

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

NCFRPC Conference Room
Gainesville, Florida

Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.
September 16, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Dixon, Chair
Meg Niederhofer Vice Chair
E. J. Bolduc
Jesus Gomez
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Bill Lecher
Kristen Nowicki
Dom Nozzi
Julia Reiskind
Reid Rivers
Cindy Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennifer Auger
Kathy Fanning
Brian Kanely
Gwendolyn Pra

OTHERS PRESENT

Myrna Widmer
Heather Martin
Peter Moore
Chuck Pigeon
Karen Taulbee

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Thomas Hill
Mike Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Linda Dixon, University of Florida Facilities Planning and Construction Planning Office Manager, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Dixon introduced herself and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Dixon requested that the Design Team approve the meeting agenda.

ACTION: Meg Niederhofer moved to approve the meeting agenda. Julia Reiskind seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dixon noted that Ms. Kathy Fanning, Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Program Manager, would not be in attendance at the meeting, but did provide written comments on the agenda items.

III. STATE ROAD (SR) 331 (WILLISTON ROAD) RESURFACING PROJECT

Mr. Thomas Hill, MTPO Senior Planner, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has submitted design concepts for the SR 331 resurfacing project. He noted that this was the scoping phase of the design process.

Ms. Doreen Joyner-Howard, FDOT District 2 Transportation Planner, discussed the design concepts for the SR 331 resurfacing project and answered questions.

Chair Dixon read Ms. Fanning's comments on the project.

A member of the Design Team noted that one side of the street did not have streetlighting.

ACTION: Dom Nozzi moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the design concepts for the Williston Road Resurfacing Project (FPN #2077343) with the addition of streetlighting on the west side of the roadway. Reid Rivers seconded; motion passed 8 to 3.

Ms. Meg Niederhofer, City of Gainesville Arborist, asked that the MTPO be advised that the recommendation to create new bike lanes by reducing median width will eliminate the option of planting trees to create a shaded boulevard. She noted that the current configuration provides 17-feet to 24-feet of growing space in medians with standard curbs, which meets the FDOT guidelines for Live Oaks. She added that, with the reduction to accommodate new bike lanes, only small trees will be acceptable.

Chair Dixon directed MTPO staff to include the City Arborist's comments in the MTPO packet.

IV. SW 24TH AVENUE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Hill stated that the Alachua County Public Works Department requested an opportunity to present 30 percent design plans for the SW 24th Avenue construction project. He discussed the project and answered questions

Mr. Bill Lecher, Alachua County Civil Engineer Design/Contract Manager, noted that the County's consultants were in attendance to present 30 percent design plans.

Mr. Lecher and Mr. Chuck Pigeon, Berryman & Henigar Principal Engineer, discussed the 30 percent design plans and answered questions.

A member of the Design Team noted that there are electrical utility and streetlighting issues that still need to be addressed.

ACTION: Meg Niederhofer moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. return to previous 90 percent design plans for SW 24th Avenue as a two lane facility.**
- 2. however, if the MTPO does not elect to return to the two lane option, then the Design Team recommends the following issues be addressed in the four lane design:**
 - A. provide pedestrian stamped crossings at SW 38th Terrace for north-south and east-west crossings;**
 - B. identify options for landscaping including shade trees consistent with the median width and clear zone requirements contained in the Alachua County Corridor Design Manual;**
 - C. mitigate the loss of heritage live oak trees;**
 - D. obtain an FDOT permit for traffic signals at the SW 34th Street / SW 24th Avenue intersection to accommodate eastbound left turns from SW 24th Avenue onto SW 34th Street;**
 - D. accommodate the operational needs of transit routing onto SW 24th Avenue and/or Windmeadows Boulevard, which require the ability for buses to make left turns at SW 34th Street;**
 - E. address traffic flow issues related to the removal of the traffic signal at SW 34th Street and Windmeadows Boulevard and the associated median closing on SW 34th Street with impact to businesses in Butler Plaza and surrounding areas;**
 - F. analyze and mitigate traffic impacts to the Archer Road and SW 34th Street intersection resulting from the elimination of left turns at SW 34th Street and Windmeadows Boulevard;**
 - G. provide funding for the necessary modifications to the intersection of SW 34th Street and Windmeadows Boulevard and for a connecting roadway between Windmeadows Boulevard and SW 24th Avenue; and**
 - H. accommodate underground utility equipment within the SW 24th Avenue corridor.**

Reid Rivers seconded; motion passed 9 to 1.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chair Dixon announced that the next MTPO meeting is October 30 and the next Design Team meeting is scheduled for October 21.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of information items. Updated MTPO Design Policy Manuals were distributed to the Design Team members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.