



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Interim Secretary

Recreational Trails Program Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda

Thursday, June 10, 2021

LOCATION:

Virtual – GoTo Webinar

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Brian Smith (Chair), Alex Stigliano, Jim Chard, Ricky Bitner, Derick David, Kelly Van Patten, Mitchell Greenberg

ATTENDING RTP STAFF:

Tara Reynolds, Linda Reeves, Rebecca Wood

AGENDA ITEM

PRESENTER

Welcome and Introductions – 9:00 AM

Tara Reynolds

Approve Agenda

Committee

Motion to approve agenda. Jim Chard so moved. Alex Stigliano second. All approved.

Approve Draft Meeting Minutes of August 2020

Committee

Jim Chard presented concern that the agenda did not include addressing the TAC By-Laws regarding adding additional Committee members. All approved that this item may be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve meeting minutes. Jim Chard so moved. Kelly Van Patten second. All approved.

New Committee Membership

Tara Reynolds

Brian Smith, Chair, requested RTP coordinator, Tara Reynolds, provide welcome and introductions to the new Committee members. Tara advised that the new Committee members were selected by application by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council on March 30, 2021. The RTP is excited to have both members join the Committee and devote their expertise to matters regarding the use of RTP funds in the State.

2021-2022 Application Cycle Overview

Tara Reynolds

The FY21-22 RTP application cycle was held February 1, 2021 through March 1, 2021. The Program received a total of 28 applications for grant funding. 5 of those applications were deemed ineligible: (1) did not meet intent of the program, (1) withdrew, and (3) failed to provide adequate documentation during the deficiency period. Two of the applications, Martin County and the City of Winter Park, are pending eligibility until the program's legal attorney has concluded her formal site control evaluation. All other applications have been deemed eligible for funding.

The total amount of funding available for the FY21-22 projects will be announced by FHWA on October 1, 2021. Until that time, we do not know exactly which projects will receive funding. However, the draft Priority List provided shows the scores of each project and how they are ranked based on the information provided in their application.

Project Presentations

Applicant Sponsor

T21002, City of Tarpon Springs *presented by Bob Robertson*

T21003, Gulf County *presented by Kaci Rhodes*

T21004, Village of Wellington *presented by Tanya Quickel*

T21008, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency *presented by Daniel Scheer*

T21014, Martin County *presented by Josh Mills*

T21019, City of Jacksonville *presented by Lauren Christiansen*

T21021, City of Port St. Lucie *presented by Jennifer Davis*

T21025, City of Winter Park *presented by Anna Pepper*

T21026, St. Johns County *presented by Nathan Otter*

T21027, City of Fort Pierce *presented by Sheila Wise*

Presentation Discussion

Committee

Jim Chard presented concerns in regard to T21019, City of Jacksonville, and whether their proposed cycle track will provide bike racks for trail users. Jacksonville advised that they intend to install bike racks at some point during the project or shortly after.

The TAC noted that they thoroughly enjoyed the presentations given at today's meeting and how it helped them to visualize and understand the projects more clearly. The TAC requested that RTP staff investigate as to whether it can be required that all eligible projects give a presentation. Tara Reynolds confirmed that we will inquire about this request and update the TAC accordingly.

Ricky Bitner inquired about projects using composite material for boardwalks and if there were any noted concerns from RTP staff regarding this. Tara Reynolds advised that no issues or concerns with the use of composite material in the construction of boardwalks has been presented. It is RTP staff's understanding that the composite material is meant to last longer and is much safer; wood floorboards tend to weather, and projects presented that the composite material is to allow for much safer ADA accessibility.

TAC inquired if the project score was a result of few elements being developed. Tara Reynolds explained that the project score is based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the program rule and that scores are dependent on what is provided in each individual application. It was also noted that the responsibility of the TAC, as it stands currently, is to review project applications and determine ineligibility due to not meeting intent of program. However, Rebecca Wood confirmed that RTP staff will explore the possibility of allowing the TAC to award additional points for project excellence during a future rule revision.

TAC inquired about motorized project funding and what will happened since no applications for motorized projects were received. Tara Reynolds advised that FDOT confirmed that the

motorized funding for FY21-22 will be made available for the next application cycle. Rebecca Wood also noted that the RTP does not receive a lot of motorized applications because grantees have expressed concerns about the insurance policy they must carry on their project site. Therefore, the TAC could explore the option to allow boating as a motorized project in the future.

Review 2021-2022 Draft RTP Priority List

Committee

Motion to approve draft RTP Priority List. Jim Chard so moved. Alex Stigliano second. All approved.

Public Comment

Chair

None.

Committee Comment

Chair

Alex Stigliano noted that Brian Smith is an excellent facilitator and made kind transitions between all the presentation.

Jim Chard inquired the City of Homestead and why they were ineligible due to failure to provide adequate documentation during the deficiency period. Tara Reynolds advised that per the rule, grantees have 15 working days to provide documentation requested in the deficiency report. Part of the requested documentation was regarding site control. Since the City failed to provide the requested documentation, they were deemed ineligible and will not be allowed any additional time to submit.

The TAC expressed again that they would like to require all projects to provide a presentation. Motion to direct RTP staff to review presentation requirement of applications by the TAC. Jim Chard so moved. No second.

The TAC inquired about the timeline for these projects and when funding will be announced. Tara Reynolds advised that FHWA will announce funding for the FY21-22 application cycle on October 1, 2021. The TAC requested that they be informed of the amount of funding for these projects. Tara Reynolds advised that the final approved Priority List signed by FHWA will be forwarded upon execution.

The TAC requested that a follow-up meeting be scheduled after October 2021 when funding for FY21-22 is announced and before February 2022 when the FY22-23 application cycle opens.

The TAC also requested that RTP staff resend the TAC by-laws so that they may review and vote on whether additional members should be added to increase the likelihood quorum. Derick David agrees that more members would increase the likelihood of always having a quorum however, too many members, all with valid voices, can make decisions long and unnecessarily drawn out; he is not against the addition of more members, but suggests it is done in small amounts.

Adjournment

Chair

Motion to adjourn. Alex Stigliano so moved. Ricky Bitner second. All approved.