

MINUTES

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

Gainesville Regional Utilities General Purpose Room  
301 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida

2:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
June 27, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dean Mimms, Chair  
Doug Robinson, Vice Chair  
Dekova Batey  
Michael Fay  
Ron Fuller  
Debbie Leistner  
Jonathan Paul  
Karen Taulbee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Bird  
Michelle Danisovzky  
Linda Dixon  
John Gifford  
Steve Githens  
Scott Koons

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Ballenger  
Gaelan Bishop  
Whit Blanton  
Doreen Joyner-Howard  
Chandler Otis  
Jennifer Spagnoli  
Cindy Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson  
Michael Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dean Mimms City of Gainesville Chief of Comprehensive Planning, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Mimms introduced himself and asked others to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

**ACTION: Dekov Batey moved to approve the meeting agenda. Michael Fay seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

III. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chair Mimms asked for approval of the May 19, 2007 TAC meeting minutes.

**ACTION: Jonathan Paul moved to approve the May 19, 2007 TAC meeting minutes. Jesus Gomez seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Sanderson announced that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium. He said that the TAC's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>. He added that he would inform TAC members if the meeting would be cancelled.

#### VII. MAIN STREET 30 PERCENT DESIGN PLAN- N 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE TO N 23<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE

Mr. Sanderson stated that Alachua County Public Works Department requested that the MTPO Advisory Committees review and comment on the Main Street 30 Percent Design Plans.

Mr. Sanderson, Ms. Jennifer Spagnoli, Alachua County Traffic Engineer, and Mr. Gaelan Bishop, Volkert & Associates Project Engineer, discussed the Main Street 30 Percent Design Plans and answered questions.

**ACTION: Jonathan Paul moved to recommend that the Alachua County Commission approve the Main Street 30 Percent Design Plans, subject to:**

- 1. consideration by Alachua County staff to add pedestrian safety enhancements at N 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street; and**
- 2. having Alachua County staff work with Regional Transit System staff to add transit and pedestrian modifications along the corridor.**

**Ron Fuller seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### VIII. WILLISTON ROAD AT SW 62<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION

Mr. Sanderson stated that, last fall, FDOT requested a waiver to the mast arm requirement for a new signal at the intersection of SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Williston Road (State Road 121). He said the MTPO, at its December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, referred the issue to its Advisory Committees. He added that the MTPO, at its May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting revised Policy 7.2.1 of the *MTPO Urban Design Manual* to state:

*"All new signals within Alachua County shall be mast arms with horizontal signal heads. Exceptions to this policy may be granted if all three of the following conditions are met:*

- the intersection is located in unincorporated Alachua County and outside the Gainesville Urbanized Area;*
- one of the intersecting roads has not been built to an urban, four-lane cross-section; and*
- the intersection must satisfy the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrant number seven crash experience.*

*Exceptions for installing post-mounted signals or vertical heads on mast arms may be granted on a case-by-case basis."*

Mr. Sanderson noted that the Design Team recommended that the MTPO grant the exception to allow strain-poled traffic signals at the Williston Road (State Road 121) and SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue intersection contingent upon a TAC finding that the documentation of the crash cause is addressed by the traffic signal and that the safety project cost benefit analysis demonstrates the advantage of the strain pole. He and Ms. Taulbee discussed traffic signal options for the Williston Road (State Road 121) and SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue intersection and answered questions.

Ms. Karen Taulbee, FDOT Transportation Specialist, discussed the benefit/cost ratio and crash data and answered questions.

**ACTION: Michael Fay moved to recommend that the MTPO grant the exception to allow strain-poled traffic signals at the Williston Road (State Road 121) and SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue intersection. Debbie Leistner seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### IX. ALACHUA COUNTY- THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Mr. Sanderson stated that recent federal requirements include visioning as part of the MTPO's long range transportation process. He discussed the requirements and answered questions.

**ACTION: Michael Fay moved to recommend that the MTPO:**

- 1. approve the testing of future land use scenarios in the next long range transportation plan update that includes a current trends scenario and, at least, one other scenario developed with significant public participation; and**
- 2. test and evaluate the *Alachua County Transportation Connections* road network as the road network for the western growth scenario.**

**Karen Taulbee seconded.**

**Chair Mimms requested that the action be tabled until after the *Alachua County Transportation Connections* presentation.**

#### X. ALACHUA COUNTY PROPOSED FUTURE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

Mr. Michael Fay, Alachua County Assistant Public Works Director, stated that the Alachua County Commission requested review and comment from the MTPO Advisory Committees of the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections project. He said that the Commission authorized investigation of a transportation to support the land uses in the County's Comprehensive Plan. He said that these connections would be constructed with developer contributions.

Mr. Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group Vice President, discussed the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Map Project and answered questions.

*After receiving the presentation and extensive discussion, the TAC did not take any action. However, Chair Mimms requested that the following comments be forwarded to the Alachua County Commission:*

- 1. there was considerable TAC discussion that the Alachua County Proposed Future Transportation Connections Map Project:
  - A. focused on growth areas, in particular a westward growth scenario and does not adequately consider other growth scenarios; and*
  - B. does not adequately reflect what has been accepted for Plan East Gainesville and eastern Alachua County growth areas; and**
- 2. the TAC noted that the maps should better reflect what is shown in Plan East Gainesville and eastern Alachua County growth areas.*

There were no TAC member objections to the Chair forwarding these summary comments.

Mr. Fay noted that this topic would be presented to the Alachua County Commission at its July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### IX. ALACHUA COUNTY- THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS [Continued]

The TAC discussed and amended the action.

#### **TABLED ACTION RESTATED AS AMENDED:**

**Michael Fay moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the testing of future land use scenarios in the next long range transportation plan update that includes a current trends scenario, and at least one other scenario that emphasizes public transit and other transportation choices developed with significant public participation. Karen Taulbee seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

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Date

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Dean Mimms, Chair