

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  
May 31, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Bryant  
Cynthia Moore Chestnut  
Rodney Long  
John Martin

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson  
Michael Escalante  
Ursula Garfield

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig Lowe called the meeting to order at 3:10 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.

**ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Meeting Agenda. Commissioner DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

II. DR. KERMIT SIGMON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AWARD

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO Citizens Advisory Committee selected Dr. Ruth L. Steiner as the recipient for the 2006 Dr. Kermit Sigmon Citizen Participation Award. He discussed her numerous contributions.

Dr. Steiner thanked the MTPO for her appointments to the CAC and the CAC for her selection.

Chair Lowe presented the award to Dr. Steiner.

### III. YEAR 2025 COST FEASIBLE PLAN AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING

#### A. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chair Lowe welcomed citizens to the public hearing.

#### B. COST FEASIBLE PLAN AMENDMENT

Mr. Sanderson stated that the University of Florida is requesting a Project Development and Environmental Study as soon as possible for the following project in the adopted Year 2025 Needs Plan:

*the reconstruction of the intersection of Archer Road and SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (State Road 226), including a two-lane extension of Shealy Drive to connect to Gale Lemerand Drive, and the reconstruction of Archer Road between SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive as a transit mall/emergency access road.*

He noted that this project is not included in the MTPO's adopted Cost Feasible Plan. He discussed the project and answered questions

#### C. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Chair Lowe asked if there were any members of the public who would like to comment on the Year 2025 Cost Feasible Plan amendment.

Mr. Sergio Quintana discussed his concerns regarding congestion on S 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Linda Dixon, University of Florida Facilities, Planning and Construction Assistant Director, stated that a traffic study will be conducted for this project.

#### D. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Lowe closed the public hearing.

### IV. YEAR 2025 COST FEASIBLE PLAN AMENDMENT- ARCHER ROAD AT SW 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AREA

Mr. Sanderson stated that a rollcall vote was necessary to amend the plan.

**ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to amend the Year 2025 Livable Community Reinvestment Plan Cost Feasible Plan to include as Priority #6 the Archer Road/ SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sub-Area Project F as shown in Exhibit B. Commissioner Donovan seconded. Mr. Sanderson conducted a rollcall vote. The results are as follows:**

	<u>CITY</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Commissioner Donovan	Yes	
Commissioner Henry	Yes	
Commissioner Mastrodicasa	Yes	
Commissioner Pinkoson		Yes
Commissioner Braddy	Yes	
Commissioner Byerly		Yes
Commissioner DeLaney		Yes
Chair Lowe	Yes	

**Motion passed.**

V. YEAR 2025 LONG RANGE PLAN AMENDMENT-  
SAFETEA-LU COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT

Mr. Sanderson stated that federal law requires that the MTPO's Livable Community Reinvestment Plan be consistent with requirements in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) by June 30, 2007. He said that the MTPO needs to amend the Plan in order to meet this requirement.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to amend the Year 2025 Livable Community Reinvestment Plan to include Appendix A- SAFETEA-LU Transportation Planning and Programming Requirements (as amended by SAFETEA-LU Sections 3005, 3006 and 6001). Commissioner DeLaney seconded. Mr. Sanderson conducted a rollcall vote. The results are as follows:**

	<u>CITY</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Commissioner Henry	Yes	
Commissioner Mastrodicasa	Yes	
Commissioner Pinkoson		Yes
Commissioner Braddy	Yes	
Commissioner Byerly		Yes
Commissioner DeLaney		Yes
Commissioner Donovan	Yes	
Chair Lowe	Yes	

**Motion passed.**

VI. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is requesting that MTPO amend its current TIP to include the Interstate at Newberry Road (State Road 26) Interchange Ramp Safety Project. He said that this amendment would allow FDOT to begin the project in the current fiscal year.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to amend the Fiscal Years 2006/2007 - 2010/2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Interstate 75 at Newberry Road (State Road 26) Interchange Ramp Safety Project [FN #2129498]. Commissioner Henry seconded. Mr. Sanderson conducted a rollcall vote. The results were as follows:**

	<u>CITY COUNTY</u>	
Commissioner Mastrodicasa	Yes	
Commissioner Pinkoson		Yes
Commissioner Braddy	Yes	
Commissioner Byerly		Yes
Commissioner DeLaney		Yes
Commissioner Donovan	Yes	
Commissioner Henry	Yes	
Chair Lowe	Yes	

**Motion passed.**

#### VII. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Sanderson stated that the TIP is the most important document that is approved annually by the MTPO. He noted that this year's document authorizes about \$17.4 million in Federal funds for projects within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area (GMA) in the first fiscal year. He added that, in order for Federal funds to be spent in the GMA, they must be approved by the MTPO and included in this report.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District Planning Manager, discussed the Archer Road Rail/Trail cost increases and noted that there are cost increases affecting all transportation projects.

Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Director, discussed the W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Rail/Trail.

**ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney moved to approve the Fiscal Years 2007/2008 - 2011/2012 Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Donovan seconded. Mr. Sanderson conducted a rollcall vote. The results were as follows:**

	<u>CITY COUNTY</u>	
Commissioner Pinkoson		Yes
Commissioner Braddy	Yes	
Commissioner Byerly		Yes
Commissioner DeLaney		Yes
Commissioner Donovan	Yes	
Commissioner Henry	Yes	
Commissioner Mastrodicasa	Yes	
Chair Lowe	Yes	

**Motion passed.**

## VIII. UNFUNDED PROJECT PRIORITIES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, each year, the MTPO develops recommended transportation priorities for projects that are needed, but not currently funded. He said that this information is used by FDOT each fall to develop its Tentative Five Year Work Program. He discussed the draft Fiscal Years 2008/2009 - 2012/2013, List of Priority Projects document and answered questions.

Mr. Sanderson discussed Enhancement Priorities and Landscaping Priorities and answered questions.

Mr. Bennett and Ms. Karen Taulbee, FDOT Transportation Specialist, discussed the Main Street Landscaping Project and answered questions.

Mr. Sanderson discussed the Project, Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Priorities, Public Transportation Priorities, Right-Of-Way Priorities, Safe Routes to School Priorities and answered questions.

Mr. Michael Escalante, MTPO Senior Planner, noted that City of Gainesville staff was developing a third project for the Safe Routes to School Priorities funding category.

Mr. Sanderson discussed Safety Priorities, Strategic Intermodal System Priorities and Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priorities and answered questions. He noted that the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board recommends that the purchase of paratransit vans be the first priority for STP funds.

Mr. Bennett discussed the MTPO's request to reallocated funding for paratransit vans in Table 9 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priorities.

A member of the MTPO asked about the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue project priority.

Mr. Sanderson noted that it was the second priority in the adopted Cost Feasible Plan. He then discussed Traffic Operations Priorities and Transit Corridor Development Priorities and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO discussed his concerns with the draft Transit Corridor Development Priorities. He suggested reversing the priorities, noting the congestion on Newberry Road.

Mr. Bennett discussed the City of Alachua Transit service program. He noted that the service was operating at a lower level than anticipated.

It was a consensus of the MTPO that staff would provide the MTPO with ridership information for the City of Alachua and the City of Archer shuttles at the next MTPO meeting.

Mr. Sanderson discussed Transportation Disadvantaged Priorities and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities and answered questions.

Mr. Bennett discussed the TRIP application for the Traffic Management System and answered questions. He noted that this project may be funded in phases.

**ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to:**

- 1. approve the Fiscal Years 2008/2009 - 2012/2013, List of Priority Projects document with:**
  - A. Table 9 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priorities, including a request that funding programmed for lift-equipped van purchases for fiscal years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 [FIN # 4048331] in the Tentative Work Program be reallocated to Priority #1 Traffic Management System; and**
  - B. Table 11 Transit Corridor Development Priorities with the reversal of Priority #1 US 441 Employee Shuttle and Priority #2 City of Newberry Express Bus Service; and**
- 2. request that the City of Alachua and its major employers attend the next MTPO meeting to discuss the City's transit service and future private sector financial participation.**

**Commissioner DeLaney seconded and moved to split the action to vote on Table 9 separately.**

**SPLIT ACTION PART ONE:**

**Commissioner Byerly moved to approve the Fiscal Years 2008/2009 - 2012/2013 List of Priority Projects Table 9 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priorities, including a request that funding programmed for lift-equipped van purchases for fiscal years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 [FIN # 4048331] in the Tentative Work Program be re allocated to Priority #1 Traffic Management System. Commissioner DeLaney seconded; motion passed 8 to 1.**

**SPLIT ACTION PART TWO:**

**Commissioner Byerly moved to:**

- 1. approve the Fiscal Years 2008/2009 - 2012/2013 List of Priority Projects document with Table 11 Transit Corridor Development Priorities with the reversal of Priority #1 US 441 Employee Shuttle and Priority #2 City of Newberry Express Bus Service; and**
- 2. request that the City of Alachua and its major employers attend the next MTPO meeting to discuss the City's transit service and future private sector financial participation.**

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

## IX. INTERSTATE 75 MASTER PLAN

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff requested an opportunity to discuss the Interstate 75 Master Plan update.

Mr. Jordan Green, FDOT Project Manager, discussed the Interstate 75 Master Plan update and answered questions. He noted that there would be a public meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Gateway Grand.

**ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), as part of its Interstate 75 Master Plan Study, investigate making modifications to improve the safety and efficiency of the northbound off-ramp movement at the Newberry Road (State Road 26) interchange by providing separate eastbound-only and westbound-only exit ramps. Mayor Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

## X. NEXT MTPO MEETING

**It was a consensus of the MTPO to schedule its next meeting for August 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## XI. COMMENTS

### A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

A member of the MTPO stated that she had received concerns from citizens that the MTPO and its Advisory Committees have not received a presentation on Alachua County's *Future Transportation Connections* project.

Another member of the MTPO stated that he had also received similar comments. He noted that the Alachua County Commission voted to have the project presented to the MTPO and its Advisory Committees.

Mr. Ed Poppell, University of Florida Vice President for Finance and Administration, discussed the University's concern regarding the oak trees targeted for removal on SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Bennett stated that FDOT is coordinating with Mr. Tom Workman, University of Florida Arborist, regarding the health of the trees in the SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue corridor.

A member of the MTPO asked whether the City of Gainesville Arborist was involved.

Mr. Bennett stated that FDOT would include the City of Gainesville Arborist in its coordinated efforts.

A member of the MTPO discussed his concerns with FDOT's coordination.

Mr. Bennett stated that FDOT would report to the MTPO before any trees are cut.

A member of the MTPO noted that the SR 26A corridor received an award from the City Beautification Board.

A member of the MTPO asked whether FDOT staff has met with the Lake Forest Farms Homeowners Association yet.

Mr. Bennett stated that FDOT staff has met with the Homeowners Association, but the he did not know the results of the meeting.

#### B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Harry Burns stated he supported the I-75 Speed Study request and asked the MTPO to include a safety study in its request to FDOT because of the number of crashes.

Mr. Bennett stated that there is specific federal criteria for a speed study. He noted that the I-75 Master Plan Study would look at the safety in the corridor. He added that FDOT would need to know the limits of the speed study area.

#### C. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sanderson announced that Mr. Brian Kanely, City of Gainesville Transportation Services Manager, was retiring after 34 years with the City of Gainesville. He added that Mr. Kanely had been very helpful to MTPO staff.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lowe adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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Date

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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>
Kali Blount	Michael Fay	Russ Blackburn	Jordan Green
Harry Burns	Richard Hedrick	Jesus Gomez	Imran Ghani
Linda Dixon	Randall Reid	Debbie Leistner	Karen Taulbee
Sergio Quintana		Stuart Pearson	
Cindy Smith		Teresa Scott	
Ruth Steiner			

\* By telephone

# Provided written comments

**EXHIBIT B**

**YEAR 2025 COST FEASIBLE PLAN**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Needs Plan Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type Work</b>	<b>Funding Allocated [\$ millions]</b>
1	ITS-1	Traffic Management System AT: Systemwide	Install modernized traffic control system	\$16.0
2	E	SE 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue FM: Main Street TO: Williston	Widening the existing facility from two to four lanes with instreet bikelanes	\$5.3
3	V	SW 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue FM: SW 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street TO: SW 34 <sup>th</sup> Street	Reconstruction of existing two- lane facility to include missing sidewalks, center turnlanes, raised medians, bus bays and transit 'super stops'	\$12.0
4	G	NW 34 <sup>th</sup> Street FM: NW 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue TO: NW 13 <sup>th</sup> Street	Construction of center turnlanes along this facility	\$1.8
5	Y	Depot Avenue FM: SW 13 <sup>th</sup> Street TO: Williston Road	Reconstruction of existing two-lane facility. Total estimated cost is \$15.8 million, of which \$4.8 million is federally funded.	\$3.4
6	F	Archer Road/SW 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Construction of intersection modifications at Archer Road / SW 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and Archer Road / Gale Lemerand Drive, including restricted access on a portion of Archer Road and new north-south road connection between Archer Road and SW 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue with associated intersection modifications	\$8.2*

\* These funds do not include the costs for restricted access modifications on a portion of Archer Road between SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive.

# 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

Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida

Thursday, 3:00 p.m.  
May 31, 2007

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Page #9 CA. 1 MTPO Minutes- April 12, 2007 APPROVE MINUTES

This set of MTPO minutes is ready for review

Page #21 CA. 2 Interstate 75 Speed Study APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION

If this consent agenda item is approved, the MTPO will request that FDOT conduct a speed study on Interstate 75 in the Gainesville area

Page #23 CA. 3 MTPO Mast Arm Policy- Proposed Revisions APPROVE JOINT RECOMMENDATION

The MTPO is being asked to approve a revision to its *MTPO Urban Design Policy Manual* concerning the construction of mast arm traffic signals

Page #27 CA. 4 Traffic Signal at Main Street and N. 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue- Vertical Signal Heads APPROVE JOINT RECOMMENDATION

The MTPO is being asked to approve the use of vertical signal heads at this location

Page #31 CA. 5 Archer Braid Contract Extension APPROVE EXTENSION

This contract with the Community Design Center expires on June 30 and needs to be extended to September 30

**Page #33 CA. 6 Transportation Disadvantaged Program-  
Status Report NO ACTION REQUIRED**

The MTPO has asked for regular status reports concerning this program

**Page #43 CA. 7 Patterned-Textured Crosswalks NO ACTION REQUIRED**

FDOT has decided that local governments will be required to maintain these crosswalks on all new installations

**Page #47 CA. 8 County Incentive Grant Program  
(FY 2008-2009) NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Enclosed is a letter stating that Alachua County supports the City of Gainesville Depot Avenue Reconstruction grant application

**Page #57 CA. 9 MPOAC Institute Workshop for Elected  
Officials NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Enclosed is information about this June 12<sup>th</sup> workshop. If any MTPO member wants to attend, please contact MTPO Staff