

Minutes

470 Corridor Task Force

Thursday, October 1, 2015 - 10:00 am

Lake~Sumter MPO
1616 South 14th St.
Leesburg, Florida

470 Corridor Task Force Members

Administrators

*Bradley Arnold, Sumter County
David Heath, Lake County
Bill Veach, Lake County
Al Minner, City of Leesburg
*Michael Rankin, City of Leesburg
Bill Cannon, City of Wildwood
Jason McHugh, City of Wildwood

***Members Present**

Others Present

Timothy Sullivan, Lake County BCC, D1
Frank O'Dea, FDOT
Amy Sirmans, FDOT
Mary McGehee, FDOT
Jazlyn Heywood, FDOT
Brian Stanger, FDOT
Vickie Wyche, FDOT

Staff

*DC Maudlin, City of Leesburg
*Richard Baier, Sumter County
*Jim Stivender, Lake County
*Fred Schneider, Lake County
Melanie Peavy, City of Wildwood
Robert Chandler, Lake County
Jada Ciftci, Sumter County

Joseph Sullivan, FHWA
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn
T.J. Fish, Lake~Sumter MPO
Michael Woods, Lake~Sumter MPO
Pam Richmond, Lake~Sumter MPO
Adam Sumner, Lake County
Sally Ferguson, The Villages
Carol and Roland Jarvis, The Villages

OPENING

TJ Fish called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and verified that the meeting was properly noticed. Attendees stated their name and affiliation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TASK FORCE ITEMS

I. Review of Corridor

- Sumter County C-470 – I-75 east to US 301
- Sumter County C-470 – US 301 east to Florida's Turnpike (SR 91)
- Lake County CR 470 – Florida's Turnpike east to CR 48/CR 33 intersection
- Lake County CR 48 – CR 48/CR 33 intersection east to US 27

Mr. Fish reviewed each of the segments of the corridor on the map. He commented the first two segments are the subject of a PD&E Study that is ongoing and a public meeting was held in Lake Panasoffkee this past week with very good attendance. Mr. Fish added the segment from Florida's Turnpike east to CR 48/CR 33 intersection is where the corridor changes the nomenclature from CR 470 to CR 48 from that point east approximately one mile to US 27. CR 470 terminates at the CR 48/33 intersection. He added that the 470 Corridor refers to both CR 470 and CR 48 from I-75 in

Sumter County east to US 27 in Lake County. He discussed the large areas of potential development along the corridor, some entitled and some planned, including Landstone, the City of Leesburg's Commerce Park and Secret Promise. Regarding the PD&E study, Mr. Fish reported it is an ongoing study and nothing is predetermined. The Long Range Transportation Plan states this roadway is a candidate to potentially be widened over time as funds are available. The funding mechanisms that will lead to improvements along the corridor will be discussed under strategies for improving the corridor. Resulting from the PD&E study will be alternatives out of which the preferred alternative will be selected by the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners. One of the alternatives will be the no-build alternative which would result in no improvements. The study is also examining alternatives for the intersection of C-470 and US 301, not just the current jog of C-470 onto US 301 but also how SR 471 will interact with US 301 and C-470.

II. Strategies for Improving the Corridor

Sumter County

- C-470 Project Development and Environment Study – underway
- Preliminary Engineering – FY 2019/20
- Eligibility for Federal and State Funding

Mr. Fish began the discussion on the potential strategies for improving the corridor.

Mary McGehee discussed the kick off meeting and other meetings that have been held with major stakeholders including the mining companies in the area which are concerned about their need for mining equipment crossing C-470. They have also met with SECO concerning the potential impacts to that property. She added that SECO appears open to alternatives that may not have been supported when an earlier study was conducted five years ago.

Mr. Fish stated after the PD&E is complete and the preferred alternative is selected by Sumter County that preliminary engineering is now programmed in FY 2019/20. He emphasized the study area does include a portion of the corridor in Lake County as CR 470 crosses Florida's Turnpike; the study eastern limit is the eastern ramps at the Turnpike.

Lake County

- CR 470/CR 48 PD&E Study and Design – complete
- Eligibility for State Funding

Fred Schneider reported Lake County completed the PD&E study about seven years ago and then completed design and permitting. He provided an update on the ROW acquisition and the purchase of stormwater ponds. The only pond site remaining to be acquired is west of the Turnpike. He added that he anticipated FDOT is going to assume design and permitting of that site.

Mr. Fish explained the eligibility for funding is different in each county. As a result of a meeting with FDOT during the summer, it was agreed that the Sumter County portion will be eligible for both state and federal funds as a result of the PD&E study being a federalized study. He explained that because Lake County did not go through the federalized process of studying and designing CR 470, the Lake County portion of the corridor would be eligible for state funds only. The only other option would be to start over the study, design and ROW acquisition through the federal process, which is not a desirable option.

Frank O'Dea concurred on the funding eligibility of the segments in each county. He commented on the segment between the Turnpike and I-75 as having independent utility and that it makes sense the section of highway to connect those two SIS facilities, the Turnpike and I-75, and that is why FDOT agreed to conduct the federalized study. He added that FDOT can take advantage of any work that has already been done by Lake County and look to use state funds and capitalize on the work that's already been completed to date. This would result in it becoming a state facility to

US 27. Mr. O'Dea confirmed that the entire corridor from I-75 to US 27 would become SR 470. After the completion of construction to four lane SR 48 in Bushnell, a jurisdictional transfer will take place and the state would take over 470. Discussion ensued and Mr. Schneider commented there will still need to be a plan update of the engineering plans. Mr. O'Dea added the biggest concern by FDOT is with the curves to make sure they meet their current standards and they may have to do some tweaking. Fred Schneider said it was coordinated with City of Leesburg through their Commerce Park as far as how they wanted the curves to work. He added he thought they had a 45-mile-per-hour design speed.

III. Strategy for Jurisdictional Exchange of the Corridor

Mr. Fish added the SR 48 project is in construction phase in Bushnell between I-75 and Main St. He commented he hadn't realized the SR 48 designation takes a turn south onto Main Street to meet up with US 301 and wanted to verify the eastern limit is part of the jurisdictional exchange. It was confirmed it is part of the transfer. Frank O'Dea stated construction bids open in October and FDOT expects by the summer of 2017 that SR 48 will be improved. That would be the timeframe he would expect to begin the process for the jurisdictional exchange.

IV. Status of SR 48 Widening Project

TJ Fish reported the four-laning project was now in the construction phase and that he was encouraged that the completion date could be as early as summer of 2017.

V. Status of US 301 PD&E Study

Jazlyn Heywood discussed the highlights of the project. She stated the project limits extend from CR470 west to SR44 in Wildwood. She added for most of the corridor it is a relatively straightforward PD&E Study. The study will look at widening to the east and to the west of the current alignment. The City of Coleman has concerns there is no best fit through the middle of the community because a four-lane typical section would practically wipe out Coleman. She said FDOT will show the public what happens if a 4-lane typical section is taken through Coleman, but will also look at a truck route to bypass the City of Coleman. Ms. Heywood pointed out the possible bypass on the map to the east and south of the City of Coleman. She stated that in the analysis they will have to look at the possibility of two roundabouts and she wanted everyone to be aware. She added they have been coordinating with the Turnpike Enterprise and they want to look at improving the existing interchange within the current ROW footprint. She said they will be looking at three different interchange configurations. Ms. Heywood reported the Turnpike also wants FDOT to look at access management in the area as they are having a lot of issues and they are trying to figure out an interim solution. She reported on the public involvement to date and provided the website information: US301Sumter.com. She added the next public meeting is scheduled March 2016. The three interchange configurations will be brought to the public for public input. Design funding is programmed for FY 2017/18.

Mary McGehee discussed SECO and the use of their property for storing and staging vehicles, which also cross US 301. She added they have quite a bit of property in the area and their biggest concern is access management, they want to be sure to coordinate driveway openings. She added it is good timing as SECO is in the process of relocating their customer service facility. Concepts were discussed, including a new alignment of SR 471 to the north to C-470. More meetings are planned and the opportunity is there for good coordination. The amount of truck traffic was discussed and some felt that the truck factor was higher than average. Ms. McGehee added they are also looking at multimodal opportunities and certainly want to include bike facilities.

Mr. Fish commented on CR 501 area that is under study now. Richard Baier provided the study limits, C-470 to C-468, and added the final meeting is scheduled Oct. 27 at Colony College at 4 p.m. The meeting will provide the opportunity for the public to see the entirety of the study and provide input. The board will convene and come up with the preferred alternative. He commented it is a part of the overall grid system in Sumter County.

VI. Project Development of Future I-75 Interchange with CR 514

Amy Sirmans reported the district has reviewed the Interchange Justification Report and the consultant is incorporating the comments. Pam Richmond stated it will be ready to go to Central Office the end of the week. Jazlyn Heywood commented she is the Project Manager for the pending PD&E study as well and it will be advertised next year. Pam Richmond stated the IJR submittal was basically ready and there was some discussion about the language back to the purpose and needs statement. Otherwise, it appeared ready for Central Office review and approval. Ms. Sirmans added that the ETDM project screen has been launched and is under review now. Mr. Fish stated there is no real access to the west as it dead ends. The interchange will be oriented to east to CR 525E. Bradley Arnold added the county will be constructing the connecting road, CR 525E, without state support. The road would begin at US 301 and extend through an industrial area northwest to CR 514 connecting to Monarch Ranch to the north. The scope related to the study of the interchange will focus within the particular boundaries of the interchange. Sumter County has funds for survey, design and initial construction of the county road connection with no state or federal funds. Joe Sullivan questioned how this interchange is justified. Bradley Arnold commented that on the east side of I-75 there are two principal landowners supporting the large employment center and huge traffic generator. The economic development project is focusing on the distribution by truck aspect but it also provides opportunity for rail as well. A mixture of DOT, SIS and Turnpike funds is anticipated.

VII. Economic Development Opportunities

City of Wildwood

- Entitled Developments: Southern Oaks, Landstone, Wildwood Springs

City of Leesburg

- Development Opportunities

VIII. Other Regional Transportation Projects Near the 470 Corridor

- I-75 widening to six lanes – Hernando County to C-470; C-470 to Florida's Turnpike
Mr. Fish stated construction phase has begun from Hernando County Line to C-470, with some interchange work underway. C-470 to Turnpike to follow next year.
- I-75/Florida's Turnpike Interchange
It was reported that there is a small delay involving the design concept.
- C-468 widening to four lanes and C-468 interchange with Florida's Turnpike
Mr. Fish stated planned with obligation to construct in future.
- Long-term plan for Florida's Turnpike widening
Mr. Fish stated PD&E now being further updated, 8 laning thru Lake County into Sumter County, originally tapered to 6 lanes, was told managed lanes was being added to the PD&E Study. The turnpike widening timing is tied to funding. Jazlyn Heywood added Turnpike is updating study.

IX. Task Force Member Comments

Michael Rankin provided update on the Leesburg Commerce Park and commented on the alignment of the curve on 470 needing to be addressed as soon as possible. Frank O'Dea commented the western portion section from Turnpike through the commerce park area could be segmented so that portion was done sooner. In terms of our perspective within that western half of the project has much more interest for FDOT. TJ Fish added the MPO is in process of developing 2040 LRTP and the plan will be adopted by December 9. He reviewed the Cost-Feasible projects included in the plan, which include 470 and US 301.

Jazlyn Heywood commented that before going to the public FDOT always takes it to the local agencies first to get input then to the committees and MPO/TPO boards.

Commissioner Sullivan commented on Economic Development and its importance in Lake County. He commended Sumter County for being ahead of the curve. He stated that transportation is key to moving forward.

Adam Sumner commented on cross departmental and cross county lines of communication. Recently sat down with the Sumter County team and compared notes. He focused on building relationships to make the whole region better. He added the Wings and Wild Flowers Festival is this weekend. The Coreslab Groundbreaking is Oct. 13, at 2pm.

Jim Stivender commented on the history of the various projects on the agenda and how they relate to Lake County. Discussed the future study on impact fees and the November 3 sales tax vote.

Bradley Arnold commented he appreciates the FDOT team and their coordination efforts. He added the public participation process has been really good. He congratulated Lake County Economic Development and City of Leesburg for their new business.

Richard Baier commented on the map that was presented on the screen and how it shows the grid system on a macro scale. He was glad to see the echoing of the importance to look at a project in its entirety and from the public's perspective it is great to see it all laid out at one time on one board.

Mary McGehee commented on the project as a whole, and that it is a good time to do collaboration on projects. She added on the 470 PD&E Study schedule that the team is looking at Location, Design, Concept and Acceptance, (LDCA) for May, 2018. We are working hard to expedite the schedule as quickly as possible. FDOT has been working with FHWA doing roundtable reviews on documents. The goal is to move everything forward as quickly as possible.

TJ Fish asked for comments from the public and Joe Sullivan commented on the outstanding collaboration overall. He added the forethought, planning, economic development, and the logistics of grid system all the comments are fantastic but need to be shown as an argument to get the federal funds, adding that is why he attended the meeting. He added he appreciated hearing everything. Mr. Fish thanked him for attending and commented for the interchange justification he knows how much Pam Richmond has been working with so many in the room to make it a reality.

Amy Sirmans thanked Joe Sullivan for coming down from Tallahassee on such short notice.

TJ Fish thanked everyone for attending.

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.