

MINUTES
GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Multi Purpose Meeting Room
Gainesville Regional Utilities
Gainesville, Florida

1:00 p.m.
Wednesday
April 26, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dean M imms, C hair
Rob Ayers
Linda Dixon
Greg DuBois
Bob Elmore
John Gifford
Charles Justice
Brian K anely
Bill Lecher
Jeff Logan
Mac McE achern
Cynthia Moore
Patricia Reynolds
John Sabatella

MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Hatchitt
Semmy Ju

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Andrea Vogler

OTHERS PRESENT

Whit Blanton
Tom Cavin
Chuck Kiester
Robert Norton
Ryan Solis-Rios
Scott Woodman

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dean Mimms called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Mimms asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requested that Item K., Intersections at NW 34th Street and NW 8th and NW 16th Avenues, be added to the agenda. He also stated that Mr. David Coffey informed him that representatives of Haile Plantation are not yet ready to provide information concerning the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 91st Street. He said that, according to Mr. Coffey, the consultant Haile Plantation was going to hire to complete an analysis of this intersection was too costly. He said that Mr. Coffey has requested permission to give a presentation concerning this issue to the MTPO at their May 11 meeting.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Bill Lecher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 22 MINUTES

Ms. Linda Dixon, City of Gainesville Transportation Planning Analyst, requested that page 6, Item K., be changed to Archer Road west of SW 16th Avenue Pedestrian Safety Issues. She also requested that Number One under Item K. be changed to "... at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 23rd Drive".

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to approve the March 22, 2000 minutes as amended. Mac McEachern seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2000 and the next TAC meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2000. He noted that the purpose of the May 10 meeting will be to discuss issues concerning the long range transportation plan. He added that, according to Mr. David Schwartz, Alachua County Assistant Attorney, it is not necessary to tape record meetings when minutes are taken. He asked whether the TAC would like staff to continue taping meetings.

It was a consensus of the TAC that it is not necessary for staff tape record meetings.

V. AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED- LISTED IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

A. ELECT VICE-CHAIR

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

B. CITY OF GAINESVILLE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY ELEMENT

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

C. UNIVERSITY AVENUE/MAIN STREET CORRIDOR TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its meeting on March 9, the MTPO approved the University Avenue/Main Street Corridor Traffic Analysis contract with Renaissance Planning Group (RPG). He said that, included in the meeting materials is information that has been developed so far by RPG concerning this traffic analysis. He noted that Mr. Whit Blanton, RPG Vice President, is present to discuss this issue. He added that the TAC needs develop MTPO recommendations concerning this corridor.

Mr. Blanton gave a presentation concerning the University Avenue/Main Street Corridor Traffic Analysis and answered questions. He said that, at the last meeting, the TAC recommended five alternative two-lane configurations to be tested. He requested that the TAC recommend the sixth alternative to be tested.

The Committee discussed the University Avenue/Main Street corridor traffic analysis.

Several members of the TAC expressed concern that, according to the graphs presented, it appears as though traffic is being diverted off of University Avenue before it reaches capacity.

Mr. Charles Justice, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Executive Director, questioned why traffic would divert off of Main Street and go to NW 34th Street. He said that this does not seem feasible because NW 34th Street is a two-lane roadway. Also, he requested that Mr. Blanton provide graphs to depict during which hours the alternate routes such as NW 8th Avenue, NW 34th Street and NW 13th Street would exceed peak capacity.

Mr. Rob Ayers, FDOT Regional Planning Administrator, stated that the Art Plans should be the sole source used for Level of Service data. He requested that cautions concerning the margin of error be included in RPG's analysis.

Mr. Sanderson asked whether the analysis measured changes in air quality.

Mr. Blanton explained vehicle miles traveled is used as a surrogate for air quality measures.

Mr. Ayers recommended testing the widening of University Avenue between west 34th Street and Waldo Road and Main Street between Depot Avenue and North 16th Avenue as the sixth alternative. He also suggested an analysis of widening Depot Avenue from Archer Road to Main Street.

Mr. Brian Kanely suggested that the MTPO choose the sixth alternative to be tested.

It was a consensus of the TAC to add the University Avenue/Main Street corridor analysis to the May 10 meeting agenda for further discussion.

D. STATE ROAD (SR) 26/26A - WEST OF W. 34TH STREET

Mr. Sanderson stated that, on June 10, 1999 the MTPO amended the Long Range Transportation Plan to:

1. request that FDOT stop working on the project development and environmental study for the one-way pair project because the MTPO will be updating its long range transportation plan by February 2001 and the plan update will include developing a community's future vision for the transportation system in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area, including the future function of SR 26/26A in the University and Downtown area; and
2. request that the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team (ACTST) develop recommendations for the MTPO concerning both short and long term modifications that should be made to improve traffic safety along SR 26 from NW 38th Street east to Main Street and SR 26A from NW 38th Street east to W. University Avenue.

He said that, last September, the MTPO amended the long range transportation plan to revise the SR 26/26A project to read "modifications to enhance the Westgate commercial area, including bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects, on SR 26/26A from W 38th Street to W 34th Street; and road, safety and landscape modifications for two-way traffic on SR 26/26A from W 38th Street to North-South Drive." He also said that, on October 20, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and TAC requested that FDOT District 2 staff provide additional information for SR 26/26A, including existing and Year 2020 level of service for two-lane divided, three-lane divided and four-lane divided facilities. He noted that CAC, TAC and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board

(B/PAB) recommendations concerning this agenda item are listed in the meeting materials. He reviewed the TAC recommendations.

Mr. Ayers discussed the proposed SR 26/26A modifications west of W 34th Street and answered questions. He said that the FDOT will request a final recommendation from the MTPO in June.

The TAC discussed the proposed SR 26/26A modifications.

ACTION: Mac McEachern moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the Transportation System Management (TSM) Option for State Roads 26A west of W. 34th Street including the addition of turn lanes, signal retimings and maintaining one through lane in each direction. Rob Ayers seconded.

The TAC continued to discuss the proposed SR 26/26A modifications.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved a substitute motion to recommend that the MTPO approve the reconstruction of State Roads 26A as a typical two-lane urban section west of 34th Street including curb and gutter, bike lanes, sidewalks on both sides, a center turn lane, extra wide medians and appropriate intersection turn lanes. Patricia Reynolds seconded.

Brian Kanely called the question on the substitute motion. Question call passed unanimously.

ACTION ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Motion failed 6 to 8.

The TAC continued to discuss the proposed SR 26/26A modifications.

ACTION ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Motion failed 5 to 9.

ACTION: Bill Lecher moved to recommend that the MTPO approve a two-lanes westbound and one-lane eastbound option for State Roads 26A west of W. 34th Street. Brian Kanely seconded.

Brian Kanely called the question. Question call passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion passed 11 to 3.

E. SR 26/26A - W. 34TH STREET TO MAIN STREET

Mr. Ayers discussed the ACTST recommendations concerning this corridor. He requested that the TAC assess the recommendations for implementation in the SR 26/26A project.

The TAC discussed the ACTST recommendations.

ACTION: Rob Ayers moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the implementation of ATST recommendation #1: Construct a half-signal on SR 26 and reconstruct the ramp from SR 26A to SR 26. Brian Kanely seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ayers reviewed the remaining ACTST recommendations and answered questions.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the:

- 1. short term implementation of ACTST recommendations (see Exhibit 1) 3, 4, 5, 6, 7a and 7b; and**
- 2. long term implementation of ACTST recommendations 2 and 8.**

Brian Kanely seconded; motion passed unanimously.

F. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

1. YEAR 2000 APPLICATIONS - ALACHUA COUNTY

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

2. YEAR 2000 APPLICATIONS - MTPO

Mr. Sanderson stated that, included in the meeting materials, is a March 21 letter from FDOT discussing this year's procedure relating to transportation enhancement projects. He said that the TAC needs to decide if the MTPO should submit any new applications this year. He said that, according to this letter, the steps in this year's process are:

1. MTPO applications should be submitted to FDOT by June 15;
2. by September 1, FDOT will provide notification determining eligibility; and
3. by October 1, the MTPO will submit its final priority ranking of enhancement projects.

He added that staff recommends that no new applications be submitted.

Mr. Ayers noted that the application to construct sidewalks on SW 24th Avenue may not be valid.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to recommend that the MTPO not prepare additional transportation enhancement applications unless the FDOT determines that the application for the construction of sidewalks on SW 24th Avenue is not valid. Bill Lecher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

G. FISCAL YEAR 2000/2001 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Sanderson stated that the staff services agreement between the MTPO and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council requires the annual submission of the budget for the support of the transportation planning staff. He said that, therefore, we are forwarding for your consideration the UPWP. The UPWP outlines and describes planning efforts to be undertaken by participating agencies to maintain a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing transportation planning program in the Gainesville Urbanized Area. He said that staff recommends that the TAC approve the UPWP.

Ms. Linda Dixon stated that Table 1, Agency Participation Table for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 needs to be updated. She said that she will provide staff with the current information.

Mr. Ayers stated there are some administrative changes which should be made to the UPWP. He said that he would communicate these changes to staff.

Mr. Ayers suggested that staff track development on a regular basis rather than every five years. He said that FDOT, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville need to do a better job getting Level of Service (LOS) data to staff. He said that, because of this problem, the LOS project is overdue. He suggested that funds from UPWP Task Number 3.5 be moved to the LOS project in order to provide assistance to finish this task. He also suggested that Alachua County and the City of Gainesville provide staff assistance to help complete this project.

Mr. Sanderson stated that funds should not be moved from Task Number 3.5 to the Level of Service. He said that he would welcome any additional staff support that Alachua County or the City of Gainesville could provide.

ACTION: Mac McEachern moved recommend that the MTPO approve the Fiscal Year 2000/2001 UPWP with the understanding that staff will revise the work program as recommended by City of Gainesville and Florida Department of Transportation staff. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

H. SR 20 LANDSCAPE PLAN

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its meeting in April, the MTPO discussed FDOT maintenance issues on SR 20/Hawthorne Road near Prairie Creek. He said that, during discussion of this agenda item, the MTPO approved a motion to request that FDOT change the level of maintenance on this portion of SR 20 from rural to urban and to request that the Design Team complete its review of this project at its next meeting on April 25 and forward its recommendations to the MTPO Advisory Committees. He briefly reviewed the Design Team

recommendations. He said that this agenda item is for information only and that no action is required.

The TAC reviewed and discussed the SR 20 landscape plan.

I. U.S. 441 AT GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - ACCESS MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its March meeting, the Design Team reviewed the enclosed design plans for access modifications on U.S. 441 at Gainesville High School between NW 16th and NW 21st Avenue. He said that, during this review, the Design Team approved a motion to recommend that the MTPO approve FDOT's proposed design plans. He said that this agenda item is for information only and that no action is required.

The TAC reviewed and discussed the proposed U.S. 441 at Gainesville High School access modifications.

J. ARCHER ROAD AND SW 16TH AVENUE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its November meeting, the MTPO discussed bicycle and pedestrian safety issues on Archer Road near SW 16th Avenue. He said that, at this meeting, the MTPO referred the issue of crosswalks at bus stop locations along this portion of Archer road and the 1993 Archer Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Study to the MTPO Advisory Committees. He reviewed the history of recommendations and actions taken by the TAC and CAC concerning this issue. He added that the TAC needs to develop MTPO recommendations concerning this issue.

Ms. Dixon discussed the Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue project and answered questions.

The TAC discussed the Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue project.

ACTION: Bob Elmore moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the proposed Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue project description (see Exhibit 2) including retaining a right-turn only onto Archer Road from SW 23rd Street. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

K. NW 34TH STREET INTERSECTION MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its April 6 meeting, the MTPO approved a motion to request that FDOT delete the right-of-way funds that are programmed for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 in FDOT's Work Program and to continue work on the design for this project for both the NW 8th and NW 16th Avenue intersections that is multi-modal and that this design process incorporate adequate public involvement in this project. He added that the Design Team, at its April 25 meeting, approved a motion to recommend that the MTPO request that FDOT upgrade the traffic signals and install pedestrian crosswalks in accordance with MTPO policies and maintain the current intersection geometry. He said that this agenda item is for information only and that no action is required.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Date

Dean Mimms, Chair

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