

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 14, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Hutchinson, Chair
John Barrow
Mayor Tom Bussing
Mike Byerly
Fred Cantrell
Pegeen Hanrahan
Rodney Long
Dave Newport
Warren Nielsen
Aage Schroder
Penny Wheat

Chuck Chestnut IV

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante
Lynn Franson-Godfrey

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hutchinson noted that the MTPO was awaiting a phone connection with the Honorable Ed Jennings, Jr., State Representative for Florida House District 23.

A member of the MTPO asked about pedestrian crossing facilities related to the traffic signal upgrade projects contained in the consent agenda.

Ms. Doreen Joyner-Howard, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Transportation Planner, discussed the SW Archer Road traffic signal upgrade project and answered questions.

Representative Jennings indicated that he was connected by phone.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the MTPO Chair requested that the MTPO discuss proposed draft House Bill 1083/Senate Bill 1780-Regional Transportation Authorities.

Representative Jennings discussed the issues behind the proposed draft House Bill 1083/Senate Bill 1780 and answered questions.

Several MTPO members discussed their concerns regarding the proposed bill.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to have Commissioner Nielsen and Commissioner Hutchinson serve on a MTPO subcommittee to work with State Representative Ed Jennings regarding regional transportation issues. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded.

Chair Hutchinson suggested that the recommendations of the MTPO subcommittee meeting could be forwarded to the other MTPO member and that they could take this material to their respective Commissions so that each Commission could respond to Representative Jennings.

A member of the MTPO noted that the Interstate 75 Corridor Council is a model for regional transportation body.

SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Mayor Bussing moved to request that State Representative Jennings table or withdraw the bill. Commissioner Wheat seconded.

The following persons spoke regarding this agenda item:

Cindy Smith

Mac McEachern

Charles Justice

REVISED SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Mayor Bussing moved to inform State Representative Jennings that the MTPO does not want the current bill to become law. Commissioner Wheat seconded. Chair Hutchinson requested a rollcall vote:

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

Motion failed.

Chair Hutchinson noted that recommendations on regional transportation issues could be forwarded to State Representative Jennings from:

1. the MTPO subcommittee, which would meet as soon as possible, as well as comments from other MTPO members; or
2. the entire MTPO, which would hold a special meeting to discuss this item.

Mr. Mac McEachern, Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Airport Authority member, requested that a representative of the Authority, possibly the executive director, be included in these regional transportation issues discussions.

SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Commissioner Hanrahan moved to appoint Commissioner Nielsen and Commissioner Hutchinson to a MTPO Regional Transportation Issues Subcommittee and to invite a representative from the Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Airport Authority to participate with this subcommittee to report back to the MTPO and/or the City and County Commissions with some alternatives to the existing bill which would create a study commission using the Interstate 75 Corridor Council or other appropriate models. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. STATE ROAD (SR) 26/26A DESIGN PLANS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the FDOT's SR 26/26A thirty percent design plans were complete. He said that FDOT and its consultants were present to discuss the design plans. He said that there would be a presentation by FDOT of the proposed thirty percent design plans followed by a presentation of the MTPO Advisory Committees' recommendations and staff recommendations.

A member of the MTPO asked how long the presentations would take.

Mr. Fred Wright, FDOT Project Manager, stated that the SR 26 presentation would take 30 minutes and the SR 26A presentation would take an hour-and-twenty minutes.

Mr. Sanderson noted that a representative from Renaissance Planning Group (RPG) was present to discuss the Transportation and Community and System Presentation (TCSP) Pilot Program Grant Project Final Report.

ACTION: Mayor Bussing moved to amend the agenda:

- 1. to hear public comment on the SR 26 and SR 26A projects:**
- 2. to receive a presentation on the TCSP Grant Final Report; and**
- 3. defer the balance of the agenda to the next MTPO meeting.**

Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The following persons spoke on SR 26 and SR 26A projects:

Susan Wright Mark Goldstein Cindy Smith Larry Snelling

A member of the MTPO noted that written comments also have been received on the projects.

The following persons submitted written or phoned-in comments:

Julia Reiskind Lisa Jelks Joann Ihas Kyle Magrill
Danielle Enneking

IV. TCSP PILOT PROGRAM GRANT

Mr. Kevin Tilbury, Renaissance Planning Group Project Manager, discussed the TCSP draft final report and answered questions.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to approve the TCSP final report.
Commissioner Barrow seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

III. SR 26/26A PROJECTS (Continued)

Mr. Wright, Mr. Joe Montalto, Lochrane Engineering Principal, and Ms. Despina Veillieux, Lochrane Engineering Traffic Operations Engineer, discussed the SR 26/SR 26A thirty percent design plans and answered questions.

Mr. Sanderson reported the MTPO Advisory Committees and staff recommendations and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO asked MTPO staff what was the traffic engineering data or engineering methodology used to substantiate the staff's recommendation.

Mr. Sanderson stated that MTPO staff did not have any data that would indicate that FDOT's data is not correct or to show that State Road 26A is being over-designed. He said that the MTPO staff recommendation is meant to reflect the MTPO policy decision that staff felt was made on June 8, 2000 concerning this corridor.

A member of the MTPO requested directional crash data for all intersections west of West 34th Street on the SR 26A project corridor.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to:

- 1. request that FDOT implement the following general design concepts for both SR 26 and SR 26A:**
 - A. design all medians to be as long as possible;**
 - B. use native shade-tolerant species for all landscaped medians;**
 - C. construct minimal turn radii to reduce high-speed turn movements; and**
 - D. maximize the area between the back of curb and sidewalks/paths to provide opportunities for shade trees within the corridor;**
- 2. approve FDOT's thirty percent design plans for SR 26 from W 38th Street east to W 22nd Street and SR 26A from SW 34th Street east to W 22nd Street (on SR 26); and**
- 3. approve the following design criteria for SR 26A west of SW 34th Street:**
 - A. request that the FDOT revise the SR 26A design plans, consistent with the MTPO-approved motion to *"reconstruct State Road 26A west of W. 34th Street with one lane eastbound and one lane westbound with center turnlanes and landscape medians and sidewalks"* by eliminating all dedicated right turnlanes except for the one for southbound traffic at SR 121 (SW 34th Street), which also needs to be reduced in length;**
 - B. construct 11-foot travel lanes; and**
 - C. eliminate the proposed five-foot sidewalk and construct a separate 12-foot shared-use path on the south side of the corridor.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; Chair Hutchinson requested a rollcall vote:

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

Motion passed.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to request that FDOT evaluate the impacts of the proposed SW 62nd Boulevard/SW 24th Avenue project, and associated roadway projects, on all traffic movements on SR 26A at SW 34th Street before proceeding with the current plans. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to request that MTPO staff work with City and County Public Works Department staff to solicit at least three proposals from at least three traffic engineers with traffic calming design experience to:

- 1. review FDOT's design for SR 26A west of SW 34th Street;**
- 2. compare the FDOT design to the MTPO staff design; and**
- 3. provide a report back to the MTPO.**

Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hutchinson stated that, "if three PE's all stand up and say we would seal these plans and that FDOT is saying they won't seal the plans, then if we have some evidence that they're engineers would believe it's safe enough to put their seal of approval on it."

Commissioner Hanrahan stated, "Right, and this is really just a motion to go get some proposals and get us some back of the envelope sense of what it might entail."

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to request that the City Commission ask Gainesville Regional Utilities staff to make a presentation to the MTPO on the issue of undergrounding of utilities concurrent with the SR 26/26A reconstruction project. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brian Kanely, City of Gainesville Transportation Services Manager, discussed the City's State Road 26/26A western and eastern confluence proposals and answered questions.

VII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

VIII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no MTPO member comments.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

C. MTPO CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no MTPO Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Date

Mike Byerly
Secretary/Treasurer

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EXHIBIT 1

Interested Citizens

E.J. Bolduc
Wayne Bowers
Buford Davis
Laura Dedenbach
Danielle Enneking (telephone call)
Mark Goldstein
Ralph Hilliard
Kim Holland
Brian Kanely
Chuck Kiester
Steve Kincaid
Charles Justice
Deborah Leistner
Jeff Logan
Monique Markey
Mac McEachern
Joe Montalto
Shenley Neely
Chandler Otis
Randall Reid
John Sabatella
Harold Saive
Chris Simoneaux
Cindy Smith
Kevin Tilbury
Christopher Thurow
Despina Veillieux
Dave Wagner
Susan Wright

Florida Department of Transportation

Richard Coffman
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Dwight Kingsbury
Theo Petritsch
Suraya Teeple
Fred Wright