

# North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2009 N.W. 67 PLACE, SUITE A, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32653-1603  
(352) 955-2200      SUNCOM 625-2200      FAX (352) 955-2209



February 23, 2009

TO:            Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB)  
                 MTPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)  
                 MTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

FROM:        Marlie Sanderson, AICP, Director of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT:    SW 62nd Boulevard- Bus Rapid Transit

## **MTPO STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the modified Corridor 4B-2 Alignment with four general purpose lane cross section, plus two additional lanes in the median for bus rapid transit.

## **BACKGROUND**

Alachua County is currently preparing a Project Development and Environmental Study for SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard (from Archer Road to Newberry Road). This Study is being funded using the federal SAFETEA-LU High Priority Funds (also called "earmark funds").

At its meeting on November 13, 2008, the MTPO discussed this project. During this meeting, the MTPO approved a motion to (see enclosed letter):

- "1.    approve the Corridor 4B-2 Alignment with the four general purpose lane cross section: and*
- 2.    direct staff to return to the MTPO on the implementation of bus rapid transit in the median."*

Attached are the backup materials for this agenda item that have been provided by Alachua County staff, and its consultant HNTB, concerning implementation of bus rapid transit in the median.

As shown in the following diagram, there are no funds currently programmed for this project.

SW 62 <sup>nd</sup> Boulevard- Programmed Funds Timeline				
2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
-	-	-	-	-

Enclosure

T:\Marlie\MS09\MTPO\MEMO\sw62ndcactac.wpd

**Date**  
02/09/2009

**To**  
Jennifer Spagnoli, PE



**From**  
Terrel Shaw, PE

**PROJECT**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Subject**  
Comparative Analysis

At the November 13, 2008 Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) Board meeting, the MTPO requested that the locally preferred corridor cross-section be modified to include future Bus Rapid Transit in the median and return with a plan for implementation.

The project team, in coordination with the Gainesville Regional Transit System, prepared a modified cross-section in response to this direction. The Gainesville Regional Transit System staff has verified that this cross-section is consistent with the bus rapid transit planning currently underway. Construction of the roadway using this cross-section is feasible. It will also avoid any significant impacts to conservation properties, although construction would result in a slight increase in functional loss of wetlands versus the four-lane urban roadway cross-section previously presented.

The construction cost of the modified cross-section, with an appropriately sized median that could support future BRT, is \$89.6 million. If the bus rapid transit stations, raceways and pads are constructed as part of the modified roadway, the total costs would be \$98.9 million. The construction costs for the four-lane urban roadway, previously presented, is \$86.7 million.

HNTB is currently preparing a draft preliminary engineering report and an environmental assessment for this project that includes the modified cross-section as the locally preferred alternative. A presentation is planned for the March MTPO Meeting as an informational item in advance of our public hearing for this project.