



Meeting Minutes - Final

October 03, 2024 TPO TAC

Rescheduled TAC Meeting

**Polk County Administration Building
 330 W. Church Street, Room 413
 Bartow, FL 33830**

Introduction

1. Call to Order - 9:30 a.m. (Bob Weigers, Chairman)
2. Confirmation of Quorum

Minutes: Also in attendance were:

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director
 Lorenzo Thomas, Polk TPO Staff
 Julia Davis, Polk TPO Staff
 Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff
 Isai Chavez, Polk TPO Staff
 Brittany Silva, Polk Communications
 Edith Perez, FDOT District One
 Marcellus Evans, FDOT District One
 Marc Ispass, Kimley-Horn
 Siasosi Fine, FDOT - Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
 Lucas Crus, Consultant from Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC

Present	Chuck Barmby, Bob Wieggers, Bill Skelton, Sean Byers, Ted Adkins, James Phillips, Ben Ziskal, Richard Ranck, Marisa Barmby, Carlie Flagler, and Brittany Hart
----------------	---

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes - July 25, 2024

Motion: Motioned by Ben Ziskal, seconded by Carlie Flagler. Motion carried without dissent.

4. Agenda Review - Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, reviewed the agenda which consisted of changes to the TPO Bylaws, the TIP Amendments FY 2024/25 - 2028/29 (TIP),

Envision 2050 draft Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures and Indicators, TMA-SU Funds for SID Loan Reimbursement for SR 33 Widening, Mobility Week/Greenways and Trails Month, Fort Fraser Trail Update, Lake Hancock Trails Master Plan Update, Amendments to the UPWP FY 2024/25-2025/26, New Polk TPO Website, Preview of the Polk TPO Meeting on October 19, 2024, and Priority Projects Update.

Action Items

5. Review/Approve Amendments to the TPO's Bylaws

Minutes: Julia Davis, TPO Staff, presented the Draft Amendments to the TPO Bylaws which includes adding four new seats which to the TPO Board, which was approved by Governor DeSantis on August 8th, 2024, and expands the TPO Board to 23 voting members. Davenport and Lake Alfred have full voting members and additional seats were granted to Haines City and Winter Haven. The amended inter local agreements were completed on September 16th, 2024. The East Bloc name was changed to Central County and Ridge Bloc which will include Dundee, Eagle Lake, Polk City, and Lake Hamilton. The South Bloc includes Fort Meade, Mulberry, and Frostproof.

Motion: Recommendation of approval to the TPO Board made by Ben Ziskal, seconded by Chuck Barmby. Motion carried without dissent.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:	
SECONDER:	
AYE:	Barmby, Wieggers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flagler, and Hart

6. Review/Approve Amendments to FY 2024/25 - 2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Minutes: Angela Kaufman, TPO Staff, presented the Draft Amendments to FY 2024/25 - 2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). FDOT requests Polk TPO to approve amendments to the TIP which included the following projects: Maine Avenue sidewalks from Combee Road to Park Street and to Iowa Road to Wanda Way, North Lake Fitness Trail, SR 25 (US 27) project limit decrease at various locations, and Small Urban Capital Assistance for Citrus Connection at Poinciana and Four Corners. The amendments are necessary to ensure authorization of federal funds in the current fiscal year.

Motion: Recommendation of approval to the TPO Board made by Ben Ziskal, seconded by James Phillips. Motion carried without dissent.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:	
SECONDER:	

AYE: Barmby, Wiegers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flagler, and Hart

7. Review/Approve Draft Goal, Objectives, Performance Measures and Indicators for the Long-Range Transportation Plan Update - Envision 2050

Minutes: Marc Ispass, Consultant from Kimley-Horn, provided a draft of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (Envision 2050). During the presentation, it was stated that they would be identifying extra funding, multi-modal transportation, safety, mobility, quality of life, efficiency of transportation, maintenance of current infrastructure while minimizing environmental impacts, and bringing these plans together to become impactful actions. Chuck Barmby stated he did not find anything within the plan that was relative to rail and transit, express bus service, or SunRail and felt these are critical and needs to be included at this level. Marc Ispass stated this was included in the “multi-modal” statement but could be better defined in the project. Ryan Kordek stated that these will be incorporated and strengthened at this stage. James Phillips stated that there is a lot of conversation about traffic and congestion, and we need to allow for other services to shift towards to help relieve traffic.

Motion: Recommendation approval to the TPO Board and incorporate Chuck’s statements was made by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Carlie Flagler. Motion carried without dissent.

RESULT: RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:
SECONDER:
AYE: Barmby, Wiegers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flagler, and Hart

8. Review/Approve the Use of TMA-SU Funds for State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loan Reimbursement for State Road 33 Widening (FPN: 430185-4) from Old Combee Road to Firstpark Boulevard

Minutes: Mr. Kordek provided an overview of FDOT’s request stating the TPO Priority Project was included as part of FDOT’s Moving Florida Forward Initiative, and this project was advanced to FY 2024 funded at \$197M for and interchange reconstruction, two wildlife crossings, and the widening of SR 33 to include a multi-use trail. FDOT will be \$19M over budget for this project but has obtained a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan to complete the widening of SR 33 and is requesting the TPO’s support to pay the back by using State Funds and Federal TMA-SU Funding in the amount of \$1M (TMA-SU) per year for five years beginning in FY 2031. Chair Wieger asked if the TMA-SU fund is used for specific or designated areas. Ryan Kordek stated that these can be used in Urbanize Areas of Polk County. Chuck Barmby stated that this a strategic planning area for the city of Lakeland. This would include 10 feet trails on each side of the road and is part of the statewide trail system. A request will be brought before the Lakeland City Commission for approval on October 21st and he requested the motion include to include \$1M a year payback for three years and also include other sources of funding be explored including the Trail and Florida Wildlife Corridor. Chair Wiegner restated the proposed motion include the original recommendation of staff but to include the exploration of other source funding as

stated by Chuck Barmby and a decrease in terms of repayment.

Motion: Recommendation of approval to the TPO Board by Chuck Barmby and a separate request that we have more information to provide to the TPO Board on the impacts of the city of Lakeland amount and schedule for payment and additional to explore other sources of funding by FDOT including SunTrail, seconded by Carlie Flager. Motion carried without dissent.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:	
SECONDER:	
AYE:	Barmby, Wieggers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flager, and Hart

9. Recognition of Mobility Week and Greenways and Trails Month

Minutes: Isai Chavez, Polk TPO Staff, introduced a Proclamation providing an overview of the Proclamation and the purpose of the Proclamation. A summary of the upcoming events that will occur in support of Mobility Week including Fare Free Day at Citrus Connection and the Bartow Friday Market booth event.

Motion: Recommendation of approval to the TPO Board by Ben Ziskal, seconded by Sean Byers. Motion carried without dissent.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:	
SECONDER:	
AYE:	Barmby, Wieggers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flager, and Hart

9a. Lake Hancock Trails Master Plan

Minutes: Bill Skelton, Polk County Roads and Drainage, provided an update on the extension project including a brief summary of the background of this project and the benefits. Segment one is Winter Lake Road (US 98 to Sanlan Property). Segment two is Sanlan Property (Winter Lake Road to Lakeland Highlands Road). Segment three is Lakeland Highlands Road (Sanlan Property to Glendale Street). Aerial photos of the progress of the project were provided and the current expenditures for the project. There was discussion about sidewalks and crossings associated with the trail. Ryan Kordek recognized that Commissioner Lindsey's support of this project.

9b. Fort Fraser Trail Extension Update

Minutes: Lucas Crus, Consultant from Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC, provided an update of Lake Hancock Trails Master Plan. The Fort Fraser Trail will make connections to other trails including the Fort Fraser Trail to connect communities and recreation corridors. A display of the most feasible paths to connect existing trails was provided. Images of potential designs of the trails was shown to the committee members. There will be a public meeting and there will be online live public comment

forum. Then there will be a finalization of the plan and a request of local resolutions in support of the plan. There was a conversation about the potential 540A route connecting to the Lake Hancock Trail and the steepness of the berms and the use of pedestrian versus bikes.

10. Review/Approve Draft Amendments to the Fiscal Years 2024/25 - 2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, TPO Staff, provided a presentation explaining that there is additional fund in the amount of \$20,809 in FHWA PL Funding and this will be applied to the 2050 LRTP Update FY 2024/25. Then there has been funding removed for the UPWP in the amount of \$200,000 that was originally applied to the SunRail Extension and these monies will be allocated to FPN 453731-1 in FY 2025/26 and FDOT will lead this project.

Motion: Recommendation of approval to the TPO Board was made by Ben Ziskal, seconded by Richard Ranck. Motion was approved without dissent.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL
MOVER:	
SECONDER:	
AYE:	Barmby, Wieggers, Skelton, Byers, Adkins, Phillips, Ziskal, Ranck, Barmby, Flagler, and Hart

Presentations and Status Reports

11. Polk TPO's New Website

Minutes: Brittany Silva, Polk Communications, provided an update on the new TPO Website stating the new website will provide more information to the residents. She briefly displayed how the website works and some of its contents and how it is accessed.

Communications and Reports

12. Board Member Comments

Minutes: Chair Weiger apologized for missing the last scheduled meeting.

13. Preview of October 10, 2024 TPO Meeting

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff, there will be a presentation by Sheriff Grady Judd and Superintendent Heid related to transportation safety from both the enforcement side and the education side of the County.

14. Priority Projects Update

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff, explained that most of last year's Priority Projects that were submitted will not be approved by FDOT due to lack of funding. A proposition to discuss not soliciting for any new projects for this year and retaining or reapplying for the same projects that were not funded this year. There was discussion of how the smaller cities should have opportunity to apply and it was explained the smaller cities needs to be LAP certified in order to apply which led the discussion of how the County has been picking up the projects of the smaller cities and this causes the County to become overwhelmed with projects. FDOT explained that the projects would need to be reapplied for with an updated application in the GAP system. Ryan Kordek proposed coordinated workshops between FDOT and the local governments on the status of their projects.

15. Opportunity for Comment

Minutes: Julia Davis, Polk TPO, acknowledged the efforts of Angela Kaufman and the Legistar agenda program that will be used. Then the TDP Survey and why it is important along with a stakeholder virtual meeting related to Transit Planning in Polk County. Carlie Flagler, Citrus Connection, requested the members to provide input for their needs related to public transportation.

16. Adjournment - Next Meeting will be Thursday, December 5, 2024

Minutes: Respectfully transcribed by Angela Kaufman, TPO Planner II. 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.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Board of County Commissioners, Communications Office, at 330 W. Church Street, Bartow. Telephone (863) 534-6090, not later than four days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired call: (TDD) (863) 534-7777 or 1-800-955-8771, or Voice impaired call: 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

The TPO planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Related Statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or family status may file a complaint with the TPO's Title VI Specialist at (863) 534-6486, or by writing Ms. Julia Davis at Post Office Box 9005, Bartow, Florida 33831-9005.