



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

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2016
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Burrage, CAC Chair, South County Representative
Grover Mudd, At Large Representative
Jim Brown, South County Representative
Bob Logan, Mid County Representative
Ed Zubal, West County Representative
Ed Zapke, South County Representative
Steve Fabian, Jr., At-Large Representative
Nancie Jankowski, West County Representative
Joseph Tiseo, Mid County Representative
Steve Schoff, West County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Naomi Manning, Mid County Representative

OTHERS ATTENDING

Lori Carlton, FDOT
Jeff Mednick, FDOT
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Gary Grossman, Charlotte County Public Works
Robert M. Herrington, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, Planner II
Katherine Brittan, RS&H

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 reported that he attended the Peggy Walters Citizens award presentation meeting that was presented to Don Lee and also reported the MPO Board adopted the TIP Roll over.

B. City of Punta Report

Mitchell Austin noted that he welcomes any questions that the CAC members have related to the projects in the City of Punta Gorda. He noted that under SUN Trail network program the Bike/Pedestrian Bridge on US 41, North of Alligator Creek is funded for Design in the current fiscal year. He also noted that the construction of the bridge is not funded.

Steve Fabian asked about construction of an “outhouse” on the trailhead of Shreve St and expressed his displeasure to have an outhouse on Public Street. Mitchell Austin noted that the outpost is the rest area facility for the trail system.

C. Charlotte County Report

Gary Grossman mentioned that at the request of the CAC members he provided the Traffic Impact statement and site plan for the construction of WAWA gas station at the corner of US 41 and Midway Blvd.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

A. FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program Five Year Work Program – FY 2018/2019 -2021/2022

Lori Carlton, FDOT went through the FY2018 - 2022 FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program and mentioned about the ePublic Hearing. A hand out was circulated regarding various locations of public meetings that will be held at various public libraries. She indicated that she will be attending the public meeting held on October 20, 2016 between 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Port Charlotte Public library to answer any questions related to the Work Program.

Ms. Carlton then went through the list of projects in the new Work Program She noted that the Work Program is a Draft document and she will provide the committee members with the adopted document in July 2017.

Lori Carlton noted that the SR 776 resurfacing project from Sunny Brook Blvd. to Pinedale and Spinnaker Blvd to Sunnybrook Blvd is scheduled for construction in the new fifth year. Steve Scoff asked the reason prioritizing the resurfacing project as a priority. Lori Carlton mentioned that resurfacing projects are not MPO priorities but prioritized based on the pavement condition report that FDOT follows and consists of ongoing list of projects which are reviewed every year. She mentioned that the funding for these projects comes from a program which is not under MPO funding categories. Bob Herrington indicated that the resurfacing projects are not the MPO projects but are required to show in the work program since the projects are in Charlotte County. He also stated that the funding for resurfacing cannot be used for other projects. Steve Scoff expressed his concern that this portion of the SR 776 is scheduled for widening to six lanes in future years.

Joe Tiseo asked if the construction cost for I-75 rest area includes for both rest areas on either side of I-75. Lori mentioned that she does not have the specifics of the project but will provide more information. Bob Herrington mentioned that FDOT will be presenting more details about the rest area at the next MPO Board meeting. Bob Logan mentioned that rest area is more important for commuters on I-75, and questioned the demolition of the rest area at Jones Loop. Lori Carlton mentioned the rest area at Jones Loop was underutilized. She also mentioned that the rest area location at the weigh station was not a popular alternative. Bob Herrington mentioned that security of the commuters was also an issue at the current rest area location and it does not serve the purpose. He also mentioned that FDOT is focusing to have rest area locations on system roads and clarified that the completion of the I-75 rest area will be in the FY 2021-2022.

Steve Fabian asked Lori Carlton if the lighting project on US 41 from Aqui Esta Dr to Airport Rd can be changed from decorative street lighting to highway lighting. He mentioned that he raised the issue at the last MPO Board meeting since the decorative street lighting will be an unsafe situation as there are 12 driveways connections on west side of US 41.

Lori Carlton mentioned the addition of the new landscaping project on US 41 from Peace River to Murdock Cir scheduled in FY 2017/18 for construction. Joe Tiseo asked Lori Carlton if the scope of the landscaping project includes the medians. Lori Carlton indicated she will find out more information. He also asked if FDOT coordinates with landscaping projects with the Charlotte County staff to be consistent with the kind of landscaping done in the County. Lori Carlton noted that the US 41 from Airport Rd to Carmalita St is a complete street project but listed as resurfacing project since the FDOT codes reflects as resurfacing project.

Lori Carlton then updated the committee members with their request they made at the August 10, 2016 CAC meeting. Below are the responses for their questions:

SunPass/EZPass:

Ed Zapke inquired about Sunpass/Ezpass and which other states these work in. Currently, both Georgia and North Carolina have Sunpass. South Carolina is expected to be added to the list later this year. In a year or so, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Louisiana are expected to become participating agencies. Below is a link to Sunpass and participating agencies that will be updated periodically. <https://www.sunpass.com/participatingAgencies>

FDOT District ADA Contact Requested by Grover Mudd:

Tammy Sutton
Highway Safety/Traffic Data Specialist
Florida Department of Transportation
District One Traffic Operations MS 1-8
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33830
Phone: (863) 519-2517
Fax: (863) 534-0915
tammy.sutton@dot.state.fl.us

US 41 SB between Harbor Blvd to the US 41 Bridge:

Grover Mudd reported a sight impaired individual wandered into the roadway due to there being no curb in several areas.

District Traffic Operations contacted Mr. Mudd for exact locations. Several of the Identified concerns will be addressed in projects currently programmed:

- Accessible Path concern north of Bayshore Rd- Sidewalk deviates into existing parking lot. Being addressed in FPID 431316-1 (US 41 from Cross Street to Cochran Blvd.)
- Accessible Path concern near Gardner Dr- Sidewalk directly adjacent to roadway. Being addressed in FPID 431316-1 (US 41 from Cross Street to Cochran Blvd).
- Accessible Path concern between Publix Entrance and S Tamiami Trail Frontage Rd -Sidewalk directly adjacent to roadway. Being addressed in FPID 431219-1 (US 41 @Hancock Ave)

Any other areas of concern cannot be addressed/incorporated into existing projects because of the current phase of the project(s).

Northbound 1-75 Off-Ramp to Kings Highway Requested by Mike Michaud, an FHP officer:

Motorists are being ticketed for turning on No Right Turn on Red sign are complaining they don't see the overhead sign. Officer Michaud thinks they are watching the eastbound traffic on Kings Highway and not looking up at the signal and sign. He asked if we could install a "No turn on red" sign in our right-of-way next to the northbound turn lane to Kings Highway.

Goodwill on US 41 in Punta Gorda Requested by Steve Fabian: There is no sign or pavement markings indicating that only right turns are permitted. The Goodwill is located in the City of Punta Gorda at 10381 Tamiami Trail (between Seminole Lakes Blvd and US 41 and the Taylor Rd and US 41 Intersections).Request to the Department to either place a "Right turn only" sign at the exit, or pavement markings with a right turn arrow

September 16th- District One Traffic Operations Office has a issued work order for both of these issues.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: August 10, 2016 Meeting

B. MPO and Advisory Committees Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2017

Jim Brown made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. Steve Fabian seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Bob Herrington discussed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. He stated this amendment is for FY 2016/2017 – FY 2020/2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment to add Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 “Enhanced Mobility of seniors and Individuals with Disabilities” program funding.

Steve Fabian made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the Amendment to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO’s TIP for FY 2016/2017 – FY 2020/2021 adding: Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Section 5310 program finding. Ed Zapke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. I-75 Widening Project – North Jones Loop to US 17

Jeff Mednick, Project Manager, FDOT District One gave an update on the design of the I-75 widening from south of North Jones Loop Road to north of US 17 in Charlotte County.

He mentioned that purpose of the project is to increase capacity on I-75 and it is the final segment of I-75 improvements from Georgia State line to southwest Florida. He mentioned that FDOT is worked towards the storm water permits and also coordinating with Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) in regards to proximity of Punta Gorda Airport.

He mentioned no right of way is needed and the ramps on Jones Loop and US 17 will be not widened but milled and resurfaced. He mentioned Riverside Drive will be resurfaced. He mentioned that epublic workshop will be held for public comments between Dec 1, 2016 and December 12, 2016. He mentioned that interchange modification at US 17 is postponed for a future date.

Ed Zapke raised his concerns regarding the I-75 at US 17 south bound exit ramp and its direction during one time of the day which makes drivers impossible to see.

Bob Logan asked about the requirements to build a sound wall on north side of Peace River and its proximity to homes adjacent to the I-75. Jeff Mednick mentioned a study will be done to see if a sound wall is required at a particular location.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Staff Comments

Mr. Herrington mentioned two projects in Charlotte County have been funded under SUN Trail network funding. The two projects are Bike/Ped Bridge on Alligator Creek North of US 41 and the other project is Harborwalk Gateway project Phase II. He also mentioned that Punta Gorda Airport has been designated as Emerging SIS project which makes it possible to get additional funding.

11. Member Comments

Steve Scoff noted the inconsistency in speed limits on North and South portion of Winchester Blvd. Gary Grossman indicated that he will follow up with more information of doing a study.

Ed Zapke mentioned the inconsistency of speed limits on the 4 lane section of Burnt Store Rd where it is 45 mph and the 2 lane section is 55 mph. Jim Brown noted the safety improvements on Burnt Store road at Zemel Rd since the increase in the number of dump trucks utilizing the roadway. He wanted to emphasize the importance of safety of fellow passengers utilizing the road.

John Burrage asked if law enforcement officials can be notified about the safety issues on Burnt Store Rd. Gary Grossman mentioned that law enforcement officials will be proactive if the concerns are from the general public rather than the County Staff.

Bob Logan mentioned that the county should consider adding a 2 foot shoulder on north and south side of Peachland Blvd .He also mentioned that it is a potential issue of safety when heavy trucks or school buses travel on either side of the road. Gary Grossman indicated that he will follow up at the next meeting.

Joe Tiseo raised his concern from the local businesses due to the ongoing construction of US 41 from Enterprise Drive to the Sarasota County line.

John Burrage praised Lori Carlton for her outstanding report on various questions raised by Committee members and mentioned that the report that he has seen in a long time.

12. 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, November 16, 2016 at the Eastport Environmental Campus, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte in Training Room B beginning at 1:30 p.m