

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

City Commission Meeting Room
City Hall
Gainesville, Florida

1:30 p.m.
Thursday
April 6, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chuck Clemons, Chair
John Barrow
Paula DeLaney
Bruce Delaney
Pegeen Hanrahan
Huey Hawkins
Robert Hutchinson
Dave Newport
Gerald Schaffer
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Chestnut
Ed Jennings

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Alto
Tom Ankersen
Rob Ayers
Whit Blanton
Wayne Bowers
Dave Bruderly
Charles Chestnut IV
Lance Curry
Joan DeNicola
Sally Dickinson
Thomas Fay
Jesus Gomez
Tommy Hines
Charles Justice
Bob Karp
Bill Lecher

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeff Logan
Carol Massey
Meg Niederhofer
Warren Nielsen
Dom Nozzi
Cathy Saenz
Aage Schroder
Teresa Scott
Cindy Smith
Ernie Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Lynn Franson-Godfrey
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

MTPO Chair Chuck Clemons called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He stated that a quorum of the MTPO was not present. He said that the MTPO could begin to discuss the meeting agenda items but could not take any action.

II. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) ISSUES

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the City Commission has requested that the MTPO discuss the future of public transportation in Alachua County at today's meeting.

Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group Vice President. She stated that he will discuss the long range transportation plan and how it relates to public transportation in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area (GMA).

Mr. Blanton made a presentation concerning the long range transportation plan and public transportation.

Ms. Scott made a presentation concerning RTS services and answered questions.

During the presentation, a quorum was reached.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved to approve the consent agenda and the meeting agenda. Commissioner Barrow seconded.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Wheat moved to amend the agenda to include Consent Agenda Item CA.4, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Status Report, as agenda item number two. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:

Mayor DeLaney moved to approve the consent agenda and the meeting agenda with one amendment to include Consent Agenda Item CA.4, Transportation Disadvantaged Program Status Report, as agenda item number two. Commissioner Barrow seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) ISSUES- Continued

A member of the MTPO discussed funding issues and the RTS vehicle fleet that were discussed at the last RTS Advisory Board meeting.

A member of the MTPO discussed including the outlying small municipalities in Alachua County in discussions concerning providing public transportation throughout Alachua County and how this could be funded.

Chair Clemons stated that, if MTPO expanded to countywide, then maybe the MTPO could operate the public transportation system.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to research the following issues:

- 1. if RTS could be operated as a county-wide system and, if so, what additional federal and state funding sources may be available;**
- 2. could the MTPO operate RTS as a county-wide system; and**
- 3. can the MTPO prepare a reapportionment plan earlier than Year 2002 when the next one is scheduled.**

The following persons spoke concerning this agenda item:

Bob Karp, Mike Alto, Cindy Smith, Carol Massey, Dave Bruderly, Ernie Taylor

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to direct the MTPO Chair to send letters to the Mayor of the City of Gainesville and Chair of the Alachua County Commission requesting a joint City/County meeting to discuss:

- 1. new sources of transportation funding, including potentially increasing gas taxes, the gas tax spilt formula, City and County transportation impact fees, municipal services bonding unit (MSBU), and any other funding source that can be identified; and**
- 2. a proposed plan that would have the Regional Transit System primarily responsible for providing transportation disadvantaged services Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

A member of the MTPO stated that the County Commission should try and meet with the smaller municipalities to receive their input about transportation and transit before this joint meeting is held.

II_A. TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM- STATUS REPORT

A member of the MTPO discussed a letter from Mr. Charles Chestnut, Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Chair, requesting City and County funding for the TD program. She noted there was not enough TD funds to support all medical trips as of April 1, 2000.

Ms. Lynn Franson-Godfrey, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the current funding situation and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to direct the MTPO Chair to send a letter to the Local Legislative Delegation stating that the MTPO supports increased TD Program funding and that some people will probably be denied medical trips if additional funding is not provided. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the March meeting, the MTPO discussed the maintenance of landscaping of State roads by local governments. He said that, at this meeting, it was a consensus of the MTPO to place this issue on a future MTPO meeting agenda.

ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved refer this issue to the MTPO Landscape Subcommittee to discuss at its next meeting in May. Commissioner Barrow seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO Landscape Subcommittee stated that she has a conflict with the scheduled meeting date and asked that the meeting be rescheduled.

Ms. Meg Niederhofer, City of Gainesville Arborist, discussed maintenance costs, including whether they are reasonable and meets their policies.

Mr. Rob Ayers, FDOT District 2 Regional Planning Administrator, discussed several issues related to this agenda item.

IV. FDOT MAINTENANCE ISSUES ON STATE ROAD (SR) 20 NEAR PRAIRIE CREEK

Mr. Sanderson stated that, recently, the Design Team reviewed the proposed landscape plan for SR 20 from Lakeshore Drive east to County Road (CR) 2082. He said that, at this meeting, the Design Team approved a motion to recommend that the MTPO request that FDOT change the level of maintenance on this portion of SR 20 from rural to urban. He added that the Design Team wanted to forward its recommendation to the MTPO as soon as possible because it affects the type of landscape plan that can be developed for SR 20 over the next few months. He said that Mr. Ayers is present to discuss this issue and explain the difference between rural and urban maintenance procedures.

Mr. Ayers discussed this issue and answered questions.

The following persons spoke concerning this agenda item:

Cindy Smith

Dave Bruderly

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to request that:

- 1. FDOT change the level of maintenance on State Road 20 from Lakeshore Drive east to County Road (CR) 2082 from rural to urban; and**
- 2. the Design Team complete its review at its next meeting in April and forward its recommendations to the MTPO Advisory Committees.**

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

U.S. 441 SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION

It was a consensus of the MTPO to allow Mr. Tom Ankersen to address the MTPO at this time.

Mr. Tom Ankersen, University of Florida Conservation Clinic Director, spoke concerning having U.S. 441 designated as a scenic highway.

Mr. Lance Curry also made a presentation concerning this issue.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to have the MTPO designate portions of U.S. 441 as a scenic highway. Mayor DeLaney seconded.

Mr. Huey Hawkins, FDOT District 2 Secretary, discussed this issue and the transportation enhancement program. He said that this project would need to replace a project already funded in the FDOT Work Program. He added that FDOT would fund the second phase of the project to develop a Corridor Management Plan and that these funds would come from some source other than the MTPO's transportation enhancement program allocation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Wheat move to reconsider this issue at the May meeting, after Mr. Ankersen has had the opportunity to prepare a transportation enhancement project application. Commissioner Newport seconded; substitute motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO requested that Secretary Hawkins provide, in writing, what he had stated at today's meeting concerning this issue.

V. COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN- FDOT REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Sanderson stated that, in March, the MTPO approved the scope of work for the county-wide bicycle master plan. He said that, recently, MTPO staff was informed that, in order to receive FDOT funds for this project, the MTPO needs to execute a resolution and reimbursement agreement with FDOT. He said that the proposed resolution and agreement have been reviewed and approved by the MTPO Attorney.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to approve the Countywide Bicycle Master Plan Resolution and FDOT Reimbursement Agreement. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. NW 34TH STREET AT NW 8TH AVENUE AND NW 16TH AVENUE

Mr. Sanderson discussed a proposed project on NW 34th Street at NW 8th Avenue and NW 16th Avenue described as "access management, traffic separators, turnlanes and transportation system management (TSM).

Mr. Ayers stated that this issue is on today's meeting agenda to give the MTPO a status report concerning this project. He discussed the current status of this project.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to continue with the traffic signal reconstruction at the NW 34th Street and NW 8th Avenue and NW 16th Avenue intersections but not to proceed with adding right-turn lanes at these two intersections. Commissioner Wheat seconded.

Ms. Smith discussed the Design Team recommendations.

Mr. Ayers stated that, if the project as currently designed does not move forward, the funding for this project will be reallocated to other projects.

Ms. Scott discussed her concerns about this project.

Secretary Hawkins stated that the MTPO has the following three options:

1. not approve the project;
2. proceed with the project design, but have FDOT reallocate the right-of-way funds to another project; or
3. approve the current design option.

Mr. Warren Nielsen stated his concerns about this project.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation delete the right-of-way funds that are programmed for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 in FDOT's Work Program and to continue work on the design for this project for both the NW 8th Avenue and NW 16th Avenue intersections that is multi-modal and that this design process incorporate adequate public involvement in this project. Commissioner Barrow seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. DRAFT YEAR 2020 REVENUE FORECASTS

It was a consensus of the MTPO to defer this agenda item to the next meeting.

VIII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for May 11 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

IX. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBERS

A member of the MTPO thanked FDOT Secretary Hawkins and FDOT for their contributions towards the development of a design theme and landscape plan for the I-75 corridor from the Florida- Georgia border to Wildwood.

The MTPO discussed proposed legislation to limit the amount of traffic ticket revenues included in a municipality's budget.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to have the MTPO Chair send a letter to the Local Legislative Delegation requesting that the Delegation oppose proposed legislation to limit the amount of traffic ticket revenues included in a municipality's budget.

B. CITIZENS

Mr. Bruderly spoke concerning public transit issues.

Mr. Thomas Fay requested that representatives of the Evergreen Cemetery Association, Inc. be invited to any planning session in which there is discussion of the extension of SE 16th Avenue across Williston Road. He also requested that traffic separators be installed along W University Avenue at the W 13th Street intersection, similar to what was done on W 13th Street. He noted that about a dozen trees were leaning in the median on Newberry Road, from NW 143rd Street to NW 103rd Street.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Clemons adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Date

Robert Hutchinson
Secretary/Treasurer