

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida

7:00 p.m.  
Monday  
October 17, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rodney Long, Vice Chair  
Rick Bryant  
Mike Byerly  
Paula DeLaney  
Jack Donovan  
Craig Lowe  
Warren Nielsen  
Lee Pinkoson  
Ed Poppell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Chestnut IV, Chair  
Charles Baldwin  
Ed Braddy  
Cynthia Moore Chestnut  
Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan  
John Martin

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Charles Justice  
Marlie Sanderson  
Bryan Waterman  
Michael Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Rodney Long called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, introduced Mr. Brian Waterman, MTPO Senior Planner.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Long asked for approval of the consent agenda and meeting agenda.

A member of the MTPO requested that CA. 5 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program-Status Report be placed on the meeting agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to approve the consent agenda and regular agenda amended to add CA. 5 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program- Status Report after VI. Universal Access/Fare Free System. Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

II. TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff was present to discuss the Transportation Regional Incentive (TRIP) Program.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District 2 Urban Area Transportation Development Engineer, discussed Senate Bill 360 transportation legislation and TRIP and answered questions.

Mr. Sanderson discussed how future funding for this area is expected to be affected because of FDOT's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS).

### III. SAFETEA-LU HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, discussed "high priority projects" contained in the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) federal transportation reauthorization legislation. He said that during this discussion, the MTPO requested that FDOT research whether the funds for these "high priority projects" are additional funds for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area and/or funds that affect existing projects.

Mr. Bennett discussed SAFETEA-LU "high priority project" funding and answered questions. He said that the "good news" was that these funds are "taken off of the top" at the state level before funds are distributed to the FDOT Districts. He also said that there have been significant cost increases for proposed projects and this may affect existing projects.

He also noted that 20 percent of the "high priority project" funding allocations would be retained by the federal government. He added that FDOT staff needs to meet with County staff to discuss the programming of the "high priority projects."

### IV. NEEDS PLAN COST ESTIMATES AND REVENUE FORECASTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting adopted its Year 2025 Needs Plan. He said that, since that meeting, local government staffs have identified four additional projects to be added to the Needs Plan at the MTPO's November 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing. He said that the projects included:

1. Tower Road Project (from Archer Road north to SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue)- to include reconstruction of the existing two-lane facility to include roundabouts; and
2. Traffic Management System- upgrade and construction of an integrated traffic signalization system.
3. East University Avenue (from E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street to E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street) - lane reduction from two-to-four lanes with onstreet parking; and
4. Waldo Road (from SE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue)- reconstruct road to create a low-speed urban gateway boulevard.

**ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to authorize MTPO staff to schedule two public hearings on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to consider:**

- 1. additional projects to the Year 2025 Needs Plan; and**
- 2. projects for the Year 2025 Cost Feasible Plan.**

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

#### V. DRAFT HULL ROAD LETTER

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO requested that MTPO staff, the MTPO Attorney and FDOT work together to develop a letter to ask for property donations within the Hull Road extension corridor.

Mr. David Schwartz, MTPO Attorney, distributed and discussed a new draft Hull Road letter and answered questions. He noted that FDOT's General Counsel had concerns regarding coercive language in the previous draft letter.

Several MTPO members discussed their concerns with the text of the draft letter. Their comments included revising the letter to address the following issues:

1. that this is an important road to be built and why it needs to be built and why it will not be built without donations of right-of-way;
2. the letter should specify to which government the donation will occur;
3. that the letter was vague and lacked a vision; and
4. the letter should include that MTPO staff will be contacting the property owners.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to refer the new draft Hull Road letter back to MTPO staff to work with the MTPO Attorney and FDOT staff to revise the letter to incorporate the MTPO member comments. Commissioner DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Sanderson noted that the MTPO has contracted with the University of Florida School of Architecture to develop a design concept for the SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Student Village Area.

#### VI. UNIVERSAL ACCESS/FARE FREE SYSTEM

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO requested that the Regional Transit System (RTS) present information on the proposed Universal Access/Fare Free System.

Mr. Doug Robinson, Regional Transit System (RTS) Planner, discussed the Universal Access/Fare Free System and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO requested information on local government employee ridership.

A member of the MTPO requested copies of the RTS presentation for all MTPO members. He also requested information on the capital and operating costs necessary to meet 900,000 trips in additional ridership demand and maintain the same level of service. He also asked about quantifying the cost-benefit aspects or public savings per trip for road costs, road maintenance, automobile emissions, law enforcement requirements, crashes and other car-related costs.

A member of the MTPO asked if anyone in Austin, Texas believes in the Fare Free system and whether it was cut short too soon. He asked for ridership information on European peer cities. He asked about the elasticity of transit service demand if fuel prices increased. He asked about the possibility of an experiment involving reducing fares and increasing transit service by delaying the retirement of busses in the fleet as a means to increase ridership.

A member of the MTPO noted that to increase transit ridership that we need more transit-oriented density. She asked if there could be an experiment of providing a fare free service on selected routes, such as an affordable housing area, and evaluate whether the ridership changed.

A member of the MTPO noted that the University of Florida (UF) student fees are necessary to the operation of the system.

Mr Ed Poppell, UF Vice President for Finance and Administration, noted that the students and the University not only pay into the transit system, but that the University also has disincentives for personal vehicle access to the campus. He asked for a comprehensive strategic traffic plan that looks at the traffic management system, transit service, disincentives and parking locations. He also noted the value of the University of Florida taking 50,000 trips off the road per day.

Vice Chair Long noted that Santa Fe Community College was pursuing a transit service program similar to the University's service.

Mr. Rob Brinkman spoke regarding this agenda item.

**ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to accept the RTS universal access/fare free system report and request that RTS staff provide a response to the issues raised by MTPO members at a subsequent meeting. Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### CA. 5 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM- STATUS REPORT

Several members of the MTPO discussed their concerns regarding the performance of MV Transportation, Inc.- the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Program Coordinator. Their concerns included:

1. that riders have been left behind;
2. that the MV website ride reservation system was not working; and

3. that there was difficulty, including long delays, in making phone calls to MV to make trip reservations.

Commissioner DeLaney, Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Chair, noted that MV has installed a new manager to correct problems with the operation of the TD program. She suggested that the MTPO should contact MV's national office by phone or letter about its concerns.

A member of the MTPO asked if MTPO staff could monitor MV's phone reservation service.

Mr. Sanderson stated that MTPO staff already monitor MV's phone service

A member of the MTPO asked for information that compares ATC/Intellitrans' performance with MV's promises in its bid to gain the TD contract.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to:**

- 1. schedule a November 3<sup>rd</sup> MTPO meeting at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the MV situation; and**
- 2. have staff provide information comparing ATC/Intellitrans' performance with MV Transportation's promises in its bid proposal.**

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

IX. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

MTPO members did not have any comments.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Brinkman reported the Citizens Advisory Committee Cost Feasible Plan workshop results.

Mr. Sanderson noted that MTPO staff has conducted Cost Feasible Plan exercises with the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters of Alachua County/ Gainesville and Women for Wise Growth.

A member of the MTPO requested that MTPO staff try to conduct the Cost Feasible Plan exercise with the Builders Association of North Central Florida and the Gainesville-Alachua County Association of Realtors.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have any comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Rodney Long adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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Date

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Craig Lowe, Secretary/Treasurer

**EXHIBIT A**

<u>Interested Citizens</u>	<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>	<u>Alachua County</u>	<u>City of Gainesville</u>
Rob Brinkman	James Bennett	Rick Crider	Dekova Batey
Doug Dycus	Gina Buscher	Michael Fay	Brian Kanely
Jim Stringfellow		Randall Reid	Doug Robinson
Clovis Watson, Jr.		Dave Schwartz	

\* By telephone

# North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2009 N.W. 67 PLACE, SUITE A, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32653-1603  
(352) 955-2200 SUNCOM 625-2200 FAX (352) 955-2209



## CONSENT AGENDA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

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Gainesville, Florida

Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
October 17, 2005

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Page #9 CA. 1 MTPO Minutes- August 30, 2005 APPROVE MINUTES

This set of MTPO minutes is ready for review

Page #23 CA. 2 Fiscal Year 2004/05 MTPO Audit- Letter of Engagement APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Planning Council is recommending an Auditor to conduct the MTPO Audit

Page #27 CA. 3 City Beautification Board Recommendation Concerning Retaining Walls FORWARD TO DESIGN TEAM

This Board is making a recommendation concerning how to construct future retaining walls in order to reduce graffiti

Page #31 CA. 4 Resurfacing Project- NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street/ NW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NO ACTION REQUIRED

This median will not be part of this resurfacing project because the purchase of the right-of-way for the trail is not complete and design has not begun

Page #47 CA. 6 MTPO Correspondence NO ACTION REQUIRED

Enclosed are copies of recent MTPO correspondence