

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

City Hall Auditorium
Gainesville City Hall
Gainesville, Florida

1:30 p.m.
Thursday
July 13, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chuck Clemons, Chair
John Barrow
Chuck Chestnut IV
Mayor Paula DeLaney
Pegeen Hanrahan
Huey Hawkins
Robert Hutchinson
Dave Newport
Warren Nielsen
Gerald Schaffer
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Chestnut III

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante

OTHERS PRESENT

Gina Buscher
Chad Crawford
James Dees
Joan DiNicola
Linda Dixon
Darrell Elmore
Huey Hawkins
Brian Kanely
Bill Lecher
Jeff Logan
Carol Massey
Chandler Otis
Aage Schoeder
Teresa Scott
Cindy Smith
Dave Wagner
Jim Wright

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clemons called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He presented Mr. Gerry Schaffer, University of Florida Vice President for Administrative Affairs, a plaque to commemorate his service on the MTPO.

Mr. Shaffer thanked the members of the MTPO.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

A member of the MTPO requested that Agenda Item IX be placed after Agenda Item IV, since they were related issues and a citizen was present to speak on the issue.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve the meeting agenda with one amendment to place Agenda Item IX after Agenda Item IV, and the consent agenda. Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the ADA Transportation Task Force has prepared a report for the MTPO.

Mr. Darrell Elmore, City of Gainesville Equal Opportunity Director, discussed the report and answered questions.

Ms. Joan DiNicola spoke concerning this agenda item.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to refer the ADA Transportation Task Force Report to the MTPO's Advisory Committees, staff and the City of Gainesville Mayor for review and comment regarding the budgetary implications of the report's recommendations. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. HULL ROAD EXTENSION- PROPOSED CROSS-SECTION

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO has requested that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conduct preliminary engineering studies to identify the right-of-way necessary for the bicycle/pedestrian trail and the Hull Road extension as part of the SW 20th Avenue Charrette project. He discussed the Advisory Committee recommendations and answered questions.

Mr. James Dees, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, and Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the proposed cross-section and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve the typical cross-section as shown in Illustration I with the roadway located in the southern portion of the right-of-way, in order to allow for a meandering trail in a park-like setting. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. ARCHER ROAD AND SW 16TH AVENUE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO referred the issue of crosswalks at bus stops along Archer Road, from SW 34th Street to SW 16th Avenue, and the 1993 Archer Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Study to its Advisory Committees. He discussed Committee and Alachua County Traffic Safety Team recommendations for pedestrian safety along Archer Road and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO requested that a letter of appreciation, for her efforts in bringing this issue to the MTPO, be sent to Ms. Jennifer Gordon that describes the approved MTPO recommendations for Archer Road.

Ms. Linda Dixon, City of Gainesville Transportation Planning Analyst, discussed pedestrian safety issues along Archer Road and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve:

- 1. the revised design alternative dated April 18, 2000 (see Exhibit 1), which includes a new signalized intersection at SW 23rd Drive and Archer Road and a right-turn only lane (for vehicles) onto Archer Road from SW 23rd Street (this right-turn lane is needed at allow school buses to serve this area without having to turn around); and**
- 2. two additional modifications to improve pedestrian safety in this area:**
 - A. a request that the University of Florida construct sidewalks on SW 23rd Drive from Archer Road to Hull Road; and**
 - B. continue to identify the reconstruction of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue intersection as a needed project in this year's List of Priority Projects.**

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to refer to the Advisory Committees, for their review and comment, the discussion of opportunities for tree plantings along Archer Road and SW 23rd Terrace. Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IX. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT INTERSECTIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that a member of the MTPO requested discussion of bicycle and pedestrian safety at intersections, including the SW 34th Street and SW 2nd Avenue intersection.

The following persons spoke concerning this agenda item:

Chad Crawford
Huey Hawkins

Brian Kanelly
Carol Massey

Chandler Otis
Larry Schandes

Aage Schroeder

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to accept FDOT's offer to make a presentation, concerning pedestrian crossing issues, including the timing of the pedestrian crosswalks, to the MTPO, its Advisory Committees, Design Team, representatives from the Center for Independent Living, and the local chapter of the Florida Council for the Blind. Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to have the MTPO Chair send a letter to ask local law enforcement agencies for statistics concerning the number of tickets that have been issued for failure to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and to separate this information into those tickets that have been issued as a result of a traffic accident and those that have been issued based on observation only (that did not result in a traffic accident). Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. LANDSCAPE SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO established its Landscape Subcommittee in November, 1998. He said that the MTPO Landscape Subcommittee Chair is requesting that the MTPO appoint one additional City and County Commissioner to this Subcommittee.

By consensus, the MTPO appointed Commissioners Newport and Chestnut IV to the Subcommittee.

VI. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN- SEPTEMBER 14 PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO is currently scheduled to conduct a public hearing, on the Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Needs Plan, on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

A member of the MTPO discussed the text of the display ad.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve the display ad including incorporating MTPO member-recommended text changes. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed 8 to 1.

VII. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO asked whether RTS could be operated as a countywide system.

Mr. Dave Wagner, MTPO Attorney, and Mr. Jeff Logan, RTS Director, discussed RTS and MTPO jurisdiction issues and answered questions. Mr. Wagner noted that the RTS could be a countywide system. He reported that, according to the Attorney General of Florida, MPOs may not operate transit systems because they are limited, by statute, to programming and planning.

VIII. REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO asked whether a reapportionment plan could be prepared earlier than Year 2002, which is the current MTPO reapportionment plan preparation date.

Mr. Wagner stated that the MTPO could request that a reapportionment plan be done earlier than 2002. He noted that it was nearing the time for the MTPO to develop the reapportionment plan and that Year 2000 census statistics, necessary for the Year 2002 reapportionment plan, are not yet available.

X. YEAR 2020 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLAN- COMMON ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that Mayor DeLaney was appointed to the FDOT 2020 Florida Transportation Plan Steering Committee. He said that Mayor DeLaney requested an opportunity to discuss several reports being prepared by the Steering Committee.

Mayor DeLaney discussed the Steering Committee reports on mobility, economic development and sustainability/preservation.

XI. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO's next regular meeting was scheduled for August 3 at 1:30 p.m.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to conduct a workshop on the Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan update, rather than a regular business meeting, on August 3.

Ms. Cindy Smith, Citizen Advisory Committee member, requested that the MTPO Chair send a letter to the University of Florida requesting information on transportation studies being conducted as part of the Campus Master Plan update.

By consensus, the MTPO directed the Chair send a letter to the University of Florida requesting information on transportation studies being conducted as part of the Campus Master Plan update.

XII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO Members

A member of the MTPO discussed the status of the proposed roundabout on Archer Road at the SW 91st Street intersection.

Mr. Dees discussed the proposed roundabout.

Mr. Bill Lecher, Alachua County Assistant Public Works Director, discussed the proposed roundabout and answered questions. He noted that, at a meeting with FDOT, it was shown that a roundabout at the Archer Road and SW 91st Street intersection was an acceptable traffic control device, and that FDOT would reinvestigate traffic management along Archer Road.

A member of the MTPO requested that, in order to be expedient, a presentation on the proposed roundabout on Archer Road be given to the MTPO.

A member of the MTPO announced a meeting of the Interstate 75 Corridor Council and its Technical Advisory Committee on Wednesday, July 19. She asked FDOT representatives about the condition of the shoulders on US 441 along Paynes Prairie.

A member of the MTPO suggested an offroad trail along the US 441 wildlife barrier.

Mr. Dees stated that FDOT will look into the US 441 roadway condition. He noted that the US 441 wildlife barrier was nearly completed.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to have the Chair send a letter of appreciation, regarding his service and dedication to the MTPO, to Mr. Ayers and a copy to his new employer.

A member of the MTPO discussed concerns about streetlight glare in some areas within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

B. Citizens

Ms. Smith discussed recent median cuts and a traffic diverter on Newberry Road that have been made without input from the MTPO's Design Team. She also asked that there be a presentation of the SW 20th Avenue Charrette to the MTPO since it has new members.

A member of the MTPO asked that FDOT representatives discuss these types of median cuts and, in the future, let the MTPO know when these types of median cuts are being considered for implementation.

Mr. Dees and Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Director, discussed the median cuts and curb closures.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to refer these median cut issues to its Advisory Committees.

C. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report given.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Date

Robert Hutchinson
Secretary/Treasurer

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