Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (SCTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)



Center for Collaboration

1100 Rockledge Blvd., Rockledge, Florida 32955

Meeting Date: July 8, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Executive Director's Report
- 4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval RE: TAC/CAC Meeting Minutes May 6, 2024
 - B. Approval RE: Work Order 25-15K, 2024-25 Traffic Data Report and Analysis

5. Actions

- A. Adoption RE: 25-01, FY 25 29 Transportation Improvement Program
- B. Approval RE: Resolution 25-02, FY 24 28 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment
- C. Adoption RE: FY 2025 List of Project Priorities

6. Presentations

- A. Malabar Road PD&E
- B. Best Foot Forward Program Update from Bike/Walk Central Florida
- C. Sebastian Bridge Update

7. Reports

- A. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report
- B. Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Advisory Committee (BPTAC) Report
- C. Space Coast Area Transit Report
- D. Public Engagement Report
- E. Local Government Report

8. Adjourn

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Bostel, Steven (ALT); Space Florida

Corwin, Todd (ALT); City of Melbourne

Eliadis, Chris; Brevard County Emergency Management

Fischer, Christy (ALT); City of West Melbourne

Graham, Cliff; Melbourne Orlando Airport

Jarusiewick, Michael (ALT); City of Rockledge

Kohler, Richard; Town of Malabar

Mahaney, Jason; Town of Grant-Valkaria

McMunigal, Mike; St. Johns River Water Management

Miller, Lexi; City of Cape Canaveral Morgan, Abigail (ALT); City of Cocoa

Musser, Robert (ALT); Canaveral Port Authority
Narvaez-Lugo, Veronica; Canaveral Port Authority

Ofosu, Kwabena; City of Titusville

Swanson Devin; Brevard County Public Works

Swanke, Stephen; Brevard County Planning & Development

Szabo, Steve; Space Florida

Watanabe, Frank (ALT); City of Palm Bay

Citizen Advisory Committee Members Present:

Fielding, Eric; City of Melbourne

Friedlander, Terri (ALT); BoCC District 4

Fusscas, Peter; BoCC District 4
Grillo, Vincent; BoCC District 4
Honeycutt, Rodney; BoCC District 1
Kohler, Adam; BoCC District 1
Neuman, David; City of Melbourne

Petyk, Pete; City of Titusville Twigg, Ginger; BoCC District 5 Stapleton, Rebecca; BoCC District 1

Stoll, Greg, City of Cocoa

Weinberg, Philip; City of Palm Bay Whitten, Laura, City of Titusville

Wrazen, Michael; Canaveral Port Authority

Others Present:

Anderson, Mackenzie: Bike/Walk Central Florida

Carter, Laura; Space Coast TPO staff Flynn, Debbie; Space Coast TPO staff Freeman, John; Kittelson & Associates

Gillette, Georganna, Space Coast TPO staff

Hills, Travis; *Kittelson & Associates* Holder, Tonya; *City of Palm Bay*

Jacobs, Conroy; TMC

Koppernolle, Chuck; FDOT

Kraum, Sarah; Space Coast TPO staff

McCall, John; City of Palm Bay

McNeely, Zoe; Space Coast TPO staff

Scarfe, Jon; FDOT

Villatoro, Shelby; Space Coast TPO staff

Agenda Items:

<u>Item 1. Call to Order of the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committees and Pledge of Allegiance</u>

Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Cliff Graham, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Public Comment

None.

Item 3. Executive Director's Report

Georganna Gillette, SCTPO Executive Director, shared a recent Dangerous by Design report of the most dangerous metro areas by population. The Palm Bay – Titusville metro area is 1 of 2 areas that saw a decrease in their percentage of pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people, Florida has a total of 8 out of 20 top metro areas that are the most dangerous.

Consent Agenda:

<u>Item 4A. Approval RE: TAC/CAC Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024</u> <u>Item 4B. Approval RE: Work Order 25-15K, 2024-25 Traffic Data Report and Analysis</u>

TAC motion by Steve Szabo, second by Devin Swanson, to approve all items of the Consent Agenda. CAC motion by Gregg Stoll, second by Eric Fielding, to concur with the TAC motions. Hearing no objections, the CAC motion passed unanimously. The TAC motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

<u>Item 5A. Adoption RE: Resolution 25-01, FY 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program</u>

Georganna Gillette, Executive Director, presented Resolution 25-01, FY 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally required multi-year program that prioritizes transportation improvement projects for federal, state, and local matching funds to be implemented in Brevard County over the next five years.

It lists specific projects and anticipated schedules and costs. The TIP puts the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) into action and is also the capital improvement element of the LRTP. Once approved by the Space Coast TPO Governing Board, projects in the TIP must be financially constrained, have undergone a series of evaluations, and include input and suggestions from the public. The TIP has been posted and sent out in various news releases for a 30 day public comment.

An open house took place on June 12, 2024, at the Center for Collaboration to discuss TIP projects, answer questions and listen to citizens. The Final TIP document for FY 25 – FY 29 and video recording from the Open House can be found at the following link: Transportation Improvement Program.

TAC motion by Christy Fischer, second by Jason Mahaney to adopt Resolution 25-01, FY 25 – 29 Transportation Improvement Program. CAC motion by Adam Kohler, second by Peter Fuscas, to concur with the TAC motions. Hearing no objections, the CAC motion passed unanimously. The TAC motion passed unanimously.

<u>Item 5B. Approval RE: Resolution 25-02, FY 24 – 28 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment</u>

Georganna Gillette, Executive Director, presented Resolution 25-02, FY 24 – 28 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment. The Florida Department of Transportation has requested an amendment to the adopted FY 24 – FY 28 Transportation Improvement Program to align with the Department's Work Program.

A project must be included in the approved TIP and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the FHWA and the FTA to participate in the cost of any federally funded transportation project.

The TIP reflects the TPO's priorities, consistent with port and aviation master plans, transit development plans and local government comprehensive plans, and are selected in part based on the public comment received under the TPO's Public Participation process. Projects in the amendment include US 1 from Myers Drive to Crane Creek Bridge and I-95 Northbound from Malabar Road to north of Fiske.

Gregg Stoll asked if there is a decline in cost increases for projects. Gillette replied that it appears as if the Department is seeing stabilization in the construction industry, but supply chain issues continue to affect projects.

Christy Fischer asked for clarification on the description for the I-95 repaving and the location "North concrete joint". Gillette replied that she did not have the answer to that question, and it was a description provided by FDOT. Pete Petyk contributed that there is a portion of the road that is concrete and there is a joint between the asphalt and concrete north of Fiske.

TAC motion by Devin Swanson, second by Robert Musser to approve Resolution 25-02, FY 24 – 28 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment. CAC motion by Ginger Twigg, second by Gregg Stoll, to concur with the TAC motions. Hearing no objections, the CAC motion passed unanimously. The TAC motion passed unanimously.

Item 5C. Adoption RE: FY 2025 List of Project Priorities

Sarah Kraum, Senior Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the FY 2025 List of Project Priorities. After TPO Adoption, the prioritized list is transmitted to FDOT for funding consideration for the FY 26 through FY 30 Tentative Work Program.

Pursuant to s. 339.175(8), Florida Statutes, the Space Coast TPO must annually adopt a list of transportation system priority projects and transmit the list to FDOT for use in developing the next draft Five-Year Work Program and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The SCTPO Priority Projects are consistent with the goals, objectives, and values of the TPO's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan. Annually the TPO solicits requests for state and federally funded candidate projects from local governments and transportation agencies. Projects are then scored and ranked based upon the most currently adopted criteria.

The SCTPO Transportation Subcommittee met on May 1, 2024, to review the draft list of projects and recommended the project list presented today, be considered for adoption. The draft list was presented to the TAC/CAC on May 6, 2024, Governing Board on May 16, 2024, and BPTAC on June 24, 2024. The TPO also held its annual Open House on June 12, 2024, to receive input on proposed projects from the public.

Adam Kohler asked if there was a reason that projects #3 and #4 on SR 528 is broken into two parts. Georganna Gillette replied that when the Department was conducting the design phase, they had separated into two sections, but she does not remember the reasoning. Perhaps the thought was if there is only one section that could move forward with funding then it would give them the ability to do so. Adam Kohler commented that consideration may want to be given to breaking up other projects into multiple parts.

Pete Petyk commented that some projects are broken up because the parts may move faster than they would individually. Petyk also commented on a trail that runs up the spine of Brevard County and asked if there is a roadblock from Brevard County Public Works as far as who would maintain the trail. Sarah Kraum replied that a municipality needs to bring the project forward and none have at this point. Gillette commented that an application would need to be submitted, it would be added to the priority list and then go about trying to secure funding. Kraum commented that there are two projects currently in the works for the East Coast Greenway. Kraum explained more about the process of trail project applications and funding opportunities, and she is happy to present further on trail projects and meet with any interested entities. Petyk asked how interest could be stirred in the Governing Board to apply for a project. Gillette replied that this can be discussed during meetings with Brevard County staff when reviewing County priorities.

TAC motion by Christy Fischer, second by Jason Mahaney to adopt the FY 2025 List of Project Priorities. CAC motion by Pete Petyk, second by Adam Kohler, to concur with the TAC motions. Hearing no objections, the CAC motion passed unanimously. The TAC motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

Item 6A. Malabar Road PD&E

Travis Hills, Kittelson & Associates, presented the Malabar Road PD&E presentation. The City of Palm Bay began working on the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) phase of widening Malabar Road from the St. Johns Heritage Parkway to

Minton Road in late 2019. This project is funded in part with federal funds and under the Local Agency Program (LAP).

The purpose of the PD&E study is to evaluate alternatives addressing the long-term transportation needs of Malabar Road. The alternatives being considered involve widening Malabar Road from two to four lanes, the addition of bicycle and pedestrian features, and intersection and safety improvements.

The PD&E Study process involves a combination of engineering evaluations, environmental analysis, and public involvement. A virtual public meeting was held on September 24, 2020 to provide citizens an opportunity to review study progress made to date. The final public meeting will be scheduled in the fall of 2024.

A summary of the project, initial alternatives being evaluated, and schedule will be presented by the consultant. For more information, please visit the City of Palm Bay's project website at the following link: Malabar Road PD&E Study

Christy Fischer asked what led to the assumption that traffic would double. Travis Hills replied that it was not an assumption, but it was from the traffic forecasting and future growth rates of the area.

Philip Weinberg asked how access is going to be provided to the canal at Melbourne Tillman. Travis Hills replied that they have been coordinating with Mike McCabe and that all the existing access points are being maintained. Weinberg commented that the roundabouts are a concern for the maintenance equipment. Jack Freeman, Kittelson & Associates Project Manager, commented that the canal is shifting to the north and maintenance has been coordinated.

Ginger Twigg asked about the projected speed limit and pointed out that she does not see any projections for on road facilities for cyclists. Travis Hills confirmed that the speed limit will be 45 mph and that there are no on road cyclist facilities. He commented that there is flexibility to take bicycle facilities off the roadway with higher speed limits and move them into shared use paths where it is a more comfortable riding experience.

Georganna Gillette commented a reminder that this Malabar Road project is not a state road which poses a challenge to find other funding. She commended the City of Palm Bay for their proactivity in securing Right of Way over the years, leaving only a small amount to be acquired.

Adam Kohler asked for clarification on the position of the roundabouts. Frank Watanabe responded that the signals and roundabouts will eventually be tied into an ITS system. Adam Kohler asked how much was added to the cost of the project by moving the bicycle paths off the main road. Travis Hills did not have those numbers. Frank Watanabe explained the thought process behind the design of this project and the inclusion of multimodal facilities.

Item 6B. Best Foot Forward Program Update from Bike/Walk Central Florida

Kenzie Anderson, Bike/Walk Central Florida, presented on the Best Foot Forward (BFF) Pedestrian Safety Program, which uses engineering, enforcement, and education to get

more drivers stopping for people in crosswalks. Over the past decade, driver yield rates at BFF-monitored Central Florida crosswalks have increased from 17% to 50%.

In 2024, in collaboration with FDOT's Target Zero initiative, BFF expanded its program operations into Brevard County. During their presentation, they will review their program methodology and highlight recent crosswalk enforcement efforts across the Space Coast. More information about the BFF program and their results can be found on their website at www.iyield4peds.org.

Eric Fielding asked for clarification regarding safety signage. Kenzie Anderson explained the implementation process and effects of different signage.

Vincent Grillo asked about crosswalk features that could make crossings more obvious for drivers. Kenzie Anderson replied that Bike/Walk Central Florida are advocates for "no right on red" and that has been effective in avoiding pedestrian collisions.

Ginger Twigg asked if there are any impacts from the Leading Pedestrian Intervals. Kenzie Anderson replied that there is one LPI in Seminole County and it is still in process, and she does not have further information.

Lexi Miller commented that Cape Canaveral is partnering with Best Foot Forward for high visibility enforcements, data collection, and outreach and that the insight has been valuable.

Eric Fielding made a comment about the habit of pedestrians to avoid crossing until all cars are out of the roadway. Kenzie Anderson replied that she understands where this habit is coming from but that it reinforces the incorrect notion that drivers have the right of way.

Cliff Graham commented that we often hear the term "drive defensively" but pedestrians and bicyclists must also be defensive.

Devin Swanson commented that Traffic Operations have implemented improvements based on the enforcements completed on Stadium Parkway.

Item 6C. Sebastian Bridge Update

Binod Basnet, FDOT Project Manager, and Ian Biava, TranSystems Consultant Project Manager, presented a summary of the Sebastian Bridge project. The Florida Department of Transportation in District 4 has been conducting the Design phase and identification of right of way needs for the replacement and upgrading of the Sebastian Inlet Bridge on SR A1A. Located at the Brevard and Indian River County line, the new bridge will address structural and functional deficiencies of the existing bridge and address the gap in the system linkage for bicyclist and pedestrians. More information can be found on the project website at the following link: <u>Sebastian Bridge Update</u>.

Steve Szabo asked the reason for going from a 39 foot bridge to a higher height but not to 65 feet and if there is a need for pedestrian access on both sides of the road given the rural location of the project. Ian Biava responded regarding the pedestrian features that there will be a continuous connection to the parking lot on the south side of the bridge. There will be continuous north/south shared use paths that go over the bridge and the east side will end with a crosswalk that goes to the north side and the west side will be continuous in line with

the East Coast Greenway. Binod Basnet responded regarding the bridge height, there was a constraint of the height due to potential environmental impacts to the park and this elevation of 51 feet was coordinated and approved by the Coast Guard.

Pete Petyk asked if low profile barrier walls have been considered for pedestrian and bicyclist protection. Ian Biava replied that the consideration for safety for vulnerable road users is the 36 inch high single slope concrete barrier wall for about 3,300 feet. Pete Petyk also asked why the cranes are not on barges that you would typically see over navigable water. Biavia replied that the ocean currents are the reason for the platform instead of the barge and that the load from the currents would be too substantial for a barge.

Devin Swanson commented in response to Pete Petyk on a previous item, that Brevard County maintains most of the sidewalk on A1A from the Sebastian River Bridge to the Pineda Causeway.

Reports:

<u>Item 7A. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report</u>

Chuck Koppernolle, FDOT MPO Liaison, reported to the Space Coast Technical and Citizens Advisory Committee the status of various construction projects and engineering studies currently in progress in Brevard County. Chuck Koppernolle presented on the 2055 Florida Transportation Plan Update, which will be a comprehensive statewide blueprint guiding Florida's 30 year transportation future. This lays the foundation for the Work Program that is updated every 5 years.

Gregg Stoll commented observations about the Clearlake Road project that runs from 520 to Michigan Avenue.

Bob Musser asked for an update on the milling and resurfacing of the western portion of SR-528.

Item 7B. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Advisory Committee (BPTAC) Report

Sarah Kraum, Senior Transportation Planner, reported on Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Trails Advisory Committee (BPTAC) and related Space Coast TPO activities. The BPTAC met on June 24, 2024 to review the FY 2025 List of Project Priorities (LoPP) and to receive a presentation on Brevard County's Housing & Human Services Sharpes Trail.

<u>Item 7C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)</u> Report

There was no report for the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board. Georganna Gillette commented that the highlights from the May TDLCB meeting can be found in the agenda package.

Item 7D. Public Engagement Report

The Space Coast TPO's Public Involvement Officer, Abby Hemenway, provided updates on public participation efforts and initiatives. The highlights included National Bike Month outreach efforts, the 2024 SCTPO Staff Retreat, the recent SCTPO Fast Forward Workshops, and the recent Shape Your Station Survey results. The upcoming public outreach social media themes are summer travel safety and back to school safety tips.

Vincent Grillo asked for a timeline on the opening of the Cocoa Brightline station. Georganna Gillette replied that the City of Cocoa submitted the CRISI grant and anticipates a response to the grant before the November election, same with the Ellis INFRA grant. There is an advocacy trip planned to Washington D.C. to advocate and educate about the project.

Item 7E. Local Government Report

None.

Item 8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.