

MINUTES

GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Community Treasures Conference Room
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

7:00 p.m.
Wednesday
June 30, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Wilson, Chair
Jan Frentzen, Vice Chair
Sheryl Conner
Sharon Hawkey
Jim Painter
Tony Porter
Cindy Smith
Ruth Steiner
David Welch

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Skelly
James Stringfellow
Mike Wright
[three vacancies]

OTHERS PRESENT

Dekova Batey
Gerry Dedenbach
Sally Dickenson
Donnie Ellington
Rae Marie Gilbert
Monique Heathcock
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Milton Locklear
Sam Middleton
John Sabatella

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Thomas Hill
Michael Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wilson asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Chair Wilson asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to approve the agenda. Tony Porter seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to approve the May 19, 2004 minutes. Tony Porter seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Thomas Hill, MTPO Senior Planner, announced that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium. He said that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for July 28.

V. RESURFACING PROJECT- STATE ROAD 26 (NEWBERRY ROAD)- FROM NW 109TH DRIVE EAST TO NW 80TH BOULEVARD

Mr. Hill stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has developed scoping concepts for the SR 26 from the 109th Drive to NW 80th Boulevard Resurfacing Project. He discussed the project area.

Ms. Doreen Joyner-Howard, FDOT Transportation Specialist, discussed the SR 26 from the 109th Drive to NW 80th Boulevard Resurfacing Project and answered questions.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. approve the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) resurfacing design concepts for State Road 26 (Newberry Road) from NW 109th Drive to NW 80th Boulevard, incorporating the following elements:**
 - A. install the MTPO-approved stamped/colored crosswalks at the signalized intersections;**
 - B. improve any sidewalk sections that are not in compliance with FDOT and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards;**
 - C. examine existing access (driveway connections, median openings, etc.) for potential operational improvements; and**
- 2. request that FDOT incorporate a 13-foot wide outside curblane and an 11-foot wide inside lane.**

Sheryl Conner seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. RESURFACING PROJECT- STATE ROAD 24 (WALDO ROAD)- FROM EAST UNIVERSITY AVENUE NORTH TO NE 55TH PLACE

Mr. Hill stated that FDOT has developed scoping concepts for the SR 24 from East University Avenue to NE 55th Place Resurfacing Project. He discussed the project area.

Ms. Joyner-Howard discussed the SR 24 from East University Avenue to NE 55th Place Resurfacing Project and answered questions.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. approve the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) resurfacing design concepts for State Road 24 (Waldo Road) from East University Avenue to NE 55th Place, incorporating the following elements:**
 - A. install the MTPO-approved stamped/colored crosswalks at the signalized intersections;**
 - B. improve any sidewalk sections that are not in compliance with FDOT and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards;**
 - C. examine existing access (driveway connections, median openings, etc.) for potential operational improvements;**
 - D. extend the southbound double left turnlane at State Road 26; and**
- 2. request that FDOT incorporate raised medians, where feasible, between East University Avenue and NE 8th Avenue.**

Ruth Steiner seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Joyner-Howard reported that she investigated the CAC's concerns about the Santa Fe Community College sign on NW 39th Avenue. She said that FDOT would be moving the further from the NW 83rd Street intersection.

A member of the CAC requested that discussion on the Tower Road 30 Percent Design Plans be moved back in the agenda to accommodate Southwest Alliance for Planning members who would be arriving later to the meeting for the Tower Road Design Plan discussion.

Chair Wilson stated that the CAC would discuss the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Area Charrette as the next agenda item.

VIII. ARCHER ROAD/S. 16TH AVENUE AREA CHARRETTE

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that consultants were present to provide a status report on the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Area Charrette.

Ms. Monique Heathcock, Causseaux & Ellington Project Manager, and Mr. Donnie Ellington, Causseaux & Ellington Vice President, discussed the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Area Charrette and answered questions.

ACTION: David Welch moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Option B for \$9.7 million with the following options and assumptions modeled as well and perform the following additional studies/charrettes:

- adding an overpass to SW 34th Street and Archer Road
- extending Hull Road due west to at least SW 38th Street
- extending SW 16th Avenue to Hawthorne Road
- perform a North/NW side charrette in addition to the SW 13th Street charrette
- perform a comprehensive high level review of all the charrettes, Plan East Gainesville, SW, Archer Road/SW 16th Avenue, SW 13th Street and the North/NW side that reconciles the conflicts and enhances specific options that are complementary

In light of these following facts and trends:

- there will be a four-lane highway from St. Augustine to Gainesville within 15 years and East State Road 26 traffic volumes are likely to be like West State Road 26 very quickly as Putnam County develops rapidly
- extending the University of Florida main campus property line south to SW 16th Avenue is worth more than \$10 to \$15 million dollars and the displaced traffic from Depot Avenue to University Avenue and SW 16th Avenue will be significant
- PM eastbound traffic on SW 16th Avenue will cut through many neighborhood streets in East Gainesville to short cut to Hawthorne Road
- increased truck traffic through Downtown and East Gainesville are very likely under the Archer Road/SW 16th Avenue Charrette Options A or B
- SW 34th Street and Archer Road intersection and Archer Road are used daily by at least one-fourth of our county residents and this area is at level of service (LOS) "F" for current and future projections (Option A1 briefly improves it to LOS "E").

Ruth Steiner seconded; motion failed 2 to 6.

ACTION: Sharon Hawkey moved to recommended that the MTPO:

- 1. approve for final testing and evaluation, the option developed by the charrette participants as described in Exhibit 1; and**
- 2. approve the City of Gainesville staff recommendation that the proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) system operate on the Archer Road/Depot Avenue alignment, only if the facility can accommodate an offstreet bicycle/pedestrian path, for the following reasons:**
 - A. the ability to link with the proposed Depot Avenue Multimodal facility (Greyhound Station and RTS Transfer Station) that is being planned for Depot Avenue just north of the Old Train Depot; and**
 - B. this is the best corridor to connect high intensity commercial development at the University/Medical Facilities to future high density residential developments along Depot Avenue and to East Gainesville development.**

Ruth Steiner seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: David Welch moved to recommend that the MTPO ask the University of Florida for funding to mitigate impacts along the Archer Road corridor due to the change in use from an arterial facility to a destination road from SW 16th Avenue to SW 13th Street. Sharon Hawkey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. TOWER ROAD 30 PERCENT DESIGN PLANS

Mr. Sanderson stated that Alachua County staff has submitted 30 percent design plans for Tower Road.

Ms. Monique Heathcock, Causseaux & Ellington Project Manager, and Mr. Donnie Ellington, Causseaux & Ellington Vice President, discussed the Tower Road 30 Percent Design Plans and answered questions.

XI. ALACHUA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Mr. Hill stated that, each year, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners develops recommended transportation priorities for projects that are needed, but not currently funded, for the rural portions of Alachua County (outside the MTPO area of responsibility). He said that this information is used by the Florida Department of Transportation each fall to develop its Tentative Five Year Work Program.

Mr. John Sabatella, Alachua County Senior Planner, discussed the draft Alachua County

Transportation Priorities document and answered questions.

ACTION: Ruth Steiner moved to recommend that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners:

- 1. approve the draft Alachua County Transportation Priorities as a completed document; and**
- 2. request that the cities submit prioritized projects for next year's Transportation Project Priorities list.**

Sheryl Conner seconded; motion passed unanimously.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Date

Joseph N. Wilson, Chair

EXHIBIT I

**ARCHER ROAD/S. 16TH AVENUE AREA CHARRETTE
PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The participants in the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Area Charrette proposed a tiered plan of recommendations with viable milestones. These milestone included:

TIMELINE	MILESTONE
Now	Pedestrian safety enhancements throughout the corridor
	SW 23 rd Terrace extension into the University of Florida campus should be examined as part of the Campus Master Plan update process
	Add transit service to existing routes such as Routes 35, 36 and 9, that are not meeting demand
	State Roads 24/226 Intersection Realignment Study Prioritization as described in Exhibit 2
5 Years	SW 16 th Avenue inner road network and North-South Drive extension
	Consider mix of uses in “Little Gandy” area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips.
10 Years	Enhance eastern connection of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) type service and S 16 th Avenue multimodal connection
	Consider mix of uses in “Little Gandy” area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips.
	Connections to other growth areas- SW 20 th Avenue, Student Village, future commercial and Oaks Mall Park-and-Ride
20 Years	Continue study of SE 16 th Avenue extension- 3-lane/4-lane from State Road 329 to State Road 331

EXHIBIT 2

ARCHER ROAD AND SW 16TH AVENUE INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT STUDY

The purpose of the study is to explore and identify the issues involved with realignment of the intersection of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue. Objectives of the study are as follows:

- Reroute through traffic (particularly trucks) currently using Archer Road onto SW 16th Avenue. This will reduce traffic volumes in the Shands/VA corridor, creating a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment.
- Create a gateway entrance to the University of Florida in the vicinity of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue.
- Facilitate an extension of North-South Drive south to SW 16th Avenue.
- Improve accessibility to Shands/VA for emergency vehicles and Regional Transit System (RTS) buses.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility in the area impacted by roadway reconstruction.
- No reduction in the number of lanes on Archer Road

The study needs to include the following components:

- Affected area bordered by Archer Road, SW 16th Avenue and the extension of North-South Drive.
- Need to examine all signalized intersections included in this boundary.
- Need to maintain accessibility to hospitals for emergency vehicles and RTS.
- Options for roadway alignments should be discussed with staff before analysis is performed.
- Options should include possibility of roundabouts with/without bypass lanes.
- Routes for bicycles and pedestrians through the area must be included.
- Clear, defined access to parking facilities must be maintained.
- Must provide opportunities for directional signage for visitors.
- Consider grade separated intersection at SW 16th Avenue and Archer Road.
- Consider limited grade separated intersection at SW 34th Street and Archer Road.