

MINUTES

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

Conference Room
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Building
Gainesville, Florida
2:00 p.m.
Wednesday
August 18, 2004

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>
Bill Lecher, Chair Dean Mimms, Vice Chair Dekova Batey Linda Dixon Kathy Fanning John Gifford Doreen Joyner-Howard Brian Kanely Jeff Logan Kristen Nowicki	David Deas Charles Justice Allan Penska	Joe Corradino Gerry Dedenbach Mike Hemmen John Sabatella	Marlie Sanderson Thomas Hill

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Lecher, Alachua County Contract/Design Manager, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Mimms introduced himself and asked others to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Chair Lecher asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, noted that the Design Team deferred review of the State Road 26A Landscaping Plans until its next meeting.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to approve the meeting agenda as amended to defer discussion of Agenda Item V. State Road 26A Landscaping Plans until the next TAC meeting. Doreen Joyner-Howard seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chair Lecher asked for approval of the June 30, 2004 TAC meeting minutes.

ACTION: Doreen Joyner-Howard moved to approve the June 30, 2004 TAC meeting minutes. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Sanderson announced that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium. He said that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for September 29 and that there is a long range transportation plan community workshop on September 20.

VI. ARCHER ROAD/S. 16TH AVENUE CHARRETTE- FINAL TESTING AND EVALUATION

Mr. Sanderson stated that consultants were present to provide a status report on the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette. He said that the Consultant has completed the final testing and evaluation.

Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, Causseaux & Ellington Director of Planning and GIS Services, discussed the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Charrette final testing and evaluation, three design options:

1. Option C- Do Nothing;
2. Option D- Intersection Reconfiguration of Archer Road and S. 16th Avenue; and
3. Option E- Transfer Two Lanes to SW 16th Avenue,

and answered questions. They recommended Option D.

ACTION: Brian Kanely moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the Archer Road/ S. 16th Avenue Charrette Option D- Intersection Reconfiguration. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed 9 to 1.

ACTION: Dean Mimms moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the Archer Road/ S. 16th Avenue Charrette Exhibit 1 with the following revisions:

1. **strike "such as routes 35, 36, and 9" from the text under Timeline Now, bullet #3;**
2. **add intersection studies identified under Timeline Now to next year's List of Priority Projects;**
3. **replace "loop" with "system" under Timeline 10 Years, bullet #1; and**

Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Dean Mimms moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the Archer Road/ S. 16th Avenue Charrette Exhibit 2 with the following revisions:

- 1. revise title to: Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue Intersection Realignment/ Relocation Study; and**
- 2. revise objective bullet to indicate the intersection study will determine the best use of SR 24 between North-South Drive and SW 16th Avenue.**

Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. YEAR 2025 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE-
RANDOM SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the Year 2025 Transportation Plan Update scope of services requires that the Consultant conduct a random survey of households. He said that a draft telephone survey that has been prepared by the MTPO's Consultant- The Corradino Group.

Mr. Joe Corradino, The Corradino Group President, discussed the survey and answered questions.

ACTION: Brian Kanely moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the random survey of households with the B.2 survey questions using the same Agree, Disagree and No Opinion format in the B.1 survey questions, including modifications to the B.2 survey questions to facilitate the new format. Dean Mimms seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. YEAR 2025 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE-
EVALUATION FACTORS

Chair Lecher called for discussion of Agenda Item VIII Year 2025 Transportation Plan Update.

Mr. Corradino discussed the evaluation factors and answered questions.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the evaluation factors with Factor 3 revised to change "complete" to "connected." Kristen Nowicki seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IX. YEAR 2025 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE-
VISION STATEMENTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, in 1997, the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) recommended incorporating a strong visioning process to improve MPO long range transportation planning. He said that based on information developed so far, the Consultant recommends a modification to the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan Vision Statement. He

reported the current vision statement and proposed modifications. He noted that vision statement recommendations will be developed late this year or early next year after the random telephone survey is completed.

X. UNIVERSITY AREA “NO RIGHT TURN ON RED” SIGNS

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO, at its July 15 meeting, discussed the “No Turn On Red” signage that have been recently installed as part of the traffic signal update projects adjacent to the University of Florida. He said that City of Gainesville Public Works Department staff recommends that the “No Turn On Red” signs be replaced by signs that read “Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians.” He noted that the proposed sign is approved by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)- the R10-15 sign.

Ms. Doreen Joyner-Howard, FDOT Transportation Specialist, noted that any sign changes need to be approved by FDOT and that the City would have to pay for the change.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO authorize the MTPO Chair to send a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation requesting the replacement of the “No Turn On Red” signs with signs that read “Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians.” Brian Kanely seconded; motion passed 9 to 1.

XI. AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING DEVICES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the July 15 MTPO meeting, Mr. Jack Varnon, Council for the Blind President, discussed several issues related to assisting *visually-impaired* people in safely crossing streets. He said that Mr. Varnon has requested consideration of accessible traffic signals at State Road 26 (W. University Avenue) at US 441 and State Road 26 (University Avenue) at Main Street in Gainesville. He added that the MTPO asked whether audible pedestrian crossing devices can be installed on traffic signals in this area and if so, how much would it cost per crossing. He reported that according to FDOT, "accessible" pedestrian signals in have been installed in NE Florida. He said that the installation of accessible pedestrian signals is evaluated on a case by case basis. He noted that it costs about \$1,000 for each device or \$4, 000 per intersection. He added that it is our understanding that the next step is for FDOT staff to contact Mr. Varnon and schedule a meeting with him at these two locations in order to conduct an evaluation.

XII. WHITE CANE LAW ENFORCEMENT SIGNS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the July 15 MTPO meeting, Mr. Jack Varnon, Council for the Blind President, discussed several issues related to assisting visually-impaired people in safely crossing streets. He discussed the White Cane Law (Chapter 316.1301, Florida Statutes) and answered questions. He said that the MTPO asked whether “White Cane” law enforcement signage can be installed on speed limit signs. He said that FDOT would not be able to approve such a sign. He said that FDOT indicated that it would be very difficult to design a sign that would be effective and that motorists could understand.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO request that the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team and the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office consider implementing a public safety awareness campaign in Alachua County. John Gifford seconded; motion passed unanimously.

XIII. W. 6TH STREET/W. UNIVERSITY AVENUE- CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Mr. Sanderson stated that a member of the MTPO has requested traffic information concerning the W. 6th Street Corridor with respect to how this road is expected to operate after the proposed roundabouts are constructed. He said that several years ago, a community charrette was conducted for W. 6th Street. He noted that the results of this charrette was reported in a document entitled *West 6th Street Design Project*. He said that MTPO staff worked with City staff to evaluate operating conditions using roundabout traffic information. He noted that the evaluation of the W. 6th Street/W. University Avenue intersection resulted that a roundabout resulted in a better level of service than the existing traffic signal.

XIV. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Date

Bill Lecher, Chair

EXHIBIT 1

**ARCHER ROAD / S. 16TH AVENUE AREA CHARRETTE
TAC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The participants in the Archer Road/S. 16th Avenue Area Charrette proposed a tiered plan of recommendations with viable milestones. These milestone included:

TIMELINE	MILESTONE
Now	Pedestrian safety enhancements throughout the corridor
	SW 23 rd Terrace extension into the University of Florida campus should be examined as part of the Campus Master Plan update process
	Add transit service to existing routes that are not meeting demand
	Ask the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund (or conduct in-house) in the first year of FDOT's Work Program a State Roads 24/226 Intersection Realignment Study, as described in Exhibit 2
	Conduct an intersection study of US 441 and Archer Road without the sliplane
5 Years	SW 16 th Avenue inner road network and North-South Drive extension
	Consider mix of uses in "Little Gandy" area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips.
10 Years	Enhance eastern connection of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) type service and S 16 th Avenue multimodal connection and also consider a BRT system utilizing Archer Road, Depot Avenue, S. Main Street and SW 16 th Avenue
	Consider mix of uses in "Little Gandy" area with redevelopment, including residential, to reduce private automobile trips.
	Connections to other growth areas- SW 20 th Avenue, Student Village, future commercial and Oaks Mall Park-and-Ride
20 Years	Continue study of SE 16 th Avenue extension- 3-lane/4-lane from State Road 329 to State Road 331

EXHIBIT 2

ARCHER ROAD AND SW 16TH AVENUE INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT / RELOCATION STUDY

The purpose of the study is to explore and identify the issues involved with realignment of the intersection of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue. Objectives of the study are as follows:

- Reroute through traffic (particularly trucks) currently using Archer Road onto SW 16th Avenue. This will reduce traffic volumes in the Shands/VA corridor, creating a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment.
- Create a gateway entrance to the University of Florida in the vicinity of Archer Road and SW 16th Avenue.
- Facilitate an extension of North-South Drive south to SW 16th Avenue.
- Improve accessibility to Shands/VA for emergency vehicles and Regional Transit System (RTS) buses.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility in the area impacted by roadway reconstruction.
- Determine the best use of State Road 24 (Archer Road) between North-South Drive and SW 16th Avenue.

The study needs to include the following components:

- Affected area bordered by Archer Road, SW 16th Avenue and the extension of North-South Drive.
- Need to examine all signalized intersections included in this boundary.
- Need to maintain accessibility to hospitals for emergency vehicles and RTS.
- Options for roadway alignments should be discussed with staff before analysis is performed.
- Options should include possibility of roundabouts with/without bypass lanes.
- Routes for bicycles and pedestrians through the area must be included.
- Clear, defined access to parking facilities must be maintained.
- Must provide opportunities for directional signage for visitors.
- Consider grade separated intersection at SW 16th Avenue and Archer Road.
- Consider limited grade separated intersection at SW 34th Street and Archer Road.