

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
October 11, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Barrow, Chair
Mayor Tom Bussing
Mike Byerly
Chuck Chestnut IV
Pegeen Hanrahan
Robert Hutchinson

MEMBERS PRESENT (cont')

Rodney Long
Dave Newport
Warren Nielsen
Ed Poppell
Aage Schroder
Penny Wheat

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Lynn Franson-Godfrey
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Barrow called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, requested that consent agenda item C.A.2., City of Gainesville Creek Naming Program, be deleted. He said that staff needs to conduct further research concerning this agenda item.

A member of the MTPO requested that staff amend the roll-call vote on page five of the September 13 meeting minutes to reflect that Commissioner Hutchinson is on the County Commission, not the City Commission.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda with the following changes:

- 1. delete consent agenda item number 2; and**
- 2. amend the roll-call vote on page five of the September 13 meeting minutes to reflect that Commissioner Hutchinson is on the County Commission, not the City Commission.**

Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. COORDINATING BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO needs to appoint voting and alternate Citizen Advocate Representatives to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

The following candidates spoke concerning the alternate Citizen Advocate position:

Maureen Hamilton

Bill Hileman

Johnny Watson

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to appoint Johnny Watson to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board as the voting Citizen Advocate Representative. Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The MTPO completed the ballots for the alternate Citizen Advocate Position.

Mr. Sanderson reported that Ms. Maureen Hamilton received seven votes, Mr. Bill Hileman received two votes and Mr. Johnny Watson received one vote.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to appoint Maureen Hamilton to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board as the alternate Citizen Advocate Representative. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The MTPO discussed the voting method used to appoint advisory board members.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to adopt an MTPO policy to always appoint Advisory Committee members by roll-call vote by voice and, when there are several vacant positions to fill, also fill out ballots and submit them to staff for tabulation. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. ALACHUA COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL- TREES FOR OUR HEROES

Mr. Sanderson discussed the "Trees For Our Heroes" project and the type of trees to be planted.

Mr. Dick Bush, Florida Department Of Transportation (FDOT) Landscape Development Specialist, discussed which types of trees will be planted and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO asked whether future Archer Road modifications, in the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan, will impact the trees planted in the median for this project.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to ask the MTPO Design Team to review the proposed tree planting project to see if future Archer Road modifications, in the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan, would impact the trees to be planted in the medians. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The MTPO continued to discuss the “Trees For Our Heroes” project.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to refer the “Trees for Our Heroes Project” to the Design Team to:

- 1. develop MTPO recommendations concerning where the specific species of trees should be planted; and**
- 2. consider shading options for the bicycle-pedestrian path that is being constructed along the Old Archer Road corridor.**

Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. SW 34th STREET RESURFACING PROJECT- MAST ARM TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Mr. Sanderson discussed a letter from FDOT stating that they plan to include a four-foot bicycle lane along SW 34th Street, from Archer Road north to University Avenue. He said that, in order to construct the bikelane, FDOT will reduce the width of the median by two feet. He noted that FDOT will use brick-imprinted asphalt, rather than sod, in the narrowed medians.

A member of the MTPO asked whether the narrowing of the medians would impact the student memorial on SW 34th Street.

Ms. Suraya Teeple, FDOT District 2 Regional Administrator, stated that new design plans for this corridor have not been developed. Therefore, she said, it is uncertain whether the memorial would be affected.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to refer the design plans for the addition of bikelanes on SW 34th Street, from Archer Road north to University Avenue, to the MTPO Design Team. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanderson stated that FDOT has informed the MTPO that there are conflicts with existing utilities and the installation of mast arm traffic signals, within the existing right-of-way, at the SW 34th Street intersections at SW 20th Avenue and Radio Road. He said that University of Florida staff is working with FDOT to resolve right-of-way issues at SW 34th Street and Radio Road in order to install mast arm signals at this location.

Ms. Teeple discussed the FDOT timeline and procedures for the transfer of right-of-way from one State agency to another.

Mr. Ed Poppell, University of Florida Vice President for Administrative Affairs, discussed the University of Florida’s willingness to cooperate to expedite the process to transfer right-of-way.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to authorize the MTPO Chair to send a letter to the FDOT District 2 Secretary to convey the University of Florida's willingness to:

- 1. cooperate concerning right-of-way issues for the mast-arm signals on SW 34th Street at Radio Road;**
- 2. expedite the process for the transfer of ownership of right-of-way to FDOT; and**
- 3. assist FDOT in whatever way possible to accomplish this project.**

Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. CHARRETTE FUNDS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County are currently contributing \$5,000 each year to the charrette reserve fund. He said that, as of October 1, this fund contains \$45,000. He noted that the City Commission has requested a charrette for the West 6th Street corridor. He added that City staff has expressed an interest in conducting this charrette for the MTPO. He requested that the MTPO decide whether MTPO staff or City staff will be responsible for conducting this charrette.

Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Department Director, explained that City of Gainesville staff volunteered to act as the lead for this project.

The MTPO discussed potential funding partners for, and participants in, the West 6th Street corridor project.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to:

- 1. allocate \$15,000 of its charrette funds for a West 6th Street charrette;**
- 2. pursue, along with the City of Gainesville, additional funding partners for this charrette;**
- 3. allocate the remaining MTPO charrette funds to the Plan East Gainesville project; and**
- 4. approve the City of Gainesville staff assuming the lead role for conducting this charrette, including hiring the consultant, with the MTPO staff providing a supporting role.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. PLAN EAST GAINESVILLE PROJECT

A. PLANNING FUNDS- STATUS REPORT

Mr. Sanderson discussed the current funding partners that have been identified for the Plan East Gainesville project. He discussed the level of committed funds to date.

A member of the MTPO discussed the East Gainesville Redevelopment Plan and asked how this plan will be incorporated into the Plan East Gainesville project.

Mr. Sanderson stated that the consultant will use past and current planning efforts for the project area as the starting point for the Plan East Gainesville planning process.

B. CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS

Mr. Sanderson discussed the Plan East Gainesville Consultant Selection Process. He stated that the MTPO's Plan East Gainesville Subcommittee is forwarding a numeric consultant ranking of the four Request for Proposals respondents. He reviewed the list of items that the Subcommittee has requested that the MTPO incorporate into the consultant contract. He said that the MTPO needs to select, in order of preference, no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services and authorize staff to begin contract negotiations.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to include the following elements, for consideration, in the Plan East Gainesville consultant contract negotiations:

- A. establish a local project office, within the project boundary, to be open at least one day or evening per week;**
- B. assign a project manager with local knowledge and experience who is accessible to the public throughout the planning process;**
- C. codify plan elements, strategies and smart-growth ordinances for inclusion in City and County Plans and Regulations;**
- D. address environmental issues consistent with the shared goals of the transmitted City of Gainesville and Alachua County Comprehensive plans;**
- E. perform a neighborhood inventory and profiling index exercise which will offer guidance in accommodating future growth and community goals;**
- F. include assurances that the work product will be responsive to the community's vision and goals concerning the project area, which are to be developed during the public participation and community involvement stages of this project;**

- G. develop a plan for the project area which is consistent with MTPO's Livable Community Reinvestment Plan's goals, objectives and vision; and**
- H. allow adequate time between the project planning phases for public involvement and community input.**

Commissioner Long seconded.

Members of the MTPO expressed concern regarding adding these items to be considered in the negotiation process because they were not included in the original project scope of services.

A member of the MTPO requested a copy of the Plan East Gainesville project request for proposals and scope of services.

The MTPO discussed the consultant negotiation process.

ACTION: Mayor Bussing moved to table the motion on the floor. Commissioner Wheat seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO asked whether authorizing Commissioner Rodney Long, Subcommittee Chair, to participate in the Plan East Gainesville consultant negotiation process would require meetings for these negotiations to be held according to the Florida Sunshine Law.

Mr. Dave Wagner, MTPO Attorney, explained that, because the MTPO will still have final review and approval of the contract, the meeting between the consultant and an authorized member of the MTPO to negotiate the contract is not subject to the Florida Sunshine Law.

A member of the MTPO stated that it may be more appropriate to rank the consultants prior to discussing whether to add items for consideration to the negotiation process.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to:

- 1. rank the Plan East Gainesville Consultants in the following order:**
 - A. Duany Plater Zyberk;**
 - B. Renaissance Planning Group;**
 - C. The Corradino Group; and**
 - D. Creative Environmental Solutions; and**
- 2. authorize staff to begin contract negotiations.**

Commissioner Long seconded.

Mr. Paul Hoffhein expressed his disappointment with the public involvement process, specifically related to the lack of citizen input in the consultant selection process.

Chair Barrow requested a roll-call vote.

	City	County
Commissioner Nielsen	Yes	
Commissioner Wheat		Yes
Mayor Bussing	Yes	
Commissioner Byerly		Yes
Commissioner Chestnut	Yes	
Commissioner Hanrahan	Yes	
Commissioner Hutchinson		Yes
Commissioner Long		Yes
Commissioner Newport		Yes
Chair Barrow	Yes	

Motion passed.

ACTION: **Commissioner Newport moved to bring the tabled motion to the floor. Mayor Bussing seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

The MTPO continued to discuss whether to add items for consideration during the consultant contract negotiations.

ACTION: **Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to include the following elements, for consideration, in the Plan East Gainesville consultant contract negotiations:**

- A. establish a local project office, within the project boundary, to be open at least one day or evening per week;**
- B. assign key personnel to the project with local knowledge and experience who are accessible to the public throughout the planning process;**
- C. codify plan elements, strategies and smart-growth ordinances for inclusion in City and County Plans and Regulations;**
- D. address environmental issues consistent with the shared goals of the transmitted City of Gainesville and Alachua County Comprehensive Plans;**
- E. perform a neighborhood inventory and profiling index exercise which will offer guidance in accommodating future growth and community goals;**

- F. include assurances that the work product will be responsive to the community's vision and goals concerning the project area, which are to be developed during the public participation and community involvement stages of this project;**
- G. develop a plan for the project area which is consistent with MTPO's Livable Community Reinvestment Plan's goals, objectives and vision; and**
- H. allow adequate time between the project planning phases for public involvement and community input.**

Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to include in the Plan East Gainesville Consultant contract negotiations a notation that a seven-day charrette may not be appropriate for this project. Commissioner Nielsen seconded.

Chair Barrow requested a roll-call vote.

	City	County
Commissioner Newport		Yes
Commissioner Nielsen	No	
Commissioner Wheat		No
Mayor Bussing	No	
Commissioner Byerly		No
Commissioner Chestnut	Yes	
Commissioner Hanrahan	Yes	
Commissioner Hutchinson		No
Commissioner Long		Yes
Chair Barrow	No	

Motion failed.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to authorize Subcommittee Chairman Rodney Long to participate in the Plan East Gainesville consultant selection negotiation process. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded.

Chair Barrow requested a roll-call vote.

	City	County
Commissioner Long		Yes
Commissioner Newport		Yes
Commissioner Nielsen	Yes	
Commissioner Wheat		No
Mayor Bussing	No	
Commissioner Byerly		No
Commissioner Chestnut	Yes	
Commissioner Hanrahan	Yes	
Commissioner Hutchinson		Yes
Chair Barrow	Yes	

Motion passed.

VII. LOCKWOOD GREENE REPORT - MTPO RESPONSE

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its June 7 meeting, the MTPO discussed the Lockwood Green Report. He said that, during this discussion, the MTPO approved a motion to authorize the Chair to send a response letter concerning issues raised in this report. He reviewed the draft MTPO response.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to:

- 1. authorize the Chair to forward the MTPO response to the Lockwood Greene Report to the Alliance for Economic Development; and**
- 2. request that the Alliance for Economic Development post this response on their internet site.**

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded.

The MTPO discussed the draft letter and commended staff for preparing a thorough response.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Nielsen moved to amend the motion to:

- 1. send copies of the response letter, and the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan brochure, to those who received either a copy or executive summary of the Lockwood Greene Report; and**
- 2. forward a copy of the response letter to the Alachua County Library if the Report was provided to the library.**

Commissioner Wheat seconded; motion passed.

ACTION ON ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:

Commissioner Hanrahan moved to:

- 1. authorize the Chair to forward the MTPO response letter to the Lockwood Greene Report to the Alliance for Economic Development;**
- 2. request that the Alliance for Economic Development post this response on their internet site;**
- 3. send copies of the response letter, and the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan brochure, to those who received either a copy or executive summary of the Lockwood Greene Study; and**
- 4. forward a copy of the response letter to the Alachua County Library if the Report was provided to the library.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed.

VIII. MAIN STREET AT DEPOT AVENUE ROUNDABOUT

Mr. Sanderson stated that FDOT staff is requesting that the MTPO develop final recommendations concerning the Main Street at Depot Avenue roundabout plans in order to adhere to the current schedule for this project.

A member of the MTPO asked if the southeast sliplane width could be reduced.

Mr. Aage Schroder, FDOT District 2 Secretary, stated that the sliplane is designed to allow adequate width for a vehicle to move aside for an emergency vehicle to pass.

A member of the MTPO suggested that the Advisory Committees develop recommendations concerning the design of the center of the roundabout.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to approve the proposed Main Street at Depot Avenue roundabout design plans and request that FDOT:

- 1. widen the splitter island approaches;**
- 2. move all four crosswalks closer to the center of the roundabout;**
- 3. reconfigure the crosswalks on the sliplanes to maintain the same geometry as the four crosswalks;**
- 4. locate sidewalks as far from the travel lanes as possible within the existing rights of way;**

5. **consider reducing the width of the slip-lane and increase the buffer between the travel lane and the sidewalks; and**
6. **refer the design of the center of the roundabout to the MTPO Advisory Committees.**

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed nine to one, with Commissioner Chestnut voting No.

IX. PROPOSED LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT-
UNIVERSITY AVENUE

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its August 16 meeting, approved a motion to schedule a public hearing to consider amending the Long Range Transportation Plan to advance the University Avenue project from priority number 7 to priority number 5.

ACTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to not schedule a public hearing to consider amending the Long Range Transportation Plan to move priority number 7 (reducing University Avenue to two-lane divided with bus bays) to priority number 5 for the following reasons:

1. **the current sequencing of the projects in the adopted plan allows time for the Main Street two-laning project to be implemented and evaluated before work begins on the University Avenue project;**
2. **even if University Avenue is moved up to priority number 5, this will have no immediate real effect because this project is many years off and will be addressed in possibly the next two major long range transportation plan updates; and**
3. **the currently adopted project priority number 5 (Depot Avenue) and priority number 6 (Archer Road) projects will provide enhanced parallel facilities to move east/west traffic that diverts from a reduced two-lane University Avenue, and therefore, these projects are needed in advance of lane reductions on University Avenue.**

Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

X. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)- CONSISTENCY REVIEW

Mr. Sanderson discussed issues concerning consistency between the MTPO's Transportation Improvement Program and the Alachua County and City of Gainesville comprehensive plans.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Gainesville City Commission requesting that they incorporate the SW 2nd Avenue project in their Comprehensive Plan where appropriate. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to request that staff send a letter to the Florida Department of Community Affairs noting that the SW 24th Avenue/SW 62nd Avenue project was included in the recently transmitted Alachua County Comprehensive Plan.

XI. FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS ACQUISITION PROGRAM- GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the September 13 MTPO meeting, the City Commission requested an announcement concerning grant applications that are being accepted through October 23 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the purchase of recreational and ecologically sensitive lands. He said that the City Commission wanted this announcement made in case there was a project that the City or County staff should consider submitting an application for this year. He noted that, at this meeting, Mr. Wayne Bowers, City of Gainesville Manager, stated that City staff would work with County staff concerning whether an application should be submitted this year.

Ms. Scott gave a status report concerning the Greenways and Trails Program. She discussed a list of projects that may qualify for potential grant consideration under this program.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to support the City of Gainesville application for Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program Grant Funds for the Hull Road extension trail, from SW 62nd Blvd/SW 20th Avenue to SW 34th Street. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Scott noted that the Hull Road extension trail is outside of the City limits. She suggested that Alachua County submit the application. She said that City staff will assist County staff in preparing the application.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Alachua County Commission requesting that they expeditiously approve this grant application in order to meet the October 23 application deadline. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

XII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 1:30 p.m.

A. MTPO MEMBERS

A member of the MTPO commended the citizens and FDOT for their dedicated involvement in the designation of US 441 as a scenic highway named the "Old Florida Heritage Highway."

B. CITIZENS

Mr. David Welch spoke concerning safety issues at the intersection of Tower Road and Veterans Park Road. He stated that there are several trucks from the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Kanapaha facility traveling through this intersection. He noted that Veterans Park is used for youth soccer leagues and several children commute to this park.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Alachua County Commission requesting that they:

- 1. evaluate alternative routing options for trucks traveling from the GRU Kanapaha Facility to Archer Road; and**
- 2. refer this issue to the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team.**

Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barrow adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Date

Warren Nielsen
Secretary/Treasurer

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