

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
July 15, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Byerly, Chair
Rick Bryant
Aage Schroder
Chuck Chestnut IV
Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Tony Domenech
Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan
Craig Lowe
Ed Poppell
Warren Nielsen
Lee Pinkoson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy
Rodney Long
Penny Wheat

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Lynn Franson-Godfrey
Thomas Hill
Mike Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Chuck Chestnut IV called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He noted that a quorum was not yet present.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Mike Byerly asked the MTPO to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda.

Mr. David Welch, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Laboratory Supervisor, Kanapaha Laboratory, asked that Consent Agenda item CA.9 (Tower Road Reconstruction Project) be pulled from the consent agenda and placed on the regular meeting agenda.

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the Tower Road discussion could be placed after the Archer Road Charrette discussion which is an action item.

ACTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve the consent agenda, amended to place CA.9 (Tower Road Reconstruction Project) after regular agenda item II. (Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette) and regular meeting agenda as modified. Commissioner Pinkoson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. ARCHER ROAD/S. 16TH AVENUE CHARRETTE

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO contracted with Causseaux & Ellington in January, 2004 to conduct the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette. He said that the first phase of this charrette was conducted on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20, while the second phase was conducted on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17. He noted that the consultant has prepared a draft report. He introduced Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, Causseaux & Ellington Director of GIS.

Mr. Dedenbach discussed the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette and answered questions.

Mr. Brian Kanely, City of Gainesville Transportation Services Manager, discussed the W. 6th Street capacity and answered other questions.

Mr. Dedenbach and Mr. Jonathan Thigpen, Kimley-Horn Traffic Engineer, continued discussion of the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette and answered questions.

Mr. Sanderson discussed the MTPO Advisory Committees and staff recommendations.

Mr. Ed Poppell, University of Florida Vice President for Finance and Administration, discussed the University of Florida's position regarding the charrette recommendations. He noted that the study of the realignments of North-South Drive from SW 16th Avenue and Archer Road and the SW 13th Street/Archer Road intersection were important.

ACTION: Commissioner Domenech moved to recommend that the Gainesville City Commission readdress Policy 7.11 of the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element. Commissioner Lowe seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Ms. Julia Reiskind, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (B/PAB) Chair, noted that the B/PAB would support MTPO action that retains the Depot Avenue Rail/Trail.

ACTION: Commissioner Lowe moved to:

- 1. approve for final testing and evaluation the option developed by the Charrette participants as discussed in Exhibit 1;**
- 2. model two grade-separated intersections at Archer Road/SW 16th Avenue and Archer Road/SW 34th Street as part of the final Charrette alternative and as part of the long range transportation plan update;**
- 3. approve the City of Gainesville staff recommendation that the proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) system operate on the Archer Road/Depot Avenue alignment and an offroad bicycle path continue to be a part of the Archer Road/Depot Avenue corridor as a link to the Hawthorne Trail, Waldo Road Trail, Depot Park and the proposed W. 6th Street Rail/Trail, and also to consider a bus rapid transit loop utilizing Archer Road, Depot Avenue, S. Main Street and SW 16th Avenue;**

4. **include an intersection study of US 441 and Archer Road without the sliplane in the “Now” section of Exhibit 1;**
5. **revise Exhibit 1 to read as follows- “ask the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund (or conduct an in-house study) in the first year of FDOT’s Work Program the State Roads 24/226 Intersection Realignment Study and authorize the MTPO Chair to send a letter to FDOT making this request; and**
6. **approve for final testing and evaluation one additional option with SW 16th Avenue from Archer Road to SW 13th Street as a six-lane facility and Archer Road from SW 16th Avenue to SW 13th Street as a two-lane facility.**

Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanderson noted that MTPO funds are available, if needed, to fund the additional testing of SW 16th Avenue as a six-lane facility/Archer Road as a two-lane facility.

CA. 9 TOWER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Tower Road Reconstruction Project was presented to the MTPO Advisory Committees as a courtesy review.

Chair Byerly asked Mr. Welch whether he had a question regarding the Tower Road Reconstruction Project.

Mr. Welch discussed GRU truck driver’s concerns regarding the siting of a roundabout at the SW 41st Place intersection that would be difficult for the GRU trucks to maneuver and answered questions. He suggested that a signal may be more appropriate for that intersection.

Mr. Wallwork, Alternative Street Design Principal, discussed the status of the Tower Road roundabout designs and answered questions.

Mr. Donnie Ellington, Causseaux & Ellington Vice President, noted that Causseaux & Ellington has asked GRU for vehicle size information to incorporate into the Tower Road design study.

Mr. Michael Fay, Alachua County Public Works Department Assistant Director, noted that SW 63rd Boulevard is a limerock facility that is closed except for one day a year for the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival.

Mr. Ellington noted that Causseaux & Ellington contracted to design a facility that included roundabout traffic control devices. He said that Causseaux & Ellington will collect the correct data that will include accommodation for the truck traffic. He added that if right-of-way costs were prohibitive, then alternative traffic control devices may be utilized.

Ms. Rae Marie Gilbert, Southwest Alliance for Planning (SWAP) representative, noted that she was pleased that the Tower Road Reconstruction Project was at 30 percent design plans.

III. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that, currently, there aren't any agenda items that require action by the MTPO before its scheduled September meeting.

Chair Byerly stated that the next MTPO meeting would be on September 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

IV. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Poppell asked FDOT staff about the "no right turn on red" signage that have been recently installed as part of the traffic signal update projects adjacent to the University of Florida.

A member of the MTPO asked if "no right turn on red when pedestrian are present" signage could be installed instead of the existing signage.

Mr. Kanely stated that the "no right turn on red" signs were installed as part of the W. 13th Street Traffic Signal Upgrade Project. He said that he would get with the people that did the engineering design and check their engineering work. He added that he would report back at the next MTPO meeting or provide the information to MTPO staff.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Jack Varnon, Alachua County Council for the Blind President, discussed Florida's "White Cane" law. He asked that pedestrian crossing signalization that accommodates blind persons be incorporated into the MTPO's traffic signal update program and that "White Cane" law enforcement signage be placed on speed limit signs. He also asked that "door-through-door" service be provided in the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Program, or at least a study to look into providing "door-through-door" service. He requested that maps in the MTPO Transportation Improvement Program be available in a recorded description.

Chair Byerly asked if any consideration for visually-impaired persons was part of the planning process for the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette.

Mr. Sanderson stated that he did not remember this issue being discussed during the Charrette. He said that he would take this issue to the MTPO Advisory Committees for consideration. He also added that the "door-through-door" service issue would be taken to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for review and MTPO recommendation.

Ms. Lynn Franson-Godfrey, MTPO Senior Planner, stated that MV Transportation has a five-year contract with the state. She said that door-to-door service is provided by MV Transportation. She noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement is only curb-to-curb service. She added that MV Transportation's annual performance review will be in December.

Mr. Wallwork noted that there were numerous audible crossing devices that are available.

Chair Byerly requested a status report on these transportation disadvantaged issues for the next MTPO meeting.

Mr. Varnon announced that there is an ADA exposition at Savana Grand on Friday, July 23rd, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Byerly adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Date

Rodney J. Long, Secretary/Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

<u>Interested Citizens</u>	<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>	<u>Alachua County</u>	<u>City of Gainesville</u>
Gerry Dedenbach	James Bennett	David Cerlanek	Dekova Batey
Donnie Ellington	Gina Buscher	Michael Fay	Wayne Bowers
Rae Marie Gilbert	Doreen Joyner-Howard	Randall Reid	Brian Kanely
Staci Graff	Suraya Teeple	John Sabatella	Jeff Logan
Monique Hedgecock	Brandi Vittur	Dave Stuart	David Welch
Harold Humphrey			
Lenora McGowan			
Naomi Menke			
Jarod Ottenwess			
Chandler Otis			
Julia Reiskind			
Mike Temmen			
Jonathan Thigpen			
Jack Varnon			
Michael Wallwork			
Johnny Watson			
Carol Young			

* By telephone

EXHIBIT 1

**ARCHER ROAD/S. 16TH AVENUE AREA CHARRETTE
MTPO-APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS**

TIMELINE	MILESTONE
Now	Pedestrian safety enhancements throughout the corridor
	SW 23 rd Terrace extension into the University of Florida campus should be examined as part of the Campus Master Plan update process
	Add transit service to existing routes not meeting demand
	Ask the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund (or conduct in-house) in the first year of FDOT's Work Program a State Roads 24/226 Intersection Realignment/Relocation Study as described in Exhibit 2
	Conduct an intersection study of US 441 and Archer Road without the sliplane
5 Years	SW 16 th Avenue inner road network and North-South Drive extension
	Consider mix of uses in "Little Gandy" area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips
10 Years	Enhance eastern connection of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) type service and S 16 th Avenue multimodal connection and also consider a BRT system utilizing Archer Road, Depot Avenue, S. Main Street and SW 16 th Avenue
	Consider mix of uses in "Little Gandy" area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips
	Connections to other growth areas- SW 20 th Avenue, Student Village, future commercial and Oaks Mall Park-and-Ride
20 Years	Continue study of SE 16 th Avenue extension- 3-lane/4-lane from State Road 329 to State Road 331

EXHIBIT 2

ARCHER ROAD AND SW 16TH AVENUE INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT/RELOCATION STUDY

The purpose of the study is to explore and identify the issues involved with realignment of the intersection of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue. Objectives of the study are as follows:

- Reroute through traffic (particularly trucks) currently using Archer Road onto SW 16th Avenue. This will reduce traffic volumes in the Shands/VA corridor, creating a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment.
- Create a gateway entrance to the University of Florida in the vicinity of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue.
- Facilitate an extension of North-South Drive south to SW 16th Avenue.
- Improve accessibility to Shands/VA for emergency vehicles and Regional Transit System (RTS) buses.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility in the area impacted by roadway reconstruction.
- Determine the best use of State Road 24 (Archer Road) between North-South Drive and SW 16th Avenue

The study needs to include the following components:

- Affected area bordered by Archer Road, SW 16th Avenue and the extension of North-South Drive.
- Need to examine all signalized intersections included in this boundary.
- Need to maintain accessibility to hospitals for emergency vehicles and RTS.
- Options for roadway alignments should be discussed with staff before analysis is performed.
- Options should include possibility of roundabouts with/without bypass lanes.
- Routes for bicycles and pedestrians through the area must be included.
- Clear, defined access to parking facilities must be maintained.
- Must provide opportunities for directional signage for visitors.
- Consider grade separated intersection at SW 16th Avenue and Archer Road.
- Consider limited grade separated intersection at SW 34th Street and Archer Road.

Page #29 CA. 6 Coordinating Board Member Appointments

Citizen Advocate Member Appointment APPOINT MS. GRAFF

After advertising this position in the Gainesville Sun newspaper, we only received one application (from Ms. Graff) for this position

**Florida Department of Education APPOINT MS. BUSH
Member Appointment**

The Florida Department of Education has recommended that Ms. Bush fill its vacant position on this Board

**Page #35 CA. 7 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- NO ACTION REQUIRED
Status Report**

At the May meeting, the MTPO asked for a report concerning MV's response to the four conditions of the six-month performance evaluation

**Page #41 CA. 8 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- NO ACTION REQUIRED
Monitoring**

At the May meeting, the MTPO directed staff to develop measures to monitor on-time performance and the average call-hold time

**Page #65 CA. 10 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan- NO ACTION REQUIRED
Funding for Connector Projects**

Enclosed is information about a recent request from FDOT for proposed SIS projects that can be funded in Fiscal Year 2004/2005

Page #77 CA. 11 MTPO Correspondence NO ACTION REQUIRED

Enclosed is a copy of recent MTPO correspondence