

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

Jack Durrance Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

3:00 p.m.
Thursday
August 9, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Lowe, Chair
Lee Pinkoson, Vice Chair
James Bennett/Charles Baldwin
Ed Braddy
Rick Bryant
Mike Byerly
Paula DeLaney
Jack Donovan
Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan
Scherwin Henry
Rodney Long
John Martin
Jeanna Mastrodicasa
Ed Poppell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Moore Chestnut

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Marlie Sanderson
Michael Escalante
Ursula Garfield

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig Lowe called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, recommended approval of the Consent Agenda and Meeting Agenda amended to include a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) request to discuss the Lake Forest Farms Homeowners Association referral and CA.2 SW 2nd Avenue Trees after agenda item VII.

ACTION: Mayor Hanrahan moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Meeting Agenda, amended to include a FDOT request to discuss the Lake Forest Farms Homeowners Association referral and CA. 2 SW 2nd Avenue Trees after agenda item VII. Commissioner Donovan seconded.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Long asked that C. 11 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Status Report be placed on the regular meeting agenda. Mayor Harahan and Commissioner Donovan accepted the amendment.

ACTION AS AMENDED:

Mayor Hanrahan moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Meeting Agenda, amended to include a FDOT request to discuss the Lake Forest Farms Homeowners Association referral, CA. 2 SW 2nd Avenue Trees and C. 11 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Status Report after agenda item VII. Commissioner Donovan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. SENATOR STEVE OELRICH

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Honorable Steve Oelrich, District IV Senator, requested an opportunity to address the MTPO.

Senator Oelrich discussed a proposed beltway around the Gainesville Metropolitan Area and answered questions.

Mr. Bill Henderson, FDOT District 2 Planning and Environmental Manager, discussed the placement of a planning study, including environmental, financial and cost evaluations, in the FDOT Work Program as a first step. He said that this project would need to be prioritized in the MTPO List of Priority Projects. He said that, when the planning study is completed, it would be evaluated to see what the next step would be.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, discussed the financial impact of the prioritization of a planning study within the MTPO List of Priority Projects and answered questions. He noted that this funding would occur in the outer years of the Work Program, likely in the fifth year (2013). He said that if the MTPO desired the study to be conducted sooner, FDOT would inform the MTPO of the financial implications of advancing the study.

Mr. Henderson stated that the planning study would cost about \$200,000 to \$300,000. He described elements of a proposed study, including the environmental analysis.

Several members of the MTPO commented on Senator Oelrich's beltway proposal and other transportation system alternatives.

Mr. Sanderson suggested that MTPO staff work with FDOT staff and Senator Oelrich's staff to develop a written proposal for the MTPO to review at its next meeting that includes the following information:

1. a detailed description of a proposed planning study which will investigate the feasibility of a light rail system, a beltway around the City of Gainesville, and a bus rapid transit system;
2. a scope of services, including a description of specific tasks to be completed;
3. proposed funding sources for both the planning study and proposed transportation alternatives; and
4. a recommendation concerning whether this study will be prepared as part of the next update of the MTPO's long range plan (that will begin in November, 2008 and completed by November, 2010) or prepared as soon as possible.

Senator Oelrich responded to the MTPO member comments regarding growth in general.

Mr. Henderson said that the MTPO staff recommendation was a good starting point on the topic.

ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to have MTPO staff work with FDOT staff and Senator Oelrich's staff to develop a written proposal for the MTPO to review at its next meeting that includes the following information:

1. a detailed description of a proposed planning study which will investigate the feasibility of a light rail system, a beltway around the City of Gainesville, and a bus rapid transit system;
2. a scope of services, including a description of specific tasks to be completed;
3. proposed funding sources for both the planning study and proposed transportation alternatives; and
4. a recommendation concerning whether this study will be prepared as part of the next update of the MTPO's long range plan (that will begin in November, 2008 and completed by November, 2010) or prepared as soon as possible.

Commissioner Braddy seconded.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Byerly recommended that urban grid system be included as an alternative. Commissioners Pinkoson and Braddy accepted this amendment.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Donovan recommended that City and County planning staffs be included in the group to develop a written proposal for the MTPO to review. Commissioners Pinkoson and Braddy did not accept this amendment.

The following persons commented on this agenda item:

Cindy Smith

Bill Heiten

Patricia Lee

Rob Brinkman

ACTION AS AMENDED:

Commissioner Pinkoson moved to have MTPO staff work with FDOT staff and Senator Oelrich's staff to develop a written proposal for the MTPO to review at its next meeting that includes the following information:

- 1. a detailed description of a proposed planning study which will investigate the feasibility of a light rail system, a beltway around the City of Gainesville, a bus rapid transit system, and an expanded urban street grid network;**
- 2. a scope of services, including a description of specific tasks to be completed;**
- 3. proposed funding sources for both the planning study and proposed transportation alternatives; and**
- 4. a recommendation concerning whether this study will be prepared as part of the next update of the MTPO's long range plan (that will begin in November, 2008 and completed by November, 2010) or prepared as soon as possible.**

Commissioner Braddy seconded; motion passed 10 to 1.

III. CITY OF ALACHUA TRANSIT SYSTEM (CATS)

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its May 31st meeting, requested that the City of Alachua attend the next MTPO meeting to provide a report on CATS service.

Ms. Danielle Judd, City of Alachua Assistant City Manager, discussed CATS service and answered questions. She read a letter from the City of Alachua Manager (see attached Exhibit B). She said that the City would like to receive a second year of funding from FDOT.

Mr. Ward Scott, City of Alachua Transportation Task Force Co-Chair, spoke in support of the CATS service.

Mr. Bennett discussed the discretionary aspects for funding the CATS program and answered questions. He reported that projects are funded based on merit. He said that FDOT's review of its business plan would be part of its consideration for funding CATS for a second year. He noted that these seed funds may be allocated for a maximum of three years. He added that FDOT is very interested in seeing the CATS program succeed. He said that he will copy the MTPO on the official notification regarding whether CATS receives FDOT funding for a second year.

Ms. Judd noted that the City would continue CATS service. She added that several City of Alachua employers were not at full employment level.

IV. ALACHUA COUNTY PROPOSED FUTURE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS STUDY

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Alachua County Commission requested that the MTPO and its Advisory Committees receive a presentation on the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study and provide comments and/or recommendations. He discussed the MTPO Advisory Committees' comments and answered questions.

Mr. Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group Vice President, discussed the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study and answered questions.

Mr. Michael Fay, Alachua County Public Works Assistant Director, also discussed the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to forward the MTPO Advisory Committees' comments on the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study to the Alachua County Commission. Commissioner Braddy seconded.

A member of the MTPO stated that the MTPO should see the entire Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study presentation before taking any action.

Mr. Fay noted that, once the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Map is adopted, it is not set in stone and could be amended.

Chair Lowe requested that information be presented at the next MTPO meeting concerning the proposed Future Traffic Circulation Map's level of consistency with the Countywide Visioning and Planning Committee Final Report. He noted that the vision for the County outside the urban cluster and municipalities is to retain their agricultural and natural character to the greatest extent possible. He added that the proposed urban grid is consistent within the urban clusters, but that he had concerns regarding the grid outside of the urban clusters.

Ms. Cindy Smith recommended that the MTPO see the presentation on the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study and have a fair look at what would be a major comprehensive plan amendment. She said that she would have additional comment after the MTPO sees the presentation.

Mr. Rob Brinkman stated that the western portion of Alachua County needs to be retained in agricultural land use. He suggested lowering the density from 1 unit per acre to 1 unit per 5 acres. He said that it is up to government to direct where growth goes. He expressed concerns that Interstate 75 would act as a dam between a majority of residences to the west and a majority of the jobs to the east in the future.

SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Commissioner Byerly moved to defer this agenda item to a future MTPO meeting. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed 8 to 2.

Chair Lowe noted that agenda item CA.11 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Status Report would be discussed next due to time constraints.

CA.11 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM- STATUS REPORT

A member of the MTPO stated that a citizen requested an opportunity to discuss a Transportation Disadvantaged Program issue with the MTPO.

Pastor J.W. Honeysucker discussed his concerns with transportation disadvantaged service currently provided by MV Transportation, Inc.

Commissioner DeLaney, Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating (TD) Board Chair, noted that the next TD Board meeting would be on August 22nd. She suggested that Pastor Honeysucker contact Ms. Lynn Godfrey, MTPO Senior Planner, who is staff to the TD program.

V. ALACHUA COUNTY- THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Mr. Sanderson stated that this agenda item was related to the issue presented by Senator Oelrich and could be deferred.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to defer this agenda item to a future MTPO meeting. Commissioner Bryant seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. MAIN STREET (N. 8TH AVENUE TO N. 23RD AVENUE) 30 PERCENT DESIGN PLANS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Alachua County Commission requested that the MTPO Advisory Committees receive a presentation on the Main Street (N. 8th Avenue to N. 23rd Avenue) 30 Percent Design Plans and provide comments and/or recommendations. He discussed the MTPO Advisory Committees' comments and answered questions.

Mr. Dave Cerlanek, Alachua County Public Works Assistant Director, discussed the Main Street reconstruction cross-section and answered questions.

ACTION: Mayor Hanrahan moved to forward the MTPO Advisory Committees' comments on the Main Street (N. 8th Avenue to N. 23rd Avenue) 30 Percent Design Plans to the Alachua County Commission and Alachua County staff. Commissioner Mastrodicasa seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)

Mr. Sanderson stated that this agenda item was not time sensitive and could be deferred.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to defer this agenda item to the next MTPO meeting.

VII._B LAKE FOREST FARMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION REFERRAL

Mr. Sanderson stated that FDOT staff requested an opportunity to report on the MTPO's Lake Forest Farms Homeowners Association referral.

Mr. Bennett reported that FDOT staff met with the Homeowners Association regarding the installation of a median opening at the entrance to their subdivision. He reported that FDOT will not construct an additional median opening. He noted that there were not any safety issues that warrant a median opening at the entrance to this subdivision.

CA.2 SW 2ND AVENUE TREES

Mr. Sanderson stated that a member of the MTPO had requested that the SW 2nd Avenue tree consent agenda item be moved to the regular agenda for discussion.

Mr. Bennett discussed the removal of several trees on SW 2nd Avenue and answered questions. He noted that FDOT staff worked with City of Gainesville and University of Florida staff to identify the trees to be removed and trees to be monitored.

UF Vice President Poppell asked if a reforestation program in the corridor could be implemented in order to compensate for the tree removal.

Mr. Bennett said that he would have his staff look at this corridor to see if trees could be replaced and report back to the MTPO at its next meeting. He said that he would have to have his staff look into reforestation of the SW 2nd Avenue corridor.

Mayor Hanrahan offered services and plant material from the City to reforest the SW 2nd Avenue corridor.

Mr. Bennett said that FDOT could work with the City and permit reforestation of SW 2nd Avenue.

Mr. Russ Blackburn, Gainesville City Manager, said that the City could participate in the SW 2nd Avenue reforestation program.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to:

- 1. accept FDOT's proposal to remove three trees and monitor two other trees in the SW 2nd Avenue corridor; and**
- 2. request that FDOT explore reforestation possibilities within the SW 2nd Avenue corridor.**

Mayor Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson recommended that the MTPO meet on September 20th.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney move to have the next MTPO meeting on September 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner John Martin, MTPO Rural Advisor, announced that the Alachua County League of Cities would be meeting on a bimonthly basis. He added that the City of Hawthorne would be looking into having a wildlife bypass in eastern Alachua County.

Commissioner DeLaney encouraged MTPO members to attend an upcoming MPOAC Institute training course.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens comments.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lowe adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Date

Rick Bryant,
Secretary/Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

<u>Interested Citizens</u>	<u>Alachua County</u>	<u>City of Gainesville</u>	<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>
Whit Blanton	Dave Cerlanek	Russ Blackburn	Gina Buscher
Stacie Blizzard	Michael Fay	Jesus Gomez	Jordan Green
Rob Brinkman	Randall Reid	Teresa Scott	Bill Henderson
Rae Marie Gilbert	Jennifer Spagnoli		Karen Taulbee
Bill Heiten			
J.W. Honeysucker			
Danielle Judd			
Brian Kanely			
Patricia Lee			
Mike New			
Elizabeth Nielson			
Stewart Nielson			
Joe Pileggi			
Mike Preston			
Steve Oelrich			
Ward Scott			
Cindy Smith			

* By telephone

Provided written comments

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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CONSENT AGENDA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

Jack Durrance Auditorium
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Gainesville, Florida

Thursday, 3:00 p.m.
August 9, 2007

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Page #9 CA. 1 MTPO Minutes- May 31, 2007 APPROVE MINUTES**
- This set of MTPO minutes is ready for review
- Page #33 CA. 3 Williston Road at SW 62nd Avenue APPROVE JOINT
Traffic Signal RECOMMENDATION**
- The MTPO is being asked to grant an exception concerning the construction of mast arm traffic signals at this location
- Page #51 CA.4 Proposed Budgets for FY 2006-2007 and APPROVE STAFF
FY 2007-2008 RECOMMENDATION**
- These budgets will allow staff to monitor MTPO expenditures and make appropriate adjustments as needed
- Page #57 CA. 5 Section 5303 Resolution 07-05 APPROVE RESOLUTION**
- This resolution is needed so the MTPO can receive federal and state funds for transit planning activities
- Page #61 CA. 6 Alachua County Contract Amendment- APPROVE AMENDMENT
Urban Village Planning Tasks**
- This contract needs to be amended to cover the period from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

Page #63 CA. 7 Alachua County Contract Amendment- APPROVE AMENDMENT
Section 5311

This contract needs to be amended to cover the period from October 1, 2006 to April 9, 2007

Page #67 CA. 8 MV Purchase of Service Agreement- APPROVE AMENDMENT
Alachua County Funds

This agreement needs to be amended to cover the period from October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007

Page #69 CA. 9 MV Purchase of Service Agreement- APPROVE AMENDMENT
Section 5311 Funds

This agreement needs to be amended to cover the period from October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007

Page #71 CA. 10 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- APPROVE
Board Membership Certification CERTIFICATION

Each year, the MTPO must certify the membership of this Board

Page #85 CA. 12 Correspondence NO ACTION REQUIRED

Enclosed in the meeting packet is recent Alachua County and FDOT correspondence

Page #97 CA. 13 MPOAC Institute Workshop for Elected NO ACTION REQUIRED
Officials

Enclosed is information about this August 17th workshop. If any MTPO member wants to attend, please contact MTPO Staff