



Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization

Brevard County Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Melbourne, Florida
Building C, 3rd Floor, Florida Room

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 8, 2012

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Agenda

1. Call to Order of the Space Coast TPO Governing Board
2. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2012
3. Reports from Committees
 - A. Technical Advisory Committee/Citizens Advisory Committee Report
 - B. Bicycle/Pedestrian and Trails Advisory Committee Report
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval RE: Committee Appointments
 - B. Approval RE: Finance and Budget
 - C. Approval RE: Resolution 12-18, CFMPOA Interlocal Amendment
5. Action Items
 - A. Legislative Update
 - B. Strategic Plan Draft Priorities
 - C. Authorization RE: Transmittal of Draft FY13 – FY14 UPWP
 - D. Approval RE: Resolution 12-19, Amendment to TIP
6. Reports and Presentations
 - A. Ellis Rd. SIS Designation, FDOT
 - B. Ellis Rd. and Interchange PD&E Study, FDOT
 - C. Staff Report
 - D. Local Government Report
 - E. FDOT Report
7. Petitions, Remonstrances and Communications
 - A. Communications
 - B. Public Comment
8. Adjourn
9. Executive Committee Meeting (will convene 10 minutes following the adjournment of the TPO Board Meeting)

Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization Board Members:

Chairman Jerry Allender	Canaveral Port Authority		Present
Commissioner Andy Anderson	BOCC District 5	Absent	
Commissioner Mary Bolin	BOCC District 4		Present
Councilwoman Stephany Eley	City of West Melbourne		Present
Commissioner Robin Fisher	BOCC District 1		Present
Councilman Ken Greene	City of Palm Bay		Present
Commissioner Trudie Infantini	BOCC District 3		Present
Councilwoman Kristine Isnardi	City of Palm Bay	Absent	

Councilman Mark Larusso	City of Melbourne		Present
Councilwoman Martha Long	City of Titusville		Present
Councilwoman Kathy Meehan	City of Melbourne		Present
Commissioner Chuck Nelson	BOCC District 2		Present
Councilman Scott Nickle	South Beaches Coalition		Present
Councilman Mike Nowlin	City of Melbourne	Absent	
Councilwoman Michele Paccione	City of Palm Bay	Absent	
Councilwoman Georgia Phillips	City of Rockledge	Absent	
Mayor Jim Tulley	City of Titusville	Absent	
Councilman Jake Williams	City of Cocoa	Absent	
Commissioner Skip Williams	North Beaches Coalition		Present
Councilman Greg Jones (alternate)	City of Melbourne		Present

Others Present:

Bob Kamm	Space Coast TPO Executive Director
Georganna Gillette	Space Coast TPO Staff
Laura Carter	Space Coast TPO Staff
Leigh Holt	Space Coast TPO Staff
Steven Bostel	Space Coast TPO Staff
Carol Holden	Space Coast TPO Staff
Lorena Valencia	Florida Department of Transportation
Paul Gougelman	Space Coast TPO Legal Counsel
Eugene (Gene) Lozano	England, Thims & Miller
Dan Kristoff	Reynolds, Smith & Hills (RS&H)
Dennis Kyle	FDOT
David Cooke	FDOT
Mary McGehee	FDOT
Brian Stanger	FDOT
John Zielinski	FDOT
Lori Cox	FDOT – HDR
Linda Mannier	FDOT District 3
Mary Schoelzel	FDOT
William (Tuck) Ferrell	Friends of the Parkway

Item 1. Call to Order of the Space Coast TPO Board

Chairman Allender called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2012

Motion by Ms. Meehan, second by Ms. Bolin to approve the TPO minutes of February 9, 2012. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3A. Technical Advisory/Citizens Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Kamm reviewed the actions taken by the TAC/CAC at their March 5th meeting.

Motion by Mr. Greene, second by Ms. Eley to be in receipt of the TAC/CAC Draft Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2012. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3B. Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Smith reported the BPTAC Committee met on Feb 20th, and selected recipients for the 2011 BPTAC awards. The awards will be presented at the May TPO meeting in recognition of National Bicycle Month. The next BPTAC meeting, on March 26, will be a kickoff meeting for the Bike/Ped Mobility Plan. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on March 9 to announce the opening of the Pioneer Trail. In conclusion, the Commit 2B Fit program has been postponed till fall.

Consent Agenda:

Item 4A. Approval RE: Committee Appointments

Item 4B. Approval RE: Finance and Budget

Item 4C. Approval RE: Resolution 12-18, CFMPOA Interlocal Amendment

Mr. Kamm reported the City of West Melbourne appointed Sandra Michelson to the Citizens Advisory Committee on March 7, 2012.

Motion by Ms. Bolin, second by Ms. Eley to approve the consent agenda as presented. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5A. Legislative Update

Ms. Holt apprised members a continuing resolution is expected for the Federal Transportation Bill as the House and Senate versions are very different. Ms. Holt stated a bill which defines Space Transportation Infrastructure was the first bill signed into State law this year. FDOT has budgeted \$10 million in the Work Program for Space Infrastructure, with \$4 million in recurring funds. The Economic Development Commission has budgeted \$10 million for space development with Space Florida. The rail liability issue will be addressed on the last day of session, when they attempt to align the Senate bill to reflect the House bill. Representative Goodson received a letter from FDOT stating the Sound Wall in West Cocoa will be constructed. Ms. Holt relayed Representative Goodson's appreciation to the TPO, TAC, and CAC for their help and support in this matter.

Mr. Nelson thanked the TPO and Representative Goodson for support on the Sound Wall and stated he appreciated FDOT readdressing their policy to recognize this circumstance.

Ms. Meehan asked when the wall construction would begin.

Ms. Schoelzel stated DOT will work with the residents and the TPO to decide on the best wall design within a month or two. Construction may wait until DOT receives additional funding in July, or until low bid money becomes available.

Chairman Allender requested TPO staff send a letter of gratitude to Representative Goodson to thank him for his support on this matter.

Mr. Kamm stated a letter of gratitude to DOT Secretary Prasad would be appropriate as well.

Motion by Mr. Nelson, second by Ms. Eley to approve TPO staff to send letters of gratitude to Representative Goodson and DOT Secretary Prasad for support in the West Cocoa Sound Wall project. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5B. Strategic Plan Draft Priorities

Ms. Holt reviewed the revised strategic plan draft priorities developed by TPO staff. The revised plan condenses the previous fifteen page plan into an easy to read one page chart that encompasses annual staff work priorities. This chart enables the reader to track work progress quickly and easily. Ms. Holt asked for suggestions and comments on the chart by March 15.

Mr. Williams suggested color changes for the chart.

Ms. Eley stated she would like to see expansion of community input as a goal on the chart.

Mr. Kamm suggested scheduling an agenda item to advise the TPO Board on community involvement actions.

Item 5C. Authorization RE:Transmittal of Draft FY13 – FY14 UPWP

Ms. Carter reviewed the Draft FY13 – FY14 Unified Planning Work Program:

- Defining the UPWP as a biennial planning work program required for every TPO, to identify the transportation planning budget and activities to be undertaken in the metropolitan area for the next two years.
- Development Schedule
- Content and Format of Documents
- Work Products Previously Accomplished and Proposed
- Revenue Sources
- Funding Summary

Ms. Carter stated staff is seeking authorization from the Board to transmit the draft UPWP to the appropriate reviewing agencies. Questions and comments on the draft UPWP may be made through April 16, 2012.

Mr. Kamm explained the UPWP is a scope of work which correlates to the funds received from Federal agencies. It provides a system of checks and balances for TPO procedures.

Ms. Long inquired on the length of the Sea Loop Trail.

Ms. Carter responded it is being evaluated by a PD&E study.

Mr. Kamm noted the monies listed on the UPWP are for staff time and resources in getting the work accomplished, not for the actual projects.

Mr. Larusso inquired if the TPO website utilization is being tracked and reported as part of public involvement.

Ms. Carter replied the website use is tracked and could be reported.

Mr. Larusso asked how public surveys are obtained.

Ms. Carter responded community surveys are taken during ongoing projects, through the TPO website, presentations at libraries, mailers, and other various venues.

Ms. Infantini requested a sidewalk along US1, south of Robert Conlan Blvd. to Malabar Road.

Ms. Carter responded sidewalk gaps will be identified and addressed in the Bike/Ped Mobility Plan.

Ms. Infantini replied this area has already been identified in the gap analysis for the City of Palm Bay, but she would like to see something done now to assist them.

Mr. Kamm stated the City of Palm Bay has been installing sidewalks along US1 as funding allows; the TPO will assist in any way possible.

Motion by Mr. Larusso, second by Ms. Infantini to authorize staff to transmit the draft FY 12/13 through FY 13/14 Unified Planning Work Program to reviewing agencies. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5D. Approval RE: Resolution 12-19, Amendment to TIP

Ms. Gillette reviewed six proposed projects that require amending the adopted FY 2012 – FY 2016 TIP. No additional funding was being requested, just movement of funds.

Mr. Kamm noted project #4, Indian River Lagoon Phase II Non-Motorized Trail (sidewalk) along US1 was supported with a Scenic Byway grant. He inquired if the sidewalk requested by Ms. Infantini might be funded in this manner.

Ms. Valencia replied scenic byway funds are being used to support sidewalk construction.

Motion by Ms. Meehan, second by Ms. Infantini to approve Resolution 12-19 amending the FY12 thru FY16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion passed 13-0 via roll call vote.

Chairman Allender stated Items 6A and 6B would be presented together by FDOT.

Item 6A. Ellis Road Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Designation, FDOT

Mr. Zielinski, FDOT District 5 Strategic Intermodal Coordinator, stated Ellis Road has been designated as a Strategic Intermodal System with the approved interchange at I-95, because it makes a hub (Melbourne International Airport and Greyhound Bus Terminal) to corridor (I-95) connection. SIS designation for Ellis Road can only be officially awarded after the PD&E has been approved.

Mr. Kamm stated the implications of SIS designation are important to recognize as DOT receives much more State than Federal revenue. SIS designated connectors enable County roads to be eligible for State funding in addition to Federal and local funding.

Ms. Eley stated the Ellis Road corridor connection is critical to the county for airport expansion.

Mr. Greene asked for a clarification of St. John's Heritage Parkway limits as the map indicates the Parkway extends to the interchange being proposed at I-95 and Ellis Road.

Mr. Zielinski replied Ms. McGehee would address that issue as part of the Ellis Road and Interchange PD&E study in Item 6B.

Chairman Allender inquired if there was anything the TPO could do to assist with the SIS process.

Mr. Zielinski responded a resolution or a letter of support would be appropriate.

Mr. Greene stated the St. John's Heritage Parkway was designed as an evacuation route for northwest Palm Bay residents, and expressed concerns Parkway construction might be in jeopardy if funding for the Ellis Road extension is not fulfilled.

Mr. Larusso stated the Ellis Road interchange has been planned for many years. The City of Palm Bay should not be concerned about any additional costs being ascribed to the St. John's Heritage Parkway.

Mr. Kamm responded the Ellis Road improvement and Interchange is being developed as a freestanding project that has merit, purpose and need by itself. It becomes an even better project with the connection to the St. John's Heritage Parkway.

Motion by Ms. Infantini, second by Ms. Eley to authorize staff to write a Resolution and letter in support of Ellis Road SIS designation. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6B. Ellis Rd. and Interchange PD&E Study, FDOT

Ms. McGehee, FDOT project manager for the Ellis Road PD&E study, introduced Mr. Kristoff, Reynolds, Smith & Hills project manager, to present the PD&E study.

Mr. Kristoff stated the project involves building a new interchange with I-95, opposite an extension and widening of Ellis Road and also provides a connection to the St. John's Heritage Parkway. The project intends to meet the future traffic needs in the corridor, minimize impacts to the environment, and be responsive to community issues.

Items included in his presentation covered:

- Existing conditions on Ellis Road
- Project need
- I-95 Interchange alternatives
- Engineering considerations
- Access management

He concluded by advising of upcoming events in the PD&E process including a public meeting on alternatives, coordination with local authorities, completing environmental documents, final public hearing, and selection of a preferred alternative.

Ms. Eley asked which road alignment has the least cost impact regarding the canal system.

Mr. Kristoff responded holding the north and building to the south has the least impact.

Ms. Eley asked if 50 mph is required to be eligible for SIS funding.

Ms. McGehee yes, but a variance may be allowed for 45 mph if first approved by DOT.

Mr. Greene asked if the proposed road would accommodate future traffic levels.

Mr. Kristoff responded it would.

Mr. Jones asked why the proposal provided for fewer turn lanes than is currently in existence.

Mr. Kristoff explained left turns across a four lane roadway create safety issues. Providing right turns onto the roadway, and proceeding to a protected turn lane with a signaled green arrow, provides greater safety.

Mr. Nickle inquired if the eastbound approach to NASA Blvd. would be a five lane undivided road.

Mr. Kristoff replied that segment of roadway has a raised divider and although displacement isn't necessary a right turn lane would be desired by 2035.

Ms. Meehan asked if residents of Lamplighter Village will have input on the alignment of Ellis Road.

Mr. Kristoff responded yes, Lamplighter residents' questions and input are being addressed, and are primarily drainage concerns.

Mr. Nelson stated the canal is driving the costs up. He suggested expanding the discussion to find the best solution to drainage for the entire area to solve several problems at once.

Ms. McGehee replied a comprehensive hydrologic study is needed for the area, but is beyond the scope of this PD&E.

Ms. Eley stated the City of West Melbourne has embarked on a two year hydrologic study that should be final very soon. The data could be shared to find the best and most cost effective alternative for the canal.

Mr. Kamm stated the relocation of businesses was addressed at the TAC/CAC meeting, where the concern was for potential loss of jobs, as businesses would get compensated to relocate, but there is no guarantee they would remain in the area. The canal is clearly the cost driver and the Crane Creek drainage district is owned and operated by Brevard County. A multi-jurisdictional analysis could be led by Brevard County and examined by all concerned cities to resolve the drainage issue and perhaps even eliminate the L15 canal and its impacts along Ellis Road.

Mr. Nelson stated we don't want to lock ourselves into a drainage plan that makes a bad system permanent as we may have an opportunity to make the system better.

Mr. Kamm reported the US 192 Feasibility Study tentatively finds that widening US 192 west of Wickham Road is not needed with the four-lane improvement to Ellis Road, thereby saving funds.

Mr. Gougelman stated this is a large undertaking, and asked roughly when Ellis Road might be open.

Ms. McGehee responded finishing the PD&E study is the first step, which will then progress into SIS designation, and funding possibilities for the project. The critical portion of the process will be the right of way costs.

Mr. Kamm stated the project anticipates \$36 million in right of way costs. The utility impact is unknown at this point, but is linked to the right of way concern. The project construction costs are only estimated at \$10 million. To reconfigure the L15 canal and drainage system would lessen the prohibitive right of way costs and resolve the ongoing drainage issues.

Mr. Nickle inquired if this study looked at potential drainage costs outside of the Ellis Road corridor.

Mr. Kristoff responded the construction costs shown in the study provide only for an open canal system along Ellis Road because it exists there now and works best in an equalizer system.

Mr. Kamm stated no action is required by the TPO Board at this point. A resolution or recommendation would be desired later in the PD&E process, and will be presented to the Board again in September.

Item 6C. Staff Report

Mr. Kamm stated the MPO Institute is being held March 30 – April 1 in St. Augustine, and again June 8-10 in Tampa.

Item 6D. Local Government Reports

Mr. Kamm stated there are two submissions from Brevard County for the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, the St. John's Heritage Parkway and a cargo pier at Port Canaveral.

Item 6E. Florida Department of Transportation Report

Ms. Valencia provided an update on current completed projects and projects under construction in Brevard County.

Mr. Williams asked Ms. Valencia to include the status of A1A sidewalks in future reports.

Mr. Kamm stated an interchange at Viera Blvd. has been approved at the Federal level and will be funded by the Viera Company. Safety improvements are scheduled for the interchange at US1 and Pineda Causeway and the additional left turn lane at the northbound off ramp on I-95 at Wickham Road is anticipated to be completed by the end of March.

Item 7A. Communications

Mr. Kamm briefed the Board on I-95 becoming a toll road through North Carolina.

Item 7B. Public Comment

Mr. Randels, Chairman of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) presented a summary of their quarterly meeting.

Mr. Williams suggested holding an annual town hall style meeting to enable the public to be aware of and involved in TPO projects.

Chairman Allender replied it would be considered at the Executive meeting.

Item 8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.