

MEETING SUMMARY
GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
DESIGN TEAM

NCFRPC Conference Room
Gainesville, Florida

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
January 15, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Meg Niederhofer, Chair
Susan Bridges
Linda Dixon
Jesus Gomez
Ha Nguyen
John Richter
Emery Swearingen
Karen Taulbee
Gary Weed

MEMBERS ABSENT

Katy Fanning
Beth Jordan
Jonathan Paul
Reid Rivers

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Henry
Michael Iglani

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Michael Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Meg Niederhofer, City of Gainesville Arborist, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Niederhofer introduced herself and requested introductions.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Niederhofer requested action on the meeting agenda.

ACTION: Emery Swearingen moved to approve the meeting agenda. Jesus Gomez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that Airport Access Road 30 Percent Design Plans have been submitted to the Design Team for review and comment.

Ms. Rachel Henry, RW Armstrong Senior Engineer, discussed the Airport Access Road 30 Percent Design Plans and answered questions.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the Gainesville Regional Airport Entrance Road 30 Percent Design Plans with the curb and gutter cross-section changed to 16-foot travel lanes. Emery Swearingen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. MTPO URBAN DESIGN POLICY MANUAL- PEDESTRIAN POLICY

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has informed the City of Gainesville that several State Road resurfacing projects would be done without colorized-textured crosswalks. He said that FDOT requested maintenance agreements with the City and County. He noted that the MTPO policy is that colorized-textured crosswalks are installed with resurfacing projects.

Ms. Karen Taulbee, FDOT Transportation Specialist, discussed the status of the use of colorized textured crosswalks. She noted that FDOT has lifted its moratorium on the installation of a colorized coating for crosswalks. She said that FDOT is requiring maintenance agreements with local governments for the installation of colorized textured crosswalks on State facilities. She noted that letters were sent to Alachua County and the City of Gainesville regarding these maintenance agreements.

Mr. Emery Swearingen, City of Gainesville Engineer, also discussed the status of the use of colorized textured crosswalks. He noted that the MTPO Pedestrian Policy requires the use of bricks, but did allow for the use of a coating treatment. He said that the City has been evaluating crosswalk treatments. He reported that a brick crosswalk has a 50-year life-span and that the coating has a 2-year life-span. He concluded that in the long run, that the coated crosswalks were more expensive than brick crosswalks to maintain.

Ms. Ha Kurz, Alachua County Design/Contract Manager, noted that the County Staff supported the use of stamped concrete for the crosswalks.

Ms. Linda Dixon, University of Florida Facilities Planning & Construction Assistant Director, requested a status report on the NW 34th Street (State Road 121) Resurfacing Project at the January 30th Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Taulbee said that she would provide the information.

V. W 6TH STREET RAIL-TRAIL

Mr. Sanderson stated that Design Team reviews Enhancement Projects at scoping and 60 percent Design Plans. He said that the Design Team needs to discuss the status of the W 6th Street Rail-Trail.

Mr. Swearingen noted that the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails has not yet purchased the right-of-way. He said that the City will sign a lease/use maintenance agreement with the State. He added that the City will bifurcate the project to do design in 2008 and construction in 2009.

He reported that Campus Development Agreement funds would be used in addition to the Enhancement funds.

VI. DESIGN TEAM VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Sanderson stated that with the resignation of Mr. Dom Nozzi, former City of Gainesville Senior Planner, the Design Team Vice-Chair position was vacant.

Chair Niederhofer asked whether there should also be an election for a new Chair.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to also select a new Design Team Chair.

ACTION: Jesus Gomez moved to nominate Emery Swearingen as Design Team Chair and Ha Kurz as Design Team Vice-Chair. Linda Dixon seconded.

ACTION: John Richter moved to close nominations; Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Jesus Gomez moved to select Emery Swearingen as Design Team Chair and Ha Kurz as Design Team Vice-Chair. Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. DESIGN TEAM CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that Chair Niederhofer requested an opportunity to discuss several topics with the Design Team.

Chair Niederhofer discussed her concerns regarding the status of the FDOT Main Street Resurfacing Project, Depot Avenue Reconstruction Project and the Waldo Road median openings associated with the SuperWalMart.

Ms. Taulbee noted that the Main Street 60 Percent Design Plans are due on January 30th.

Mr. Swearingen said he would ask the Community Redevelopment Agency about funding part of the Main Street Resurfacing project not funded by FDOT. Regarding Waldo Road modifications, he said he would inquire what went through the development review process. He added that the Depot Avenue Reconstruction Project would be reviewed by the Design Team. He noted that FDOT is the owner of the Depot Avenue Rail/Trail and that Gainesville Regional Utilities negotiated utility impacts to the trail.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14th and the next Design Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Emery Swearingen moved to adjourn the meeting. Jesus Gomez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.