Regional Mobility Plan Review



CRTPA Board Discussion

May 20, 2013

DISCUSSION SUMMARY REPORT



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- Margaret Mead

[&]quot;Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. "



I. CRTPA Mission Statement and Meeting Objectives

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the CRTPA is to act as the principal forum for collective transportation policy discussions that result in the development of a long range transportation plan which creates an integrated regional multimodal transportation network that supports sustainable development patterns and promotes economic growth."

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Provide the CRTPA Board with an understanding of the overall long range transportation planning process and requirements
- Provide the CRTPA Board with the background and information on the development of the Regional Mobility Plan and its components

"Plan for the future because that's where you are going to spend the rest of your life."
-Mark Twain

CRTPA Board Meeting: May 20, 2013



II. Board Meeting Agenda Item

CRTPA Agenda Item: Regional Mobility Plan Review and Priority Setting Review

"A discussion of the agency's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan ("The Regional Mobility Plan") and the project priority process utilized as well as a discussion of the upcoming Regional Mobility Plan update and opportunities for input will be discussed."

This agenda item provided information on the regulatory framework and requirements for the development of a Long Range Transportation Plan; an overview and details regarding the planning process of the Regional Mobility Plan, which is the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the CRTPA; details on the various elements included in the Regional Mobility Plan, such as the goals and objectives, preferred growth scenario, and project development and prioritization; and the compliance requirements with FHWA.



III. Discussion Summary

Harry Reed, Executive Director of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, presented the basic background of the agenda item as a response to requested information by the Board. Mr. Reed introduced Beverly Davis, AICP with RS&H, as the consultant project manager for the development of the Regional Mobility Plan.

Regional Mobility Plan Presentation

Ms. Davis presented an overview of the Regional Mobility Plan that began with an outline of the overall planning approach for the effort. It was identified that the planning process would include a future growth analysis, the development of sector plans, and a focus on corridor plans. The Regional Mobility Plan development process incorporated all modes, including the development of the Transit Development Plan for StarMetro.

Ms. Davis presented the planning framework for the plan development, which included the CRTPA Vision and Adopted Guiding Principles, as well as the adoption dates for each of the elements. An overview of the scenario planning process and the development, analysis and adoption of the preferred scenario was also outlined.

An overview of the needs plan development and the project assessment process was also included in the presentation. This information presented the assessment criteria, the development of the project scores and how additional prioritization factors, such as project status, gap closure and financial feasibility were applied.

The financial element process and analysis was outlined. The process included identifying the various sources of information developing anticipated revenues and the project costs. An explanation of the federal financial requirements for the long range plan was provided, including the year of expenditure process, inflation factors, cost bands, and the financial balancing process.

Information regarding the project prioritization process and the development of the draft Cost Feasible Plan was provided, along with an overview of the input received from the public and the CRTPA committees and Board and local governments. The modifications to the draft Cost Feasible based on the input received was also described. An overview of some of the project "anomalies", or projects that were included even with a lower assessment score, and an explanation of why those projects were included was also provided.

Major Discussion Points and Outcomes

There were three main elements of discussion regarding the existing Regional Mobility Plan and the planning process. The major discussion items included the following elements:



1. The overall planning process

This discussion centered primarily on the requirements of the planning process and the development of the Long Range Plan. Several of the Board members were not fully aware of all of the federal requirements and the importance of compliance with these requirements. Mr. Reed explained the state and federal requirements, as well as the review/oversight process to ensure compliance.

The Board also discussed the adopted goals and objectives currently in the plan and the process for developing the Cost Feasible Plan and the identification of projects included in the plan. Ms. Davis explained the process and reiterated the development of the goals and objectives, as well as the project selection, were directed and adopted by the Board. Commissioner Miller noted that the Regional Mobility Plan was a snapshot in time, and that the change is conditions underscores the need for the periodic updates.

Commissioner Procter expressed his frustration with the length of time needed for implementation, as well as with the timeframe for the overall planning process.

2. The inclusion of specific projects in the Cost Feasible Plan

The primary focus of this discussion was on several specific projects, including the sidewalks along Magnolia Avenue, the Quincy By-Pass, and the widening of Crawfordville Road. Ms. Davis explained the financial balancing required in the development of the Cost Feasible Plan, as well as the project assessment process and how those affected the Magnolia sidewalks project. Commissioner Dozier expressed the current need for the sidewalks and asked for further explanation of why the project was not included in the first tier of projects. Ms. Davis explained the financial balancing process and the project cost, along with the project assessment. Commissioner Miller noted the need for the sidewalks, but reiterated that conditions can change from when the plan was developed. Commissioner Miller also noted the change in the Board from when the plan was adopted.

The Quincy By-Pass, its inclusion and its location was also discussed. Mr. Reed explained the funding for the project and why it was included in the Cost Feasible Plan first tier. Commissioner Croley expressed some concern regarding the location of the by-pass and if its current configuration was the most appropriate.

Discussion also included the widening of US 319 and Crawfordville Road. Ms. Davis explained that the project cost was prohibitive and the operational and intersection improvement projects were included to try and alleviate some of the peak hour congestion in the short term. Mr. Reed noted that the plan update would include an assessment of the project, as well as potentially adjusting project staging for a more financially feasible approach.



3. The plan modification process

The Board discussed in depth the plan modification process and how to include projects that were not previously included, such as the Magnolia sidewalk project. Mr. Reed noted the requirements for a plan amendment included public input and public hearing, and a rebalancing of the financial element. There was continued discussion over the modification process and how it could be streamlined.

Commissioner Croley noted that it was important to fully assess the ramifications of modifying the plan. This concern focused on a modification that included a project, such as the Magnolia sidewalks, did not come at the expense of other projects being removed, particularly from the rural counties.

Commissioner Nick Maddox made a motion for staff to provide the Board with a procedure and process for modifying the Cost Feasible Plan in the most efficient manner. Commissioner Proctor seconded the motion, which then was passed unanimously.

Additional Discussion Items

Mr. Reed presented an overview of the approach and elements for the update of the Regional Mobility Plan. The update of the plan includes a focus on freight mobility and the economic benefits of accommodating intermodal freight. The discussion also included the port development at Port St. Joe. Commissioner Croley outlined the importance of the development of the port to the region and its overall economic vitality and made a motion to include coordinating with the Gulf County Port Authority and providing assistance on a future agenda. Commissioner Barfield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CRTPA Board Members Present:

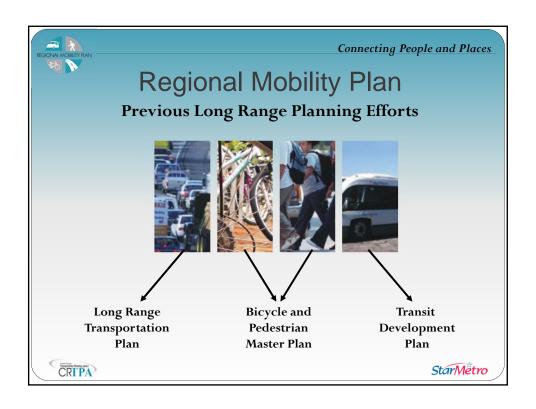
- Commissioner Nancy Miller, City of Tallahassee
- Commissioner Gil Ziffer, City of Tallahassee
- Commissioner Betsy Barfield, Jefferson County
- Commissioner Randy Merritt, Wakulla County
- Commissioner Doug Croly, Gadsden County
- Commissioner John Daily, Leon County
- Commissioner Kristen Dozier, Leon County
- Commissioner Nick Maddox, Leon County
- Commissioner Jane Sauls, Leon County
- Commissioner Bill Proctor, Leon County

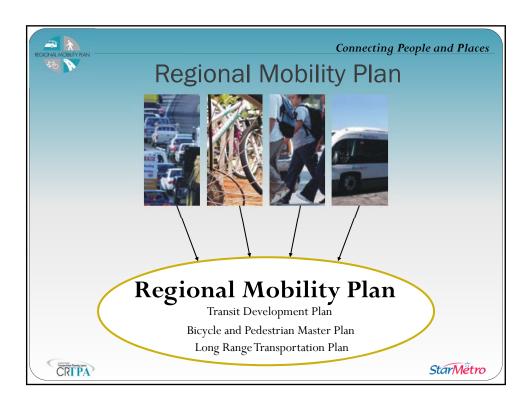


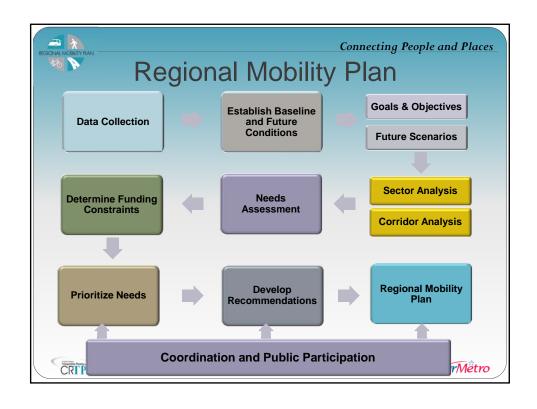
VI. Appendix: Regional Mobility Plan Presentation



















Connecting People and Places

CRTPA Guiding Principles

- The development of the Regional Mobility Plan will utilize a number of traditional and non-traditional methods to ensure that all citizens are fully informed about the planning process and the plan development; that all citizens understand the process and have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way, regardless of ethnicity, age, disability and/or income; and that the input is incorporated as fully as possible.
- The Regional Mobility Plan should be based on a **principle of sustainability** that will serve **all citizens** in the region in the future through an **interconnected**, **safe and secure network**. The integrated transportation network will support a prosperous **regional economy** and help **conserve the region's natural and recreational assets**.
- The plan should identify and enhance the interconnections within the regional transportation network including highway, air, transit, rail, bike and pedestrian modes and digital communication networks that will combine to support a shift in the region towards more transit, bike and pedestrian choices.







Connecting People and Places

CRTPA Guiding Principles

- The plan should support economic competitiveness and prosperity for the Capital Region through active consideration of both transportation and land use policies.
- The plan should identify the important local and regional land use policies and connections
 to the regional transportation system, plan and investments and seek to promote policies that will enhance the
 quality of life in communities of the region.
- The plan should consider the impact of new communication technologies and infrastructure on transportation choices, seek to enhance the opportunities for utilizing technology for promoting regional mobility, support green strategies for energy efficiency, provide stewardship of the region's natural system and anticipate the impact of climate changes for the regional transportation system.



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Connecting People and Places

Future Scenarios

- Assessment of three scenarios
 - Business As Usual
 - Quality Growth
 - Quality Growth "Plus"
- Scenario assessment included identification of land constrained by community and environmental resources
- Quality growth scenarios incorporated progressively more constraints
- Quality growth scenarios also identified future activity centers or growth centers
- Assigned future development to TAZs in these growth centers

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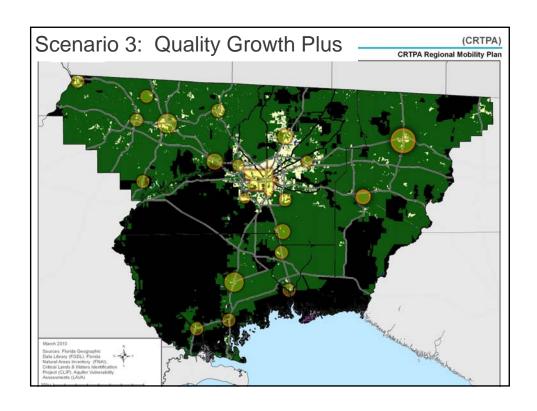
Connecting People and Places

Future Scenarios

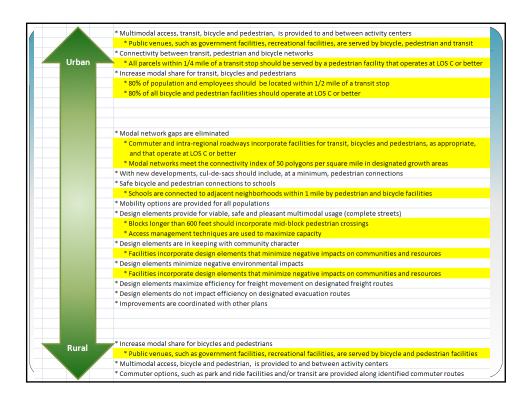
- Identified future transportation impacts for each growth scenario
- Quality Growth Plus chosen as preferred scenario
 - Quality Growth "Plus" scenario incorporated
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Quality Growth Principles
- Preferred scenario compliant with local comprehensive plans and coordinated with local planning staff

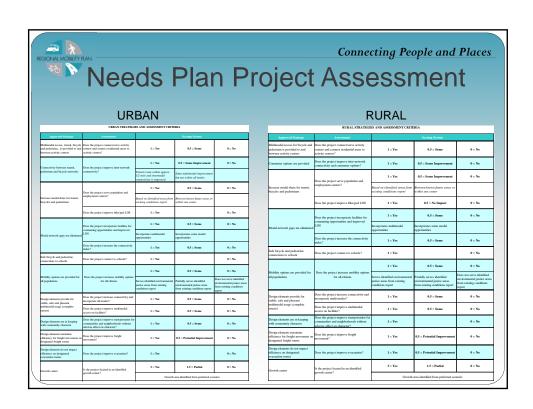


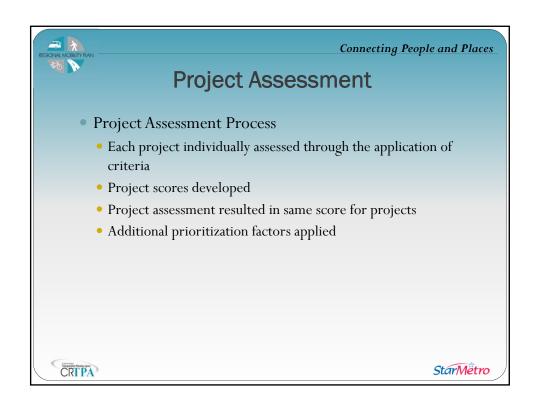
StarMetro

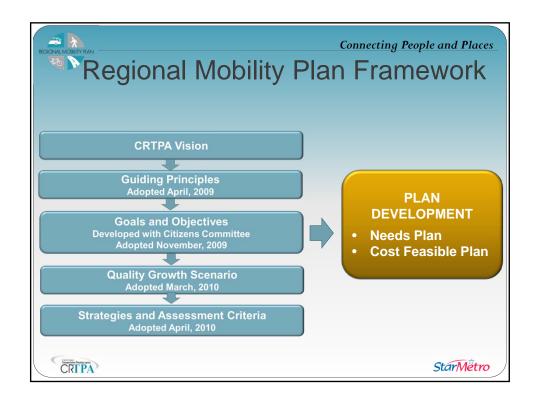


















Connecting People and Places

Financial Resources

- Project costs
 - Received updated FDOT unit costs
 - Developed cost estimates for all Needs Plan projects
 - Received costs from Tallahassee Leon County Planning Department
 - Specific to local Tallahassee bicycle/pedestrian projects
 - Significantly higher than FDOT costs
 - Development cost estimates applying costs to applicable projects; other projects used FDOT costs







Connecting People and Places

Financial Resources

- Anticipated Revenues
 - Information provided by FDOT District 3 and local governments
 - Available funds include anticipated state/federal funds and any local funds
 - State and Local funds dedicated to specific systems, programs and/or projects
 - SIS/FIHS
 - Maintenance
 - Local paving and maintenance
 - Blueprint
- Cost constrained revenue estimates only include federal/state/local non-dedicated funds



StarMetro

