

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  
February 15, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Barrow, Chair  
Mike Byerly  
Chuck Chestnut IV  
Mayor Paula DeLaney  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Robert Hutchinson  
Rodney Long  
Warren Nielsen  
Dave Newport  
Ed Poppell  
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Aage Schroder

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson  
Gerry Dedenbach  
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

MTPO Chair John Barrow called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the consent agenda and the meeting agenda. Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

A member of the MTPO thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for installing signs in the Idylwild area to prevent individuals from parking on the right-of-way.

II. PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

A. TRAFFIC CITATION INFORMATION

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, stated that, at its July 13, 2000 meeting, the MTPO discussed bicycle and pedestrian safety at intersections. He said that the

MTPO requested traffic citation data from local and state law enforcement agencies. He discussed the data received from the University of Florida Police Department, Gainesville Police Department and Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

**ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to:**

- 1. request that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions direct their law enforcement agencies to be more vigilant in proactive enforcement, with respect to issuing both citations and warnings, for failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrians; and**
- 2. request that the City of Gainesville ask the Gainesville Police Department to explain why traffic citations are not issued for failure to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, unless the infraction results in a crash.**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

The following individuals spoke concerning the motion:

Larry Schwandes                      Cindy Smith

#### **B. PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS**

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its July 13 meeting, the MTPO discussed pedestrian safety at intersections. He said that, during this discussion, FDOT offered to give a presentation, concerning pedestrian crossing issues, to the MTPO and its Advisory Committees.

Mr. Phil Mann, City of Gainesville Public Works Department (GPWD) Traffic Engineer II, gave a presentation concerning pedestrian signals and answered questions.

The following individuals spoke concerning this agenda item:

Brian Kanely                      Larry Schwandes

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to:**

- 1. install audible traffic signals, where appropriate, in new transportation projects and plans as directed by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;**
- 2. install accessible pedestrian signals during the Main Street reconstruction project;**
- 3. install pedestrian count-down signal heads in the Main Street reconstruction project and all future traffic signal modifications;**

4. **amend its Urban Design Policy Manual, where appropriate, to add the installation of accessible pedestrian signals;**
5. **request that FDOT:**
  - A. **revise its administrative code to allow more flexibility in signal timing to increase the length of the pedestrian signal phase; and**
  - B. **include pedestrian count-down signal heads and audible signals, as appropriate, based on input from the Division of Blind Services, for the signal reconstruction at the intersection of SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street and SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue concurrent with the upcoming resurfacing of SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street; and**
6. **consider the addition of exclusive pedestrian phases in high pedestrian-traffic areas.**

**Commissioner Wheat seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

**ACTION:** **Commissioner Wheat moved to request that:**

1. **the MTPO's Advisory Committees identify and prioritize high pedestrian traffic areas in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area; and**
2. **MTPO staff develop a process to review complaints concerning pedestrian intersections.**

**Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### C. PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its March 20, 1999 meeting, the MTPO discussed the use of brick or textured-paver crosswalks and sidewalks for the Main Street Reconstruction Project. He said that the MTPO referred this issue to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (ACTDCB) for review and comment.

**ACTION:** **Commissioner Wheat moved to amend the MTPO Urban Design Policy Manual to incorporate the use of streetprint with hued asphalt to highlight pedestrian crosswalks where constrained by cost or State design requirements. Elsewhere, allow flexibility to utilize pavers, bricks and alternate treatments that meet the following criteria:**

1. **minimize the gaps between paving slabs and any vertical deviation between textured pavers;**

2. **define the junction between the footway and roadway with a curb or tactile paving; and**
3. **construct all crosswalks and curbs in the most safe and stable manner.**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

### III. STATE ROAD (SR) 24 SPEED LIMIT

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that, at its December 14, 2000 meeting, the MTPO requested that FDOT discuss the speed limit increase on SR 24.

Mr. Jim Scott, FDOT District 2 Traffic Operations Engineer, discussed speed limit changes on Archer Road, west of SW 75<sup>th</sup> Street, and answered questions.

**ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to FDOT requesting that they reevaluate speed limits on Archer Road from SW 75<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 91<sup>st</sup> Street, taking into consideration ongoing safety concerns at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 91<sup>st</sup> Street. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

### IV. US 441 BICYCLE SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its January 30 meeting, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (B/PAB) discussed bicycle safety concerns due to bicyclist fatalities on US 441 at Paynes Prairie. He said that this issue has also been reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to:**

1. **request that FDOT fund a short-term safety study of the US 441, Paynes Prairie corridor, where bicyclist fatalities have occurred;**
2. **keep the US 441 bicycle project as the first unfunded safety project when the MTPO's List of Priority Projects is approved in September;**
3. **request that FDOT program construction funds for this project in its next Work Program, noting that this project has been on the MTPO's priority list for the past two years; and**
4. **support the designation of US 441 as a Scenic Highway and include funding for bicycle safety projects, including consideration of an off-road bicycle facility, in this corridor as part of that designation.**

**Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

A member of the MTPO requested that portions of US 441 north and south of Paynes Prairie be included in the safety study.

A member of the MTPO thanked FDOT for funding the safety study.

V. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) ISSUES

A. OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its December 14 meeting, requested an overview presentation of RTS operations.

Mr. Jeff Logan, RTS Director, gave an overview presentation of RTS operations and answered questions.

B. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS (COA)

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its January 18 meeting, the MTPO discussed the proposed COA. He said that the MTPO referred this issue to its Advisory Committees to discuss whether this study should include an analysis of whether RTS should be expanded to a countywide transit authority.

Mr. Logan discussed the COA and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO discussed the upcoming Alachua County transportation workshop and invited RTS to participate.

**ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve conducting the COA as recommended by RTS staff with the understanding that the following items will be included in the scope of work:**

- 1. park-and-ride and express bus service to outlying municipalities within Alachua County;**
- 2. appropriate bus service expansions in the unincorporated area of Alachua County consistent with the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan and the City and County Comprehensive Plans; and**
- 3. whether RTS should be expanded to a countywide transit authority.**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

The following individuals spoke concerning the motion:

Mark Goldstein

S.R. Poll

## VI. MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its June 2000 meeting, the MTPO approved a motion to reconstruct Main Street, from Depot Avenue to N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as a two lane divided facility; conduct a Comprehensive Operational Analysis of the Regional Transit System in conjunction with the implementation of the Main Street reconstruction project; and include parallel parking, bus bays and instreet bikelanes in the Main Street project design.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District 2 Project Manager, gave a presentation concerning the Main Street Reconstruction Project and answered questions.

The MTPO commended Mr. Bennett and Mr. Pat Haygood, FDOT District 2 Project Design Engineer, for their hard work and outstanding presentation concerning this project.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to:**

- 1. approve the Main Street design plans as presented by FDOT with the understanding that:**
  - A. FDOT and the City of Gainesville will further research signalization alternatives, such as mastarms and post-mounted signals, throughout the Main Street reconstruction project corridor; and**
  - B. landscape details will be determined once design details are finalized.**
- 2. request that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners consider reconstructing Main Street, from N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with two travel lanes, a center turn lane and instreet bike lanes; and**
- 3. request that FDOT investigate the use of brick-hued, non-textured bicycle lanes throughout the project.**

**Mayor DeLaney seconded.**

A member of the MTPO expressed concern that Publix Supermarkets does not support reducing the number of travel lanes on Main Street from N 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The MTPO discussed the potential impacts of reducing the number of travel lanes on Main Street from N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Bill Lecher, Alachua County Public Works Department Assistant Director, and Mr. Brian Kanely, Gainesville Public Works Department Transportation Services Manager, discussed possible cross sections for Main Street from N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**AMENDMENT:** Commissioner Hutchinson moved amend the motion to request that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners consider alternative cross sections in the reconstruction of Main Street from N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Wheat seconded.

The following individuals spoke concerning the motion:

Zachary Andrews

S.R. Poll

Cindy Smith

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Commissioner Chestnut moved a substitute motion to:

1. approve the Main Street design plans as presented by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with the understanding that:
  - A. FDOT and the City of Gainesville will further research signalization alternatives, such as mastarms and post-mounted signals, throughout the Main Street reconstruction project corridor; and
  - B. landscape details will be determined once design details are finalized; and
2. request that FDOT investigate the use of brick-hued, non-textured bicycle lanes throughout the project.

Commissioner Newport seconded; motion failed seven to two.

The MTPO continued to discuss the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Commissioner Newport moved a substitute motion to:

1. approve the Main Street design plans as presented by FDOT with the understanding that:
  - A. FDOT and the City of Gainesville will further research signalization alternatives, such as mastarms and post-mounted signals, throughout the Main Street reconstruction project corridor; and
  - B. landscape details will be determined once design details are finalized;

2. **request that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, in cooperation with businesses and adjacent neighborhoods along this corridor, consider alternative cross-sections for the reconstruction of Main Street from N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and**
3. **request that FDOT investigate the use of brick-hued, non-textured bicycle lanes throughout the project.**

**Commissioner Hutchinson seconded.**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved a substitute motion to:**

1. **approve the Main Street design plans as presented by FDOT with the understanding that:**
  - A. **FDOT and the City of Gainesville will further research signalization alternatives, such as mastarms and post-mounted signals, throughout the Main Street reconstruction project corridor; and**
  - B. **landscape details will be determined once design details are finalized;**
2. **request that Alachua County staff conduct a traffic design analysis of Main Street between N 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue that includes participation from affected businesses and neighborhoods; and**
3. **request that FDOT investigate the use of brick-hued, non-textured bicycle lanes throughout the project.**

**Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed eight to one.**

**VII. STATE ROAD 24 AT INTERSTATE 75 SAFETY PROJECT**

Mr. Sanderson reviewed the MTPO Advisory Committee recommendations concerning the SR 24 (Archer Road) at Interstate 75 safety project. He noted that the project included milling and resurfacing and access management, from Fred Bear Drive to SW 40<sup>th</sup> Boulevard, and a traffic signal installation at Fred Bear Drive.

Mr. Scott indicated that FDOT can construct wider curb lanes throughout the project corridor.



**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to:**

- 1. approve the SR 24 resurfacing project with textured and hued pedestrian crosswalks and horizontal mast arms; and**
- 2. request that FDOT include 14 foot wide outside lanes in this project to accommodate bicyclists.**

**Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### VIII. US 441 AT GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SAFETY PROJECT

Mr. Sanderson discussed the US 441 at Gainesville High School Safety Project.

Ms. Smith expressed concern that the flashing pedestrian signals are going to be removed.

Mr. Scott indicated that FDOT can install signage to warn vehicles of the mid-block crossing.

The MTPO discussed signalization, signage and construction materials for the proposed mid-block crossing in front of Gainesville High School.

Ms. Teresa Scott, Gainesville Public Works Department Director, suggested that the MTPO refer safety issues concerning the mid-block crossing to the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team.

**ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved to:**

- 1. approve the FDOT design plans for the US 441 at Gainesville High School Safety Project between NW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue; and**
- 2. request that the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team review the pedestrian lighting, signage and signalization options for the proposed mid-block pedestrian crossing at NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

**Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### IX. STATE ROADS 26 AND 26A STATUS REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its January 18 meeting, the MTPO discussed the SR 26 resurfacing project. He said that FDOT reported that the SR 26 project in the FDOT Tentative Work Program does not include all of the design elements requested by the MTPO. He reviewed the history of the SR 26 and 26A projects and answered questions.

Mr. James Dees, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, discussed the SR 26/26A projects and answered questions.

Ms. Scott stated that City staff will provide, to the MTPO, cost estimates of those amenities which FDOT is unable to fund.

X. HULL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Sanderson provided a status report concerning the proposed Hull Road right-of-way.

Mr. Lecher discussed issues concerning the proposed Hull Road right-of-way and answered questions.

**ACTION: Mayor DeLaney moved to:**

- 1. continue to endorse the need for 150' right-of-way for the proposed Hull Road alignment until circumstances arise which prevent the acquisition of this much right-of-way; and**
- 2. request that FDOT research alternatives for the purchase and development of the right-of-way along the proposed Hull Road alignment as necessary.**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed nine to one.**

XI. JACKSONVILLE MPO MEETING CONFLICTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, in the past, FDOT staff have encountered problems attending both the Gainesville and Jacksonville MPO meetings because sometimes both meetings are scheduled for the same day. He reviewed possible solutions to the meeting conflicts.

**It was a consensus of the MTPO to maintain their current meeting schedule, but realize that, on occasion, FDOT may arrive late to MTPO meetings.**

XII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is currently scheduled for March 1 at 1:30 p.m. He said that the MTPO has also scheduled a workshop on walkable shopping centers at 6:00 p.m.

XIII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBERS-

A member of the MTPO gave an update concerning the MTPO Southeast Connector Subcommittee and announced that its next meeting will be held Friday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A member of the MTPO stated that, in December, the MTPO adopted landscape policies for retention/detention basins. She requested that staff ensure that these policies have been forwarded to the City of Gainesville and Alachua County.

B. CITIZENS

Mr. Bruce Pagel, City of Archer Assistant City Manager, discussed the impacts of not funding the four-laning of Archer Road to the City of Archer.

**It was a consensus of the MTPO to request that staff research why the funding for the four-laning of Archer Road was moved to other projects.**

Mr. Sanderson and Ms. Scott discussed their understanding of why the four-laning of Archer Road was moved to other projects.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT- There was no Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barrow adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

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Date

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Warren Nielsen  
Secretary/Treasurer

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