure the Harbor View Road PD&E be considered under the Complete Streets Initiative. Earl Hahn seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Gary Harrell, MPO Staff stated that FDOT has not released the Roll-Forward Report. D’Juan Harris stated that it should be released very soon and that he would forward the report as soon as he receives it. After discussion, Gary stated if there are any issues from the members after they reviewed the Roll-Forward Report, he will ensure those issues are brought before the MPO Board.

8. Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan Consultant Selection

Gary Harrell, MPO Staff stated that Charlotte County Parks and Recreation has partnered with the MPO to develop the Charlotte County Bicycle-Pedestrian Regional Master Plan. The MPO asked its three General Consultants to provide an approach as to how they would undertake developing the MPO’s Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan. After receiving their submittals, representatives from the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County and the MPO met and selected Jacobs Engineering Group to recommend to the MPO Board as the lead consultant. Gary stated that once started there will be public outreach and that members could expect to be involved in the development of the Plan. It should take approximately one year to adoption. The agreement for funding is not to exceed \$125,000. Deborah Chesna stated a Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan will be a critical resource for Complete Streets. Bob Herrington stated it will also be a key component of next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Staff Comments

Mr. Herrington reviewed recent activities of staff since the last meeting.

Gary Harrell stated that the currently scheduled next TAC meeting is October 11, 2017. Based on the recent FDOT announcement that the Draft Tentative Work Program ePublic meeting is scheduled for the week of October 16-20, 2017 the next meeting may change so the

Committee can review the Draft Tentative Work Program before the meeting. He will keep the members advised.

11. Member Comments

Deborah Forester announced that the Harbor Walk Phase 1B was awarded in June and construction should begin within 60 days, and completed within one year. She thanked those members who helped get the project fully funded including FDOT's increased funding because of the increased cost of the bid. She stated that the project was recognized with the FACERS Award as the Best Collaborative Project of the year.

Deborah stated she has accepted a position in Collier County and would be leaving Charlotte County. She thanked all who she had worked with in the past thirteen years with Charlotte County. Kay Tracy will represent the Charlotte County Economic Development Office.

Don Scott asked if FDOT Complete Streets could provide a system to capture bicycle/pedestrian data counts, not just traffic that is available from multiple sources. He noted that recent projects counted vehicles but also included bicycles and pedestrians as part of the data gathering. He stated there is much data besides the automobile counts that is available on local data bases but the data is not standardized. Debrah Chesna stated the FDOT Safety Department does bicycle/pedestrian counts that could be combined with local data. Bob Herrington stated the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) was discussing how each area is doing bicycle counts and seeks a way to standardize the process. He would provide Debrah a point of contact to coordinate possible FDOT and MPOAC efforts.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 A.M. The next meeting of the TAC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 p.m.