

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

Jack Durrance Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

1:30 p.m.
Thursday
January 20, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chuck Clemons, Chair
John Barrow
Paula DeLaney
Robert Hutchinson
Ed Jennings
Dave Newport
Penny Wheat
Huey Hawkins

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Ayers
James Bennett
Wayne Bowers
Patrice Boyes
Stephen Boyes
Mike Byerly
Kathy Cantucci
Sally Dickinson
Beverly Gehman
Rae Marie Gilbert
Matthew Hurst
Phil Kabler
Brian Kanely
Bill Lecher
Vince Manousi
Marion Mark
Ernesto Martinez
Ken McGurn
Linda McGurn

OTHERS PRESENT

Kris Pagenkopf
Anthony Porter
Randall Reid
Eugena Scharf
Teresa Scott
Mark Sexton
Kinnon Thomb
Sue Wagner
Kent Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Delaney
Gerald Schaffer
Pegeen Hanrahan
Charles Chestnut

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante
Lynn Franson-Godfrey
Andrea Vogler

MTPO Chair Chuck Clemons stated that a quorum was not present. He said the MTPO could discuss the agenda items but not take action.

It was a consensus of the MTPO members present to discuss the “For Information Only” agenda items until a quorum was present.

II. DR. KERMIT SIGMON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AWARD

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that, in 1998, the MTPO established the Dr. Kermit Sigmon Citizen Participation Award. He said that this award is presented each year to someone selected by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) to be

recognized for their contribution to the area's transportation planning process. He said that the purpose of this award is to recognize the dedicated service that many citizens currently contribute to the MTPO planning process. He said that, at its December meeting, the CAC selected the SouthWest Alliance for Planning (SWAP) to be this year's recipient of this award.

Chair Clemons presented the award to SWAP's representative, Ms. Rae Marie Gilbert. He thanked Ms. Gilbert and all other members of SWAP for their efforts.

Ms. Gilbert thanked the members of the MTPO on behalf of SWAP.

VI. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Rob Ayers, FDOT District 2 Regional Planning Administrator, discussed the status of the following projects and answered questions:

1. the proposed countywide Bicycle Master Plan;
2. the construction of sidewalks on SW 24th Avenue from Tower Road to SW 43rd Street, including screens and pedestrian-scale lighting on the SW 20th Avenue bridge;
3. Traffic Operations Priority Number One- W 13th street, from SW 16th Avenue to NW 29th Road, access management, transportation system management (TSM) techniques, traffic separators and turnlanes;
4. Capacity Modification Priority Number Five- SW 20th Avenue Charrette projects; and
5. instreet bicycle facilities (either bikelanes or paved shoulders) in all road construction and resurfacing projects.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clemons stated that a quorum of the MTPO was now present. He called the meeting to order and asked the MTPO to address the agenda items that require action.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sanderson asked the MTPO to approve the meeting agenda and consent agenda items.

A member of the MTPO requested that Consent Agenda Item C.A.4., CTS Status Report, be moved to the regular meeting agenda for discussion.

ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda items with one change to move Consent Agenda Item C.A.4, CTS Status Report, to the regular meeting agenda for discussion. Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, stated that FDOT will be reconstructing Main Street from Depot Avenue north to N 8th Avenue in fiscal year 2002/2003.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District 2 Roadway Designer, gave a presentation concerning the Main Street reconstruction project and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO requested that action on this item be postponed until all of the City Commissioners were present.

Mr. Ayers stated that, due to time constraints, FDOT requests that the MTPO take action on the following items:

1. approval of the intersection modifications at Depot Avenue;
2. removal of the traffic signal at S 5th Avenue;
3. addition of an emergency signal;
4. removal of parking on the NE corner of S 5th Avenue;
5. removal of the parking lot driveways between S 3rd Avenue and S 4th Avenue;
6. convert to one-way, the first block W of Main Street, of N 1st Avenue;
7. approval of a slip lane at N 8th Avenue; and
8. approval of proposed medians.

A member of the MTPO requested that the signal boxes be painted a different color.

A member of the MTPO requested that FDOT commit to using as much of the historic granite and brick as possible. He also expressed concern that, during construction, sidewalk access to businesses would be hindered.

Mr. Bennett explained FDOT's plan for accommodating sidewalk and roadway traffic during construction.

Several members of the MTPO expressed concern that the proposed medians would block access to businesses and roadways.

A member of the MTPO stated that the parking on the NE corner of S 5th Avenue should not be removed. He also stated that the proposed one-way direction on NW 1st Avenue should be reversed.

Mr. Bennett stated that the MTPO does not need to take action on the proposed medians at this time.

Mr. Dedenbach discussed the Technical Advisory Committee's, Citizens Advisory Committee's, Design Team's and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board's recommendations concerning the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

A member of the MTPO requested that staff provide, to the MTPO, copies of the FDOT presentation concerning the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Several members of the MTPO expressed their concerns regarding the recommendation to conduct a Main Street traffic analysis to investigate the feasibility of reducing this road from four lanes to two lanes to allow permanent on-street parking. They were concerned that this would negatively affect FDOT's production schedule for the Main Street reconstruction project.

Mr. James Dees, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, stated that the two-lane option would delay the Main Street reconstruction project. He noted that FDOT would need to conduct a traffic analysis for the two-lane scenario.

Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Department Director, stated that the City of Gainesville Staff recommend the two-lane option. She said that City staff felt that the two-lane option would eliminate driver confusion if this section of Main Street remained two lanes with on-street parking at all times, rather than only in the evening. She said that the City has discussed this with FDOT. She said that FDOT said that the City or County would have to assume ownership of this roadway and transfer a comparable roadway to FDOT.

Mr. Sanderson stated that Mr. Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group Vice President, is scheduled to give a presentation to the MTPO in two weeks. He said that, during this presentation, Mr. Blanton will give a cost estimate to study the two-lane option. He said that this study would take two to three months to complete.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to defer this agenda item to the February 3rd MTPO meeting. Commissioner Barrow seconded.

Mr. Ayers spoke concerning FDOT's schedule for the Main Street reconstruction project. He noted that there are safety issues involved in this project because the water system under Main Street has collapsed.

Mr. Mark Sexton, Hippodrome State Theatre Director, stated that local business owners have not reviewed the proposed changes to Main Street which have been presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Newport called the question. Question call passed unanimously.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ALACHUA COUNTY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the December meeting, the MTPO discussed a request from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (B/PAB) to prepare a Bicycle Master Plan for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. He said that, during this discussion, the Alachua County Public Works Department Staff requested that the scope of this plan be expanded to include all of Alachua County. He said that, after discussing this issue, it was a consensus of the MTPO that a cost estimate be developed to expand the scope of this project. He said that enclosed in today's meeting packet is the preliminary scope of services and cost estimate. He noted that the total estimated cost for this proposed plan is \$75,000. He stated that FDOT District 2 Staff have agreed to fund half of the cost of this project if local funds are provided for the remaining half. He said that Staff recommends that the MTPO, City of Gainesville and Alachua County each pay one-third (\$12,500) of the remaining local share. He said that the Alachua County Internal Support Committee has recently reviewed this scope of services and is requesting that the following items be included in this project:

- A. look at proposed and existing bicycle trail facilities in surrounding counties and, if possible, provide for connectivity;
- B. look at on-road and off-road trail systems and opportunities for both transportation and recreational use; and
- C. invite all municipalities in Alachua County to participate in the preparation of the master plan.

Mr. Sanderson stated that Staff has discussed these three recommendations with the consultant and he has stated that the project will address and incorporate all of these issues.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to:

- 1. approve the Alachua County Bicycle Master Plan Scope of Services;**
- 2. approve a funding strategy that has the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) paying for one-half of the cost of this project (\$37,125) and the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and the MTPO each paying one-third of the remaining cost (\$12,375 each);**
- 3. request that the FDOT, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County make arrangements to provide these funds so that Tasks One through Four can be completed in May and Tasks Five and Six can be completed this Fall; and**
- 4. clarify that the scope of work will include the following items recommended by the Alachua County Internal Support Committee:**
 - A. look at proposed and existing bicycle trail facilities in surrounding counties and, if possible, provide for connectivity;**
 - B. look at on-road and off-road trail systems and opportunities for both transportation and recreational use; and**
 - C. invite all municipalities in Alachua County to participate in the preparation of the master plan.**

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. PERSPECTIVES ON POVERTY REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the November meeting, the MTPO discussed the report entitled Perspectives on Poverty, Alachua County Poverty Project, dated October 1999. He said that, during this discussion, the MTPO decided to place this report on a future MTPO meeting agenda. He said that this material is for information only and that no action is required.

A member of the MTPO stated that Commissioner Hanrahan wanted the MTPO discuss this report because of issues raised in the report regarding the Regional Transit System.

A member of the MTPO stated that there is more information available regarding the Perspective's on Poverty report. He requested that staff include this information in the February 3rd MTPO meeting packet.

ACTION: Commissioner Jennings moved to defer this agenda item to the February 3rd MTPO meeting. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. CTS MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

A member of the MTPO stated that a letter dated December 17, 1999 from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) concerning Coordinated Transportation System's (CTS's) participation in the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project was included in the meeting packet. He said that the letter states that there are several items concerning the ITS project which CTS has not completed. He asked Ms. Marion Mark, CTS Executive Director, to report on the status of the ITS project.

Ms. Mark reported on the status of the ITS project and answered questions.

VIII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

IX. COMMENTS

A. MTPO Members

A member of the MTPO requested that staff include more graphics concerning the Main Street Reconstruction Project in future meeting packets.

A member of the MTPO stated that the FDOT is working to establish a park-and-ride lot in Newberry. He asked Mr. Ayers to comment on the park-and-ride lot.

Mr. Ayers discussed the Newberry park-and-ride lot and answered questions.

Commisisoner Jennings stated that, because of a scheduling conflict, he will not be able to attend the Feburary, March and April MTPO meetings.

B. Citizens

Mr. David Coffey, Haile Plantation Corporation representative, spoke concerning the feasibility of constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 91st Street. He stated that the Haile Plantation Corporation is requesting that the MTPO refer this issue to the appropriate advisory Committees.

ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved to refer the feasibility of constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 91st Street to the Technical Advisory Committee, Citizen's Advisory Committee and Alachua County Public Works Department. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ayers stated that the Design Team discussed the proposed landscaping of Hawthorne Road. He noted that he wanted to make the MTPO aware that there are several areas along this corridor where FDOT will not be able to plant trees.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Clemons stated that he did not have any items to report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Date

Robert Hutchinson
Secretary/Treasurer

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