

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

NCFRPC Conference Room
Gainesville, Florida

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
March 20, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Meg Niederhofer, Chair
Dom Nozzi, Vice Chair
Linda Dixon
Julia Reiskind
Doug Robinson
John Sabatella
Emery Swearingen
Karen Taulbee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Collett
Kathy Fanning
Beth Jordan
Jonathan Paul
Reid Rivers

OTHERS PRESENT

Tony Falatico
Tony Flegert
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Phil Mann

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.

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that there are two additional items to discuss. He suggested that the Design Team amend the agenda to add as item II_B. E University Avenue Median Opening III_B. and as item N Main Street Mast Heads.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to approve the meeting agenda, amended to add as item II_B. E University Avenue Median Opening and as item III_B. N Main Street Mast Heads. Julia Reiskind seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II_B. E UNIVERSITY AVENUE MEDIAN OPENING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Lake Forest Farms Home Owners Association has requested that a median opening be installed at the E University Avenue and NE 46th Street intersection.

Ms. Karen Taulbee, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Transportation Planner, discussed the E University Avenue median openings and answered questions. She noted that, at the present time, FDOT would not install a median opening at this intersection.

Mr. Tony Falatico, FDOT Traffic Operations Engineer, noted there was no significant traffic crash data for the E University Avenue corridor.

III. MTPO MAST ARMS POLICY- PROPOSED REVISIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, last fall, FDOT requested a waiver to the mast arm requirement for a new signal at the intersection of SW 62nd Avenue and Williston Road (State Road 121). He said the MTPO, at its December 14th meeting, approved the following motion to:

“Direct the TAC to consider whether exceptions to Policy 7.2.1 of the MTPO Urban Design Manual should be considered. If exceptions are recommended, criteria for these exceptions should be developed.”

He discussed proposed changes to Policy 7.2.1 and answered questions.

Mr. Falatico discussed the installation requirements for mast arms and strain-pole signals.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the following changes to Policy 7.2.1 of the *MTPO Urban Design Policy Manual* for review and recommendation:

“~~FDOT staff shall install mast arms with~~ All new signals within Alachua County shall be mast arms with horizontal signal heads ~~on all FDOT projects from this date forward. This policy was approved on March 9, 1995.~~ Exceptions to this policy may be granted if all three of the following conditions are met:

- **the intersection is located in unincorporated Alachua County and outside the Gainesville Urbanized Area;**
- **one of the intersecting roads has not been built to an urban, four-lane cross-section; and**
- **the intersection must satisfy the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrant number seven crash experience.**

Exceptions for installing post-mounted signals or vertical heads on mast arms may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Julia Reiskind seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III_B. N MAIN STREET MAST HEADS

Mr. Sanderson stated that City of Gainesville staff is requesting a waiver of the MTPO Mast Arm Policy in order to install vertical heads on the mast arms for the signalization project at N Main Street and N 53rd Avenue intersection.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO grant an exception to allow vertical mast heads for the signalization project at N Main Street and N 53rd Avenue intersection. Julia Reiskind seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN

Vice Chair Nozzi discussed context sensitive design modifications to the *MTPO Urban Design Policy Manual* and answered questions.

ACTION: Dom Nozzi moved to:

- 1. forward to the MTPO the Design Team's concerns that the *MTPO Urban Design Policy Manual*:**
 - A. is a one-size-fits-all document**
 - B. that it is not context-sensitive; and**
 - C. that it does not provide guidelines for the full range of contexts: Urban, Suburban, Rural;**
- 2. recommend that the MTPO direct that the *Manual***
 - A. be amended to be more context sensitive; and**
 - B. to the extent appropriate, be compatible with City and County design standards; and**
- 3. refer the Manual to City and County staff the issue of conflicts of the between the manual and local government development regulations.**

John Sabatella seconded; motion failed 2 to 5.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to defer this agenda item to its next meeting to discuss the following issues:

- 1. whether the Design Team should forward a comment to the MTPO that the *MTPO Urban Design Manual* is a one-size-fits-all document that is not context-sensitive and it does not provide guidelines for the full range of contexts- Urban, Suburban and Rural;**

- 2. whether the Design Team should forward a comment to the MTPO that the *MTPO Urban Design Manual* be amended to be more context sensitive and to the extent appropriate, be compatible with City and County design standards;**
- 3. the issue of conflicts between the *MTPO Urban Design Manual* and local government develop regulations;**
- 4. whether to deal with conflicts among City and County agency documents on a case by case basis; and**
- 5. whether to identify where the conflicts are and how to proceed.**

V. UPCOMING MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is April 12th at 3:20 p.m. He said that the next Design Team meeting is scheduled for April 17th at the NCFRPC Conference Room.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.