

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida

February 26, 2018  
3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Arreola  
Harvey Budd, Chair  
Mike Byerly  
Ken Cornell  
Linda Dixon/Curtis Reynolds  
Adrian Hayes-Santos  
Robert Hutchinson  
Doug Jones  
Lauren Poe  
Karen Taulbee/Greg Evans  
Harvey Ward  
Helen Warren

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Chestnut, IV  
Charles Goston  
Lee Pinkoson

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Escalante  
Scott Koons

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harvey Budd called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Budd asked for approval of the meeting agenda and consent agenda.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to approve the:**

1. **Consent Agenda amended to move CA.6 SW 62nd Boulevard Connector Corridor State Highway System Designation - Florida Department of Transportation Response to the Meeting Agenda; and**
2. **Meeting Agenda amended to place CA.6 SW 62nd Boulevard Connector Corridor State Highway System Designation - Florida Department of Transportation Response after item V. State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue) Crosswalk.**

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

II. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE- APPOINTMENT

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needed to fill one vacant position on its Citizens Advisory Committee. He reported that the position has a term ending December 31, 2020. He stated that there was one candidate at this time.

**MOTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to appoint Chris Towne to the Citizens Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2020. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

### III. RURAL ADVISOR SELECTION

Mr. Koons stated that, at its December 4, 2017 meeting, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization amended its Bylaws regarding the selection of its Rural Advisor and needed to appoint a Rural Advisor at this time. He reported that nominations were solicited from the municipalities within Alachua County and outside the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. He stated that two individuals were nominated by those municipalities.

**MOTION: Commissioner Hayes-Santos moved to appoint Doug Jones as the Rural Advisor to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Commissioner Arreola seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

### IV. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - INTERSTATE 75 RELIEF UPDATE

Mr. Koons stated that Florida Department of Transportation staff was present to provide an update on the Interstate 75 Relief Study. He introduced Huiwei Shen, Systems Implementation Office Manager and James Knight, District 2 Urban Planning and Modal Administrator.

Ms. Shen discussed the status of the Interstate 75 Relief Task Force recommendations, the Tampa to Jacksonville Rail Feasibility Study and answered questions. She reported that expansion of passenger rail capacity is not viable due to forecasted freight demand on shared rail facilities, travel-time competitiveness with automobile travel, forecasted low passenger rail demand and costs. She noted that no further study is planned at this time. She said that the current Coastal Connector Study that is being managed by the Florida Turnpike Enterprise is limited to Citrus and Marion Counties. She stated that the corridor study also includes evaluation for utility infrastructure, not just transportation infrastructure.

Ms. Sunsera Dalton, CH2M Traffic Engineer, discussed rail travel demand contrasted to air and automobile travel demand and answered questions.

A member requested the data for the passenger rail/automobile demand analysis be made available to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. He noted that 67 percent of the truck traffic is passing through the state. He also noted that private industry should not determine how public resources are used.

A member discussed concerns regarding truck/automobile crashes.

Ms. Dalton discussed the market driven conditions of rail freight mobility and noted that the Florida Department of Transportation is evaluating these issues.

Doug Jones, Rural Advisor, asked about train speeds and Positive Train Control safety feature for the Tampa to Jacksonville corridor.

Ms. Dalton reported that the CSX S-Line does not have Positive Train Control, but that it is being evaluated for implementation for the that line.

Chair Budd discussed concerns regarding public infrastructure investment and the percentage of pass-through freight on the highways.

A member asked that truck traffic statistics that are not provided by the trucking industry be made available to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation provide data related to the infrastructure and safety costs to the public of freight passing through the state on public roadways. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded.**

A member discussed concerns regarding freight and passenger rail infrastructure investment to make rail a more viable mode choice.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Byerly asked that the motion include a request for:**

- 1. Benefit-cost analyses for shifts to freight and passenger rail service using fully allocated costs, including information regarding what would it take to make the rail mode more competitive; and**
- 2. additional near-term studies to address reduction of freight passing through the state on public roadways and an increase of freight passing through the state on rail.**

**Commissioners Cornell and Hutchinson accepted the amendment.**

Ms. Penny Wheat discussed using fully allocated costs and projected higher fuel costs. She suggested sending a letter to the Governor, the Florida Secretary of Transportation and Congressional delegation regarding rail investment concerns.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Cornell asked that the motion reference fully allocated costs to the public. Commissioner Hutchinson accepted the amendment.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED:**

**Commissioner Cornell moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation:**

- 1. Provide data related to the fully allocated infrastructure and safety costs to the public of freight passing through the state on public roadways;**
- 2. Provide benefit-cost analyses for shifts to freight and passenger rail service using fully allocated costs, including information regarding what would it take to make the rail mode more competitive; and**
- 3. Conduct additional near-term studies to address reduction of freight passing through the state on public roadways and an increase of freight passing through the state on rail.**

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

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to have the Executive Director prepare a draft letter to the Governor and Florida Secretary of Transportation for review by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization at the April 23, 2018 meeting regarding the transportation concerns discussed as part of this agenda item. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Knight discussed a planning study of the existing Interstate 75 corridor and answered questions.

Ms. Shen stated that she would provide the report regarding the use of contraflow for emergency evacuations to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Mr. Knight said that the Interstate 75 planning study would be completed prior to the project, development and environment study scheduled to begin in July 2019. He said the study would evaluate typical sections that would fit at-grade in the existing 300-foot right-of-way. He said that truck-only lanes were not warranted and additional lanes excluding trucks would be considered.

V. STATE ROAD 222 (NE 39TH AVENUE) CROSSWALK

Mr. Koons stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization received a concern from a citizen regarding installation of a crosswalk on State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue) at NE 28th Drive. He said that this concern was forwarded to the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Safety Office. He reported that District 2 is seeking a variance for a midblock crossing on State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue). He reported the advisory committees and staff recommendations.

**MOTION: Commissioner Hayes-Santos moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 proceed with the evaluation for the installation a midblock crosswalk with control on State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue) at or near NE 28th Drive. Commissioner Arreola seconded.**

Mr. Knight discussed the crosswalk installation threshold and answered questions. He said he would provide the threshold information to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that staff analyze the costs and benefits of providing a turn-around for the buses on NE 28th Drive compared to the costs and benefits of the midblock crossing for review by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and its advisory committees. Commissioner Byerly seconded.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Byerly asked to include in the motion to ask Tacachale Developmental Disability Center to provide an access easement across its property between State Road 24 (Waldo Road) and NE 28th Drive for construction of a paved bicycle/pedestrian trail. Commissioner Hutchinson did not accept the amendment.**

Ms. Sylvia Torres, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Attorney, discussed eminent domain and reported that the County could not use eminent domain to acquire state property. She said that the County could acquire state property with the consent of the state.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION RESTATED:**

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that staff analyze the costs and benefits of providing a turn-around for the buses on NE 28th Drive compared to the costs and benefits of the midblock crossing for review by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and refer this item to its advisory committees. Commissioner Byerly seconded; after additional discussion second withdrawn.**

**ORIGINAL MOTION RESTATED:**

**Commissioner Hayes-Santos moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 proceed with the evaluation for the installation a midblock crosswalk with control on State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue) at or near NE 28th Drive. Commissioner Arreola seconded.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Byerly asked to include in the motion to:**

- 1. Request that staff analyze the costs of providing a turn-around for the buses on NE 28th Drive; and**

2. **Ask Tacachale Developmental Disability Center to provide an access easement across its property between State Road 24 (Waldo Road) and NE 28th Drive for construction of a paved bicycle/pedestrian trail.**

**Commissioners Hayes-Santos and Arreola accepted the amendment.**

**ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:**

**Commissioner Hayes-Santos moved to:**

1. **Request that the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 proceed with the evaluation for the installation a midblock crosswalk with control on State Road 222 (NE 39th Avenue) at or near NE 28th Drive;**
2. **Request that staff analyze the costs of providing a turn-around for the buses on NE 28th Drive; and**
3. **Ask Tacachale Developmental Disability Center to provide an access easement across its property between State Road 24 (Waldo Road) and NE 28th Drive for construction of a paved bicycle/pedestrian trail.**

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

A member requested information regarding crash warrants for projects to receive funding.

**CA.6 SW 62ND BOULEVARD CONNECTOR CORRIDOR STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESPONSE**

A member discussed the Florida Department of Transportation response letter regarding State Highway System designation to the SW 62nd Boulevard Connector Corridor.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to:**

1. **Send a second request to ask for a response from the federal and state legislative delegations in support of or not in support of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization request of the Florida Department of Transportation to designate the SW 62nd Boulevard Connector corridor a State Highway System facility; and**
2. **Have the Executive Director report on the responses within 60 days after the request is sent.**

**Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed 7 to 1, with Commissioner Byerly in dissent.**

**VI. NEXT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING**

Mr. Koons announced that the next Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

**VII. COMMENTS**

**A. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEMBERS**

Some members discussed flooding concerns at the intersection of the East University Avenue and East 1st Street intersection.

Philip Mann, Gainesville Public Works Director, stated that the Public Works Department is working with the Community Redevelopment Agency to remedy the flooding issues.

## B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Budd discussed safety concerns at the West University Avenue and West 17th Street intersection.

Mr. Mann stated that the City is working with the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office and the University of Florida regarding current safety concerns and projected increase in pedestrian traffic due to redevelopment in the area adjacent to campus.

## C. CITIZENS

Ms. Wheat discussed Interstate 75 buildout and concerns along the U.S. 441 (SW 13th Street) corridor from State Road 226 (SW 16th Avenue) to State Road 331 (Williston Road) and the SW 13th Street Charrette prepared by the City and County in 2002 and answered questions. She provided recommendations for the corridor.

A member discussed the recommendations of the former ad hoc Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Signage Subcommittee.

Mr. Mann discussed the City's development review process and traffic impact study requirements. He said that Florida Department of Transportation staff will be involved in the traffic study for a proposed multi-family development on SW 13th Street.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ward moved to:**

- 1. Request that the Executive Director provide the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization a review of the 2002 SW 13th Street Charrette transportation issues and report whether the Florida Department of Transportation has planned, funded or accomplished any charrette recommendations;**
- 2. Refer the Executive Director's findings to the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team; Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board, Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee; and**
- 3. Request that the Florida Department of Transportation implement its Context Classification criteria from the Florida Design Manual along this corridor with a focus on:**
  - **Reduction in speed limits;**
  - **Reduction in visual clutter by eliminating highway signs or collocating signs on poles;**
  - **Provide designated multiple midblock pedestrian crossings along the corridor;**
  - **Increase lighting at median openings and signalized intersections; and**
  - **Provide bus bays;**

**Or explain why it will not complete those modifications.**

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

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 4/23/18

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Arreola, Secretary/Treasurer

**EXHIBIT A**

**Interested Citizens**

Iris Bailey  
Sunserea Dalton  
Gabe Green  
Penny Wheat

**Alachua County**

Chris Dawson  
Jeffrey Hays  
Sylvia Torres

**City of Gainesville**

Dekova Batey  
Deborah Leistner  
Philip Mann  
Krys Ochia

**Florida Department  
of Transportation**

James Knight  
Huiwei Shen

\* Via telephone

# Spoke and provided written comments

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

**Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building, Gainesville, Florida**

**3:00 p.m.  
February 26, 2018**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

- Page #7 CA. 1 Minutes - December 4, 2017 APPROVE MINUTES**  
This set of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization minutes is ready for review and approval.
- Page #21 CA. 2 Continuity of Operations Plan APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION**  
This plan is reviewed each year and revisions are made as needed.
- Page #59 CA. 3 Standard Assurances and Certifications through Citrus and Marion Counties Update AUTHORIZE CHAIR SIGNATURE**  
Each year, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needs to certify and assure compliance with federal regulations in order to receive funding.
- Page #71 CA. 4 Certification - Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification Statement AUTHORIZE CHAIR SIGNATURE**  
Each year, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation are required by federal law and regulation to jointly certify the transportation process.
- Page #75 CA. 5 Fiscal Year 2017 Audit ACCEPT AUDIT AND APPROVE PAYMENT**  
The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needs to accept the audit report and approve payment of the invoice for auditor services.
- Page #107 CA. 7 Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council - Meeting Summary FOR INFORMATION ONLY**  
This resolution recognizes Christine Eason Louton's service since 2011 as the persons with Disabilities Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

**Page #111 CA. 8 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - APPROVE RESOLUTION**  
**Community Transportation Coordinator Selection**

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needs to forward its recommendations concerning the selection of the Community Transportation Coordinator to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

**Page #117 CA. 9 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**Fiscal Year 2018-19 Planning Grant Resolution**

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needs to annually adopt a resolution authorizing the Chair to sign the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Planning Grant Agreement.

**Page #123 CA. 10 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - APPROVE RESOLUTIONS**  
**Resolutions of Appreciation OF APPRECIATION**

Lisa Hogan served as the Private Transit Representative and Christine Eason Louton served as the Persons with Disabilities Representative.

**Page #133 CA. 11 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**Status Report**

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has asked for regular status reports concerning this program.