

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 10, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Hutchinson, Chair
Ed Braddy
Mayor Tom Bussing
Mike Byerly
Tony Domenech
Dave Newport
Warren Nielsen
Linda Dixon for Ed Poppell
Aage Schroder
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Chestnut IV
Rodney Long

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Mike Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, asked the MTPO to approve the meeting agenda and consent agenda.

**ACTION: Mayor Bussing moved to approve the meeting agenda and the consent agenda.
Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

II. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD (B/PAB) VACANT POSITION

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO needs to fill one vacant position on its B/PAB. He said that the position has a term of office through October, 2005.

The following persons spoke regarding their B/PAB applications:

Steve Sparks

John Richter

Benjamin Fein

Mr. Sanderson conducted a rollcall vote and reported the results.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to reappoint John Richter to the B/PAB for a term through October, 2005. Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hutchinson thanked all of the candidates for their interest in serving on the B/PAB and noted that the County will soon be making appointments to its B/PAB.

III. SW 20TH AVENUE CHARRETTE PROJECT PRIORITIES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, according to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 staff, there may be enough Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the top three STP priorities that the MTPO approved on August 8. He said that MTPO staff advised FDOT staff that the next phase of SW 20th Avenue Charrette projects is Phase 1-B. He discussed the Phase 1-B projects and answered questions. He noted that these projects are not currently ranked in priority order. He added that he discussed this opportunity with Alachua County Public Works Department (ACPWP) staff. He reported the Advisory Committee and staff recommendations.

Mr. Bill Lecher, ACPWD Civil Engineer II, and Mr. Aage Schroder, FDOT District 2 Secretary, discussed the SW 20th Avenue Charrette projects in Phase 1-B. and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to approve:

- 1. the construction of the roundabout at SW 38th Terrace as priority number one; and**
- 2. a design study for SW 20th Avenue to determine remaining priorities in Phase 1-B, with any additional funds, after priority one is fully funded for construction.**

Commissioner Wheat seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. DRAFT MTPO BOUNDARY AND VOTING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its July meeting, the MTPO directed staff to report back with an analysis of the Year 2000 Census maps and whether the MTPO can be designated as a transportation management area (TMA) with a population over 200,000. He said that, at its August meeting, the MTPO directed staff to include in this report:

- A. the advantages and disadvantages of expanding the MTPO planning boundaries to include all of Alachua County; and
- B. options concerning revising the voting membership to include representation from other municipalities in Alachua County and the University of Florida.

He noted that the Governor's Office will soon send letters to all Florida MPOs requesting that they prepare reapportionment plans. He said that, according to FDOT, this letter will include specific instructions concerning how to prepare these plans and is expected to include additional detailed Year 2000 Census maps that the MPOs are to use to "smooth" their urbanized boundaries. He added that this urbanized boundary "smoothing" could affect whether certain roads in our area will be classified as arterials or collectors. He said that final decisions have not been made concerning whether the Gainesville City Commission will continue to have five members or be expanded to seven members, which would affect the voting member alternatives being considered by the MTPO. He reported that MTPO staff is currently researching issues discussed at the October 1 Alachua County Community Planning Group meeting and that this information would be included in the next edition of the MTPO Boundary and Voting Membership Report.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to refer the draft MTPO Boundary and Voting Membership Report to the MTPO Advisory Committees to develop recommendations to report to the MTPO after:

- 1. the Governor's letter concerning reapportionment is received; and**
- 2. a decision is made concerning whether the Gainesville City Commission will have five or seven members.**

Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. MTPO ROADWAY AND TRAFFIC SIGNAGE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

A. STATUS REPORT

Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed FDOT's sign removal program and answered questions. Mr. Sanderson noted that 177 signs would be removed from the State Highway System within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

B. CITY OF GAINESVILLE CODES- ARTICLE IV. TRUCK ROUTES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its April 23 and May 24 meetings, the MTPO Traffic and Roadway Signage Review Subcommittee discussed truck route issues, including a number of existing problems with large semi-tractor trailer trucks traveling through the community. He said that, at its August 8 meeting, the Subcommittee discussed the City's adopted Truck Route Ordinance. He and Mr. Dedenbach described various routes and the technical working group's recommendation to reassign of State Road 24 from Archer road onto South 16th Avenue.

Ms. Linda Dixon, University of Florida Strategic Planner for University Master Planning, noted that the University of Florida and Shands Hospital support the reassignment of State Road 24 from Archer Road onto South 16th Avenue.

ACTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to ask the City and County Commissions to jointly schedule a meeting to discuss enforcement of a truck route system with the following in attendance:

1. City and County Managers;
2. City and County Attorneys;
3. City and County Public Works Department Directors;
4. City Police Chief and the Alachua County Sheriff;
5. Florida Department of Transportation District 2 staff, including Motor Carrier Compliance;
6. a representative from the local Florida Highway Patrol office; and
7. Regional Transit System Director.

Commissioner Wheat seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jeff Logan, Regional Transit System (RTS) Director, stated that RTS staff was interested in participating with this group.

Mr. Wayne Bowers stated that the City will take lead in arranging this meeting.

Chair Hutchinson directed the staff to prepare a letter from the Chair to the City and County Commissions that acknowledges that the City will take the lead on arranging this meeting.

VI MTPO BIMONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, currently, the MTPO schedules monthly meetings which are preceded by its Advisory Committees and Design Team. He said that given the time necessary for material preparation and mail outs for each of these groups, MTPO staff is often processing six weeks of work in a month (two weeks per group multiplied by three groups). He discussed advantages and disadvantages between a monthly and bimonthly meeting schedule. He reported the Advisory Committees and staff recommendations.

ACTION: Commissioner Domenech moved to change its monthly meeting schedule to bimonthly meetings. Commissioner Braddy seconded; motion passed 6 to 1.

VII. SW 34TH STREET AND ARCHER ROAD LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Mr. Sanderson stated that MTPO staff presented LOS information regarding SW 34th Street and Archer Road at the September 9th Gainesville City commission meeting. He said that the Mayor asked that this issue be discussed at the next MTPO meeting. He discussed the Archer Road and SW 34th Street LOS and answered questions.

Mr. Brian Kanely, City of Gainesville Transportation Services Manager, Mr. Michael Escalante, MTPO Principal Transportation Planner, and Mr. Schroder discussed LOS analysis software and answered questions.

Mr. John Sabatella, ACPWD Senior Planner, discussed the Archer Road LOS and answered questions.

VIII. PLAN EAST GAINESVILLE STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dedenbach discussed the status of the Plan East Gainesville project and answered questions. He also announced the date, time and location for the upcoming October 29th workshop.

IX. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to cancel its November meeting unless FDOT needs to present its draft Work Program in November.

VIII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

A member of the MTPO discussed signal retiming on State Road 121. She requested more information on signal retiming for the existing system, what the different costs are involved for the different signal timings and what new technologies would provide to the system.

Mr. Kanely discussed traffic signal retiming, its costs and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to:

- 1. request that staff bring back to the MTPO a briefing paper on the following issues because the MTPO may want to consider obtaining funding for some of these types of projects in its Transportation Improvement Program:**
 - A. the existing traffic signal system, including its history in Alachua County, signal types, technology and maintenance requirements, etc.;**
 - B. new signal technologies;**
 - C. cost estimates and comparison analyses;**
 - D. other jurisdictions that have alternative traffic signal systems, such as lagging left turning movements; and**
 - E. grant opportunities or other funding strategies for implementing these new technologies; and**
- 2. have City and FDOT staff give the MTPO a signal retiming presentation.**

Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO noted that the FDOT held a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) workshop earlier in the day.

A member of the MTPO discussed the FDOT's SIS presentation to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Mr. Schroder discussed the SIS and answered questions. He noted that FDOT's SIS website, <http://www11.myflorida.com/planning/sis/default.htm>, included comments to the SIS Steering Committee.

Mr. Logan discussed his concerns regarding the SIS criteria.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to authorize MTPO staff to:

- 1. obtain, from City and County staffs, comments, suggestions and concerns regarding the FDOT Strategic Intermodal System criteria and process to date and to forward these comments by October 15 to FDOT in a letter signed by MTPO Chair; and**
- 2. continue to collect information from the FDOT Strategic Intermodal System website and other sources and place this issue on the next MTPO agenda for discussion.**

Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schroder noted that October 15th was the deadline for submitting comments to be presented at the October 23-24 SIS Steering Committee meeting.

A member of the MTPO noted that these comments could be preliminary and that the MTPO could forward additional comments for the December SIS Steering Committee meeting.

A member of the MTPO discussed the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) comments regarding the SIS.

A member of the MTPO requested that future MPOAC correspondence be included in the MTPO meeting packet.

Vice-Chair Nielsen requested that the appointment of the MPOAC representative be placed on the next agenda.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Nielsen noted that he was pleased that SW 20th Avenue Charrette project was receiving some funding. He requested RTS staff to summarize the RTS ridership.

Mr. Logan discussed the RTS ridership.

Vice-Chair Nielsen noted that the MTPO received a presentation on the State Roads 26/26A projects that included the use of TRANSIM software.

Mr. Dedenbach discussed TRANSIM software and answered questions. He said that MTPO staff would like to work with the City, County, University of Florida and FDOT staff to further investigate the applicability this software.

It was a consensus of the MTPO members present to authorize the MTPO staff to further investigate the TRANSIM software and develop potential funding partners.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Date

Mike Byerly, Secretary/Treasurer

EXHIBIT 1

<u>Interested Citizens</u>	<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>	<u>Alachua County</u>	<u>City of Gainesville</u>
Laura Dedenbach	Larry Parks	Matt Dominy	Wayne Bowers
Benjamin Fein		Bill Lecher	Brian Kanely
John Richter		John Sabatella	Jeff Logan
Steven Sparks			
Ken Stokes			