

MINUTES

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization South Lake Task Force Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2014
Clermont City Hall
685 W. Montrose Street, Clermont, Florida

Governing Board

★Commissioner Tim Sullivan, Lake County, D1
★Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County, D2
★Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame, City of Clermont
★Council Member Dina Sweatt, City of Groveland
★Mayor Tony Rosado, City of Mascotte
★Mayor Pat Kelly, City of Minneola
Council President Joe Wynkoop, Town of Montverde

Administrators

David Heath, Lake County
Darren Gray, City of Clermont
★Redmond Jones, City of Groveland
Jim Gleason, City of Mascotte
★Mark Johnson, City of Minneola
Mary Mason, Town of Montverde

TAC (staff)

Fred Schneider
Amye King
Dottie Keedy
Ken Harley
★Jim Hitt
★Catherine Howard
★Aaron Mercer

CAC (citizens)

★Steve Ferrell
Brian Herman
Susy Gibson
★George Rosario
Jeff Boykin

BPAC (bike/ped)

Scot Hartle
Bryan Davis
Roy Pike
Kelly Price

★ Member Present

OPENING

Commissioner Sean Parks, MPO Chairman Elect, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

AGENDA UPDATE

None

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Public Transportation

a. LYNX Routes – Link 55 and Link 204

Link 55 – with the recent adjustments to services, there has been a dialogue between staff at LYNX and Lake County Public Transportation, the MPO staff is recommending to the County Manager that any further discussion would need to be a chairman-to-chairman, rather than staff. That would require a meeting with the LYNX's chairman who at this time is Mayor Buddy Drier.

Link 204 – is currently operating 2 buses in the morning and 2 buses in the evening. Staff will continue to monitor the route's performance before making a recommendation to the commission. Depending on the status of 204, a future connection to the Park & Ride lot in Minneola could be made. Dina Sweatt stated that there is a lot of confusion for potential riders of Link 204. She sent a newsletter

out to her community showing where the stops are located along the express route but there is a lack of advertisement and community outreach that prevents the increase in ridership. T.J. Fish suggested that a full News Release should be done about each of the routes.

Meanwhile staff continues to recommend a "Memorandum of Understanding" with LYNX to deal not only with Link 55 and 204 but all future partnerships with LYNX. This memorandum would state that Lake County would receive the 5307 funds annually. These funds would then be used in partnership with LYNX to provide specified services. The lack of representation in the LYNX board was also discussed.

b. Future SR 50 LakeXpress Service

The importance of the having this "Memorandum of Understanding" in place is that it is the 5307 funds that will allow for the SR 50 service to begin. So prior to the County Commission approval to purchase new buses, these details need to be worked out with LYNX. There are some tasks that need to be completed such as prepping the bus stops/shelters and ordering the buses and testing them for road-readiness once we have assurance with the 5307 funds. The priority is to get SR 50 (Route 5) operational. The next priority is to provide service to the City of Minneola through a new circulator, which would connect to Route 5 and the Park & Ride lot.

c. Municipal Role in Funding

The focus is on immediate needs and available funds for placing the infrastructure before working with each municipality. The Lake County Transportation and the MPO will work on a list of priorities stops and shelter locations with each municipality. In the long term, each municipality will be responsible for creating their own list of priorities for additional stops and shelter locations, which would require a 50% match. This policy was drafted and will be presented to the Technical Adversary Committee for comments. Lake County staff is also reviewing it along with the County Attorney.

The County already has a contract and policy for advertisement for buses, which could be carried over to the stops and shelters. Commissioner Sean Parks requested an update on the advertising policy to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Minneola Interchange

a. North Hancock Road Extension – CR Old 50 North to Fosgate Rd
This two-lane connection for 2016 is developer driven.

b. Interchange – Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Project
Some long-term funding strategies were discussed.

c. North Hancock Road Extension – Interchange north of CR 561A
This is a developer driven project.

d. Citrus Grove Road – Public/Private Partnership
T.J. Fish stated that the MPO staff would continue to work with FDOT to have the preliminary design phase advanced.

3. Wellness Way Sector Plan

Commissioner Sean Parks gave an update on the meeting held on January 28 and stated that no decisions were made on the Wellness Way Sector Plan. He stated that this is an ongoing process and

that they will be having a meeting with the City of Clermont in March or April to discuss their concerns with some of the proposed changes. The functions of a sector plan were also discussed in detail.

4. Lake-Orange Parkway (US 27-SR 429 Connector)

a. FDOT Role in Project Development

Briefly discussed including the programmed alternative corridors evaluation that looked at the whole sector plan proposed roadway network and the toll feasibility study.

b. Status of Private LLC Application for State Infrastructure Bank Loan

No new updates were available.

c. Status of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Toll Feasibility Study

This study will analyze the potential of a facility between Clermont and Winter Garden.

5. Status of County Road Projects and Funding

There were no questions on specific county road projects and/or funding. Jim Hitt mentioned that the Hancock Rd extension is expected to be out to bid in June/July and that Lake County hopes to start construction in late August or September. T.J. Fish reviewed some of the priorities for future county road projects.

6. Status of State Road Projects and Funding

There were no questions on specific state road projects and/or funding. T.J. Fish mentioned that FDOT might be able to advance the US 27 (from Bobby Marsh Rd to Lake Louisa Rd) widening project if their projected funds are confirmed. He also stated that the MPO will later request a study on US 27 from the Minneola City Hall up to the Leesburg/Groveland ramps to determine if widening is needed. T.J. Fish reviewed some of the priorities for future state road projects.

7. Trail Projects and Funding

a. South Lake Trail – Clermont to Silver Eagle Road (South Lake High School)

Currently under construction.

b. South Lake Trail – Silver Eagle Road to SR 33

Right-of-Way and construction funding are needed. Since this is part of the Coast-to-Coast trail, the MPO is requesting that FDOT purchase the ROW.

c. South Lake Trail – SR 33 to CR 565 (Villa City Road)

Design and construction of this segment is part of the realignment project.

d. South Lake Trail – Villa City Road to Van Fleet Trail in Sumter County

Currently in design the design phase but not yet programmed. The MPO is also requesting that FDOT program it as soon as possible. He explained that there is a state program called "The Local Agency Program" that gives out grants and either the City or the County manages the project. The reason we are requesting that FDOT design it instead of turning it over to Public Works is that the Coast-to-Coast trail will be completed in a more efficient manner if this portion is a FDOT project.

e. South Sumter Trail – Van Fleet Trail to Withlacoochee State Trail

The MPO is asking FDOT to study it because it will cross two counties and two FDOT districts. The MPO is requesting that they take the lead in not only designing it but also buying the ROW.

8. Safe School Access Transportation Study

Study is posted online. A matrix database was built to prioritize needs for all schools. This tool is already generating responses with the cities and districts.

TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

George Rosario, City of Groveland CAC Member, expressed his concern regarding information he receives at the MPO's CAC meetings. He regularly reports to the Groveland City Council, and he also translates into Spanish for radio broadcast to the Latino community. He requested that staff verify that the reports he has given are accurate.

Jamie Hanja, City of Clermont resident, stated that Mike Woods was working on a portal for the website where citizens can make comments on road projects. She wanted an update on the progress. T.J. Fish stated that the MPO is working on modifying the website to include this feature.

Commissioner Sean Parks congratulated the MPO director and staff on the annual awards dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.