

**DATE:** Monday, May 9, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
8100 15<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Sarasota, Florida 34243



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Password: internet

Paula Wiggins, Chair, Sarasota County

### MEETING MINUTES

Chair Paula Wiggins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Self-introductions were made.

#### Members Present

Amy Anderson, Sarasota County Schools  
Maika Arnold, Town of Longboat Key  
Isaac Brownman, Town of Longboat Key  
Joel Carranza, City of Bradenton  
Alvimarie Corales, City of Sarasota  
Clarke Davis, Manatee County  
Anthony Friedman, City of North Port  
Megan Lui, Sarasota County Area Transit  
Susan Montgomery, Manatee County Area Transit  
Dan Ohrenstein, City of Sarasota  
Kathleen Weeden, City of Venice  
Paula Wiggins, Sarasota County

#### Staff Present

Ryan Brown  
Slade Downs  
Nanette Eubanks  
David Hutchinson  
Wenonah Venter

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Approval of Minutes for February 14, 2022

Chair Paula Wiggins entertained a motion to adopt the minutes.

Ms. Amy Anderson: I move to approve the minutes.

Ms. Kathleen Weeden: I second the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Action Items

- a. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
Mr. Ryan Brown, MPO, stated the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is developed and updated annually as part of the MPO urbanized area transportation planning process in accordance with state

and federal statutes. It provides information to the public and the implementing agencies with regard to the schedule of projects including the MPO priorities.

The process to develop the DRAFT FY 2022/23-2026/27 TIP started in February 2021 when the MPO Board adopted its 2021 Project Priority List. That list was forwarded to the FDOT to prepare its Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program. The TIP also includes regionally significant local projects from the capital improvement programs of MPO member jurisdictions.

The DRAFT FY 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be posted on the MPO website and sent out to various groups including committees and Board Members for review and comment. The complete document may be viewed and downloaded here: <https://www.mympo.org/m/mandates/tip>.

Ms. Alvimarie Corales, City of Sarasota, stated regarding Main Street and Ringling Boulevard roundabouts on US 41, does show up on this TIP, but in the State TIP the project has \$2.5 million in outer years and that is not reflected in this TIP. Mr. Ryan Brown, MPO, responded this was brought up to Ms. Tanya Merkle and Mr Wayne Gaither, of FDOT, where those funds are hopefully will have the answers in a couple of weeks.

Chair Paula Wiggins asked for a description for the 3 Sarasota County projects in the TIP that state “safety approved projects: 1) US 301 from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 2) Fruitville Road at Beneva Road; and 3) SR 683 at University Parkway. She also asked if the safety dollars for Venice Avenue and Pinebrook could be switched to construction. Mr. Ryan Brown responded he would get with Ms. Tanya Merkle, FDOT, (Ms. Merkle is on vacation) to get the answers to Chair Wiggins’ questions.

Mr. Clark Davis: I move to recommend MPO Board adoption of the FY 2022/23-2026/27 TIP including any comments received.

Ms. Alvimarie Corales: I second the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority Lists

Mr. Ryan Brown, MPO, explained the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) was created to improve regionally significant transportation facilities in "regional transportation areas." State funds are available throughout Florida to provide incentives for local governments and the private sector to help pay for critically needed projects that benefit regional travel and commerce. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will pay up to 50 percent of the non-federal share of project costs for public transportation facility projects.

The Sarasota/Manatee MPO has interlocal agreements with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO and the Polk TPO (via the TBARTA MPOs Chairs Coordinating Committee) for joint regional transportation planning and coordination and asks that FDOT attempt to award TRIP funding on an equitable basis.

Mr. Slade Downs, MPO, noted on the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO (CCPG MPO) TRIP List, their #10 project was originally estimated at \$4.5 million but has been updated to \$5 million.

Chair Paula Wiggins requested to reorder the Sarasota County projects on the Joint TRIP List with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO: to #1 from #8 Fruitville Road; to #2 from #7 Lorraine Road from Palmer Boulevard; to #3 from #2 Honore Avenue; and to #4 from #5 Lorraine Road from SR 72/Clark Road; this would not affect ranking of the other projects on the list. Mr. Brown stated this would not be a problem.

Mr. Dan Ohrenstein: I move to recommend MPO Board approval of the Joint TRIP Project Priority Lists with the requested changes.

Ms. Maika Arnold: I second the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports and Presentations (\*Requires Action)

### a. FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters, FDOT, on behalf of Ms. Tanya Merkle, FDOT, reported on the following:

- Vision Zero Workshop on May 4, 2022 at FDOT Manatee Operations Center with excellent participation from emergency and local agencies within Sarasota and Manatee along with sharing of valuable information as we strive towards 0 fatalities on Florida roads.
- Ongoing plans and discussion regarding a new interchange at Yorkshire or Raintree in South Sarasota County and possibly a workshop or retreat being held. Once specifics and details have been finalized a presentation will be given to the MPO.
- A Speed Management Workshop will be held on June 14, 2022, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at FDOT's Southwest Area Office (SWAO), 10041 Daniels Parkway, Ft. Myers. A more local workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2022, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at FDOT Manatee Operations.

### 1. State Road (SR) 780 Fruitville Road Corridor Vision Plan

Ms. Bessie Reina, FDOT, and Mr. Wiatt Bowers (virtual), FDOT, provided a presentation regarding the SR 780 Fruitville Road Corridor Vision Plan:

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is preparing a Corridor Vision Plan for SR 780 (Fruitville Road) in Sarasota County, for a length of approximately 6 miles, US 301 to just east of I-75.
- This plan would evaluate the existing conditions of the corridor including traffic/safety, socioeconomic and cultural resources, and multi-modal connections and opportunities.
- The plan will also assess the land use adjacent to the corridor, local municipal policies (e.g., Community Redevelopment Areas), concurrent planning, and public input.
- The goal is to formulate a Corridor Vision Plan that will be reflective of where the community would like to be and how FDOT, as a partner, can better understand the area's needs.

More information may be found on the project's website: [SR 780 \(Fruitville Road\) Corridor Vision Plan \(swflroads.com\)](https://www.swflroads.com).

### 2. US 41 Corridor Mobility and Safety Study (CMASS)

Ms. Gail Woods, TransSystems, and Mr. Richard "O.J." Oujevolk, FDOT, provided a presentation regarding the US 41 Corridor Mobility and Safety Study (CMASS).

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is conducting projects in partnership with the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and local governments to holistically enhance the multimodal transportation network within Sarasota and Manatee Counties.
- The Sarasota/Manatee US 41 Corridor Mobility and Safety Study (CMASS) is part of this program.
- This project will develop concepts and implementation strategies to enhance multimodal mobility (specifically transit services/operations) and safety for all users along the US 41/US 41 Business corridor between University Parkway in Sarasota and 8th Avenue West in Bradenton.
- The study includes community and agency outreach, data collection, evaluation of existing corridor conditions and corridor/modal usage, and an analysis of feasible improvement strategies.
- The study will ultimately result in concepts to be advanced for implementation.
- Currently, the FDOT study team is gathering data and inviting stakeholder input on the US 41 CMASS goals and objectives and measures of effectiveness.

### 3. Bradenton-Palmetto Connector

Ms. Gail Woods, TransSystems, provided an update to the Bradenton-Palmetto Connector:

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One has kicked off the much-anticipated Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study.
- This ACE study will evaluate feasible corridor alternatives to connect the Cities of Bradenton and Palmetto across the Manatee River and improve regional multimodal mobility, connectivity, and safety for all users, including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, trucks, and transit.
- The need for improved access across the Manatee River was identified as part of the Central Manatee Network Alternatives Analysis (CMNAA) Study in Manatee County, which was a collaboration between FDOT, Manatee County, the Cities of Bradenton and Palmetto, and the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- Following the ACE Study, FDOT District One will evaluate the most feasible project corridors as part of a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study.

- The website for the Study is live: <http://swflroads.com/bpccconnector/faqs.html>

## b. MPO Report

### 1. Destination Zero Update

Mr. Slade Downs, MPO, stated Destination Zero is the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) effort to reduce traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. He announced the City of Holmes Beach unanimously voted to endorse the Destination Zero Action Plan. The Destination Zero Action Plan identifies strategies and actions to help the MPO and its partner agencies achieve its goal. MPOs are uniquely positioned by having the ability to bring together key stakeholders and facilitate regional discussions of safety issues, provide training, and to further embed safety in the regional culture. They can use this unique positioning to emphasize a safety-first approach in planning, design, and policy-setting and can encourage expanded collaboration between state, local, and community partners. The MPO and its partners are taking steps towards committing to Destination Zero and advancing efforts to reduce traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

The MPO has an established long-term objective to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries, with a goal of zero by 2045. To aid in the success of attaining this goal, the MPO developed the Destination Zero Action Plan. The Plan utilized a data-driven approach to identify actionable strategies that consider the 6E's: Engineering; Enforcement; Education; Equity; Emergency Response; and Engagement.

This action plan will serve as the roadmap leading the MPO and its partners to the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes. Additionally, the MPO's efforts lead to strategies and an educational framework for the MPO's partner jurisdictions to catalyze the development of their own plans and efforts. The Destination Zero Action Plan may be found at: <https://www.mympo.org/files/216/DZ-Action-Plan/1547/FINAL-DRAFT--Destination-Zero-Action-Plan.pdf>

### 2. MPO Trails Studies

Mr. Franco Saraceno, Kittelson & Associates, stated the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) kicked off two trail alignment studies on January 17, 2022. The MPO has contracted Kittelson & Associates, Inc. to conduct the two shared-use trail feasibility studies in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The studies will determine feasible alignment options to increase connectivity to the SUN Trail Network and expand our local trail networks. Expanding the trail networks in this area will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, provide more multi modal options, and support the economic vitality of nearby businesses.

To date, informational interviews with over twenty stakeholders in both Counties have been completed; and the first of three Project Advisory Group meetings on April 20th was hosted. In the current project stage, geospatial data are being analyzed, existing conditions are being evaluated, and a public survey is active. The trails studies will include a second public survey, as well as a public workshop. The final product will result in a preferred alignment of the proposed trail connections in each study area.

The study websites and surveys can be found at the following links:

- SR 64/Manatee Avenue Area Study - [www.publicinput.com/ManateeTrailsStudy](http://www.publicinput.com/ManateeTrailsStudy)
- Fruitville Road/University Parkway Area Study - [www.publicinput.com/SarasotaTrailsStudy](http://www.publicinput.com/SarasotaTrailsStudy)

### 3. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Resiliency/Vulnerability Assessment Study

Ms. Colleen McGue and Ms. Kate Widness (virtually) of Kimley-Horn explained that as recommended in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and 2018 Security Assessment Report, the LRTP Resiliency/Vulnerability Assessment Study is underway. The purpose of this project is to develop and apply new methods that integrate resilient corridor planning with transportation planning and decision making in order to assess and mitigate risks from all hazards that affect the Sarasota/Manatee region's transportation system. Vulnerability, risk, and mitigation-evaluation methods and tools are being developed and applied to the region based on lessons-learned and guidance provided by experts, stakeholders, and All-Hazards Recovery Training.

Implementation programs based on these analyses will be developed, including recommendations to incorporate vulnerability into the MPO's project prioritization process. The resulting methods, tools, processes, and recommendations will be documented, and training provided for MPO staff and jurisdictions to develop

transportation resiliency plans for the Sarasota/Manatee transportation system and to enhance local and regional hazard mitigation plans. The Final Report will be presented to the TAC and MPO Board in September.

c. Once Around the Table

- Ms. Megan Lui stated Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) will be going before its Board with information regarding rebranding of SCAT.
- Ms. Alvimarie Corales stated in April the City of Sarasota submitted a RAISE Grant for 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Boulevard of the Arts and should hear back in August. Also, looking to partner for Safe Streets for All funding as a multijurisdictional approach, the City of Sarasota would like to work with the MPO on a partnership and Destination Zero.
- Mr. Ryan Brown noted the new 2 year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is the MPO's budget, is posted on the MPO's website for review and comment.

**Adjourn**

Having no further business, the TAC meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.