

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  
October 11, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jack Donovan  
Cynthia Moore Chestnut  
Scherwin Henry  
John Martin

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson  
Lynn Franson-Godfrey  
Michael Escalante  
Jake Petrosky

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig Lowe called the meeting to order at 3:11 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 DeLaney moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

II. ALACHUA COUNTY- THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO is required to update its long range transportation plan (LRTP) every five years. He said that new federal legislation requires visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans. He discussed possible LRTP alternatives to test, including, western grid network, beltway, bus rapid transit and light rail system and answered questions.

Mr. Randy Reid, Alachua County Manager, suggested that, in addition to the 1,000 Friends of Florida Study, Florida In 2060: Not A Pretty Picture, that local comprehensive plans be used in the alternative scenarios development. He added that the local planning staffs should be involved in development of the alternatives to be tested.

Mr. Sanderson presented MTPO staff recommendations and answered questions.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to:**

- 1. include a multimodal planning study in the next update of the long range transportation plan that tests and evaluates the following three future transportation alternatives (see attached Visioning Alternatives Maps 1, 3, and 4):**
  - A. Western Grid Network;**
  - B. Light Rail System; and**
  - C. Bus Rapid Transit System.**
- 2. request that MTPO staff work with City and county staffs to prepare a plan update scope of services for the MTPO to review sometime within the next six months;**
- 3. request that FDOT program funds in this year's Tentative Work Program in Fiscal Year 2010/2011 to conduct a Project, Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study on the transportation alternative that is approved by the MTPO when the long range transportation plan is adopted in November 2010;**
- 4. amend Table 3 in the adopted List of Priority Projects as shown in the attached Exhibit 1; and**
- 5. approve the testing of future land use scenarios in the next long range transportation plan update that is based upon the population and land use projections for the Year 2060 prepared by 1,000 Friends of Florida and the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center in the enclosed report entitled Florida In 2060: Not A Pretty Picture as well as the City of Gainesville and Alachua County comprehensive plans and any studies deemed appropriate.**

**Commissioner Long seconded.**

Mr. Rick Drummond, Alachua County Growth Management Director, discussed his concerns with the 1000 Friends of Florida study. He suggested referring this topic back to the MTPO Advisory Committees.

Mr. Reid supported referring this topic to the MTPO Advisory Committees.

A member of the MTPO asked whether this suggestion was acceptable to City Staff and noted that Mr. Russ Blackburn, City of Gainesville Manager, responded affirmatively.

Mr. Richard Hedrick, Alachua County Public Works Director, suggested using empirical data from studies of similar developments.

Mr. Walter Willard discussed his concerns regarding the transportation system.

**SUBSTITUTE ACTION:**

**Commissioner Pinkoson moved to have MTPO staff work with Alachua County and City of Gainesville staffs to develop recommendations for the next LRTP update to be forwarded to the MTPO and its Advisory Committees. Commissioner Byerly seconded.**

A member of the MTPO discussed whether the adopted Livable Community Reinvestment Plan could be used as a starting point for one of the alternative scenarios.

Mr. Sanderson said that it could.

**FRIENDLY**

**AMENDMENT: Commissioner Byerly moved to add that the adopted Livable Community Reinvestment Plan be used as a starting point for one of the alternative scenarios. Commissioner Pinkoson accepted the amendment.**

**SUBSTITUTE ACTION AS AMENDED:**

**Commissioner Pinkoson moved:**

- 1. to have MTPO staff work with Alachua County and City of Gainesville staffs to develop recommendations for the next LRTP update to be forwarded to the MTPO and its Advisory Committees; and**
- 2. that the adopted Livable Community Reinvestment Plan be used as a starting point for one of the alternative scenarios.**

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

### III. 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. Michael Fay, Alachua County Public Works Assistant Director, also discussed the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study. He introduced Mr. Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group Vice President.

Mr. Blanton and Mr. Fay discussed the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study and answered questions.

Mr. Drummond discussed ground-truthing for strategic ecosystems and land development for areas affected by the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study Map and the urban greenbelt.

Chair Lowe discussed his concerns with the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study Map. He also discussed the Countywide Visioning and Planning Commission.

Mr. Reid responded to questions about the Countywide Visioning and Planning Commission.

**ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to forward the MTPO Advisory Committees' comments on the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Study to the Alachua County Commission. Commissioner DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

### IV. INTERSTATE 75 SPEED STUDY

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, requested a speed study on Interstate 75. He said that FDOT has completed the study and reported its findings.

Mr. James Bennett, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, stated that Mr. Jim Scott, FDOT District Traffic Operations Engineer, would discuss the Interstate 75 speed study.

Mr. Scott discussed the Interstate 75 speed study and answered questions. He reported that based on the study, that 70 mph speed limit was appropriate for the area. He noted the speed zone methodology and that 2005 crash data was used. He added that, based on Florida Statutes, lowering the speed limit was not an option.

V. TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)

Mr. Sanderson discussed the TRIP and answered questions. He reported that FDOT has informed the MTPO that the Traffic Management System (TMS) Phases 1 and 2 have been funded. He thanked the MTPO members who participated on the TRIP Executive Committee.

Chair Lowe and Mayor Pegeen Harahan thanked Mr. Bennett and FDOT staff. Mayor Harahan also thanked State Representative Larry Cretul for his assistance in securing the TRIP grant.

Ms. Teresa Scott, Gainesville Public Works Director, discussed the TMS and answered questions.

VI. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he was not aware of any items that required MTPO action in November. He recommended that the MTPO meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Lowe said that the MTPO would meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

VII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

A member of the MTPO discussed Oak Hammock residents' interest for a traffic signal.

Mr. Bennett reported that the intersection does not meet traffic signal warrants at this time.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Bennett announced that a public meeting on the FDOT Tentative Work Program is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the FDOT District 2 office in Lake City.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lowe adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Date

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Rick Bryant, Secretary/Treasurer

**EXHIBIT A**

<b><u>Interested Citizens</u></b>	<b><u>Alachua County</u></b>	<b><u>City of Gainesville</u></b>	<b><u>Florida Department of Transportation</u></b>
Whit Blanton	Rick Drummond	Russ Blackburn	Tony Falotico
Erin Browning	Michael Fay	Millie Crawford	Bill Henderson
Brent Christensen	Richard Hedrick	Teresa Scott	Jim Scott
Nick Lepp	Kathleen Pagan		Karen Taulbee
Mike Preston	Randall Reid		
Tonya Shays			
Cindy Smith			
Walter Willard			

\* By telephone

# Provided written comments

# North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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(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

Thursday, 3:00 p.m.  
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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Page #7 CA. 1 MTPO Minutes- August 9, 2007 APPROVE MINUTES

This set of MTPO minutes is ready for review

Page #21 CA. 2 Selection of Auditor for Fiscal Years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 Audits APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee of the Regional Planning Council is recommending an Auditor to conduct the next three MTPO Audits

Page #23 CA. 3 Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2006-07 Audit APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

This year's MTPO audit will be prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants

Page #35 CA. 4 Trees on SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NO ACTION REQUIRED

FDOT was asked to let the MTPO know if trees could be planted along SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue east and west of SW 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Page #37 CA. 5 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Status Report NO ACTION REQUIRED

The MTPO has asked for regular status reports concerning this program

**Page #49 CA. 6 Surface Transportation Program (STP) NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**Reallocation Request- FDOT Response**

FDOT has responded to the MTPO's request to reallocate STP funding to the MTPO's #1 priority- Traffic Management System

**Page #53 CA. 7 Correspondence NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Enclosed in the meeting packet is recent FDOT correspondence