

MINUTES
GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

NCFRPC
Conference Room
Gainesville, Florida

7:00 p.m.
Wednesday
January 31, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Joe Wilson, Chair Anne Barkdoll Richard Fletcher Jan Frentzen Nancy Gildersleeve Scherwin Henry James Higman Doug Hornbeck Matthew Hurst Tony Porter Jonathan Reiskind Phyllis Saarinen Cindy Smith Mike Wright	Richard Briggs	James Bennett Bill Holt Jeff Logan	Gerry Dedenbach Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wilson introduced himself and asked those present to introduce themselves. He welcomed new members to the CAC.

The CAC welcomed new members to the Board.

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, announced that staff will hold an new member orientation within the next few months.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Dedenbach requested that the CAC amend the meeting agenda as follows:

1. add a new agenda Item III., Election of Officers;

2. change agenda Item V.D., Regional Transit System (RTS), to Item V.B.;
3. add agenda Item V.F., US 441 Bicycle Safety Issues, to discuss action taken by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (B/PAB) concerning the recent and past fatalities on US 441 at Paynes Prairie; and
4. add agenda Item V.G., Hull Road Right-of-Way, in order for Mr. Bill Lecher, Alachua County Public Works Department (ACPWD) Assistant Director, and staff to provide a status report concerning this project.

Chair Wilson suggested that the election of new officers be the last action item on the agenda.

ACTION: Richard Fletcher moved to approve the meeting agenda with the following changes:

1. change agenda Item V.D., RTS, to Item V.B.; and
2. add agenda Items:
 - A. V.F., US 441 Bicycle Safety Issues;
 - B. V.G., Hull Road Right-of-Way; and
 - C. V.H., Election of Officers.

Scherwin Henry seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2000 MINUTES

ACTION: Phyllis Saarinen moved to approve the November 29, 2000 minutes. Richard Fletcher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cindy Smith thanked the CAC for nominating her for the 2000 Kermit Sigmon Citizen Participation award.

The CAC congratulated Ms. Smith for receiving the award.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Dedenbach announced that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for February 15. He said that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 21.

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

A. MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Dedenbach reviewed action taken by the MTPO, Design Team, B/PAB and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concerning the Main Street reconstruction project. He stated that staff recommends that the CAC approve the TAC's recommendation.

Mr. James Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 Project Design Engineer, discussed the Main Street reconstruction project corridor design plans and answered questions.

The CAC thanked Mr. Bennett and FDOT for their hard work and cooperation with the Main Street reconstruction project.

ACTION: Phyllis Saarinen moved to recommend that the MTPO:

1. **approve the Main Street design plans as presented by FDOT with the understanding that:**
 - A. **FDOT and the City of Gainesville will further research signalization alternatives, such as mast arms and post-mounted signals, throughout the Main Street reconstruction project corridor; and**
 - B. **landscape details will be determined once design details are finalized;**
2. **request that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners consider reconstructing Main Street, from N 8th Avenue to N 16th Avenue, with two travel lanes, a center turn lane and instreet bikelanes; and**
3. **request that FDOT investigate the use of brick-hued, non-textured bicycle lanes throughout the project.**

Richard Fletcher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. RTS

1. OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Mr. Jeff Logan, RTS Director, provided an overview of RTS operations and answered questions.

2. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS (COA)

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its January 18 meeting, the MTPO referred the proposed COA to its Advisory Committees for review and comment. He said that the MTPO is requesting direction concerning whether the COA should address such issues as the provision of express bus service to outlying municipalities, as adopted in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the inclusion of other counties in the scope of the analysis.

Mr. Logan discussed the proposed COA and answered questions. He explained that park and ride and express bus service, as adopted in the LRTP, have been included in the scope of the analysis. He said that, currently, there are not sufficient funds to include other counties in the scope of the proposed COA. However, he noted, the scope of the proposed COA includes an analysis of whether RTS should be expanded to a county-wide transit authority.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO approve conducting the COA as recommended by RTS staff with the understanding that park and ride and express bus service to outlying municipalities and whether RTS should be expanded to a county-wide transit authority are included in the scope of the analysis. Phyllis Saarinen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. STATE ROAD (SR) 24 DESIGN PLANS

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at the January 18 Design Team meeting, FDOT presented 90 percent plans for the resurfacing of SR 24 from Fred Bear Drive to SW 40th Boulevard that included horizontal mast arms. He said that FDOT also agreed to construct this project with textured and hued pedestrian crosswalks. He noted that this project does not include replacing the medians because this is a relatively small resurfacing project and issuing a change order would be costly and would adversely affect the project's scope.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. approve the SR 24 resurfacing project with textured and hued pedestrian crosswalks and horizontal mast arms; and**
- 2. request that FDOT research the feasibility of constructing continuous bikelanes throughout the project corridor and report their findings to the MTPO.**

Nancy Gildersleeve seconded; motion passed unanimously.

D. US 441 DESIGN PLANS

Mr. Dedenbach reviewed action taken by the MTPO, Design Team, B/PAB and TAC concerning the US 441, from NW 16th Avenue to NW 21st Avenue, design plans. He stated that staff recommends that the CAC approve the TAC's recommendation.

Several members of the CAC expressed safety concerns about the proposed mid-block crossing. They discussed whether a traffic signal is warranted at the pedestrian crosswalk near NW 18th Avenue.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO approve the FDOT design plans for the US 441 at Gainesville High School between NW 16th Avenue and NW 21st Avenue Safety Project and request that FDOT;

2. retain the signal flashing beacons on the east and west side of the project corridor; and

3. study this corridor in order to determine if a traffic signal is warranted at the pedestrian crosswalk near NW 18th Avenue;

James Higman seconded; motion passed unanimously.

E. GRANT AVAILABILITY

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at the October 12 MTPO meeting, a member of the CAC requested that the MTPO ask FDOT to provide information about the transportation grants process and how communities can become more involved. He said that it was a consensus of the MTPO that this information be discussed at a future meeting. He said that staff is requesting policy direction from the TAC concerning whether grant applications should be submitted for all projects, regardless of their ranking in the MTPO's adopted List of Priority Projects, or if grant applications should be submitted for projects in priority order only.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO provide flexibility to apply for grants based on their particular timeline and evaluation criteria without requiring strict adherence to the MTPO priority ranking, with the requirement that the MTPO will be informed of the grant application prior to submittal. Richard Fletcher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to recommend that the MTPO not authorize grant applications that would compete with other existing higher priority projects' funding. Richard Fletcher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

F. US 441 BICYCLE SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Dedenbach stated that the B/PAB discussed bicycle safety on US 441, at Paynes Prairie, due to recent and past fatalities. He reviewed action taken by the B/PAB and TAC concerning this issue. He said that staff recommends that the CAC approve the joint B/PAB, TAC recommendation.

ACTION: Phyllis Saarinen moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. request that FDOT fund a short-term study of the US 441 corridor focused in the area across Paynes Prairie where bicycle fatalities have occurred;**
- 2. keep the US 441 bicycle project as the first unfunded safety project when the MTPO's List of Priority Projects is approved this September;**
- 3. request that FDOT program construction funds for this project in its next Work Program, noting that the project has been on the MTPO's priority list for the past two years; and**
- 4. support the designation of US 441 as a Scenic Highway and include funding for bicycle safety projects in this corridor as part of that designation.**

Jan Frentzen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dedenbach stated that Mr. Lecher was not present to discuss agenda item V.H., Hull Road Right-of-Way. He suggested that the CAC hold the election of officers.

It was a consensus of the CAC to hold the election of officers prior to discussing Agenda Item V.H., Hull Road Right-of-Way.

G. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ACTION: James Higman moved to nominate Joe Wilson as Chair and Richard Briggs as Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Cindy Smith seconded.

ACTION: Jan Frentzen moved to close the nominations and adopt the slate. Doug Hornbeck seconded; motion passed unanimously.

H. HULL ROAD

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its December meeting, the MTPO referred the Hull Road extension back to the Design Team because the University of Florida requested further discussion of the Hull Road extension right-of-way so that the MTPO could coordinate the typical cross-section for the Hull Road extension with the University's siting of the Orthopaedic Center. He said that plans have been submitted to the County to build an apartment complex adjacent to the proposed right-of-way for this project. He noted that Florida Power Corporation has right-of-first-refusal to the right-of-way. He added that Alachua County is requesting that the MTPO support the continuation of efforts to acquire the recommended 150 feet of right-of-way for this project.

ACTION: Jan Frentzen moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. continue to endorse the need for 150' right-of-way for the proposed Hull Road alignment until circumstances arise which prevent the acquisition of this much right-of-way; and**
- 2. request that FDOT research alternatives for the purchase and development of the right-of-way along the proposed Hull Road alignment as necessary.**

Matthew Hurst seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**I. CITY OF GAINESVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-
TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY ELEMENT**

Mr. Dedenbach stated that a member of the CAC requested a presentation on the City's draft Transportation Mobility Element. He noted that City staff has made similar presentations in the past. He asked the CAC to decide whether to request additional presentations from City of Gainesville planning staff concerning this update to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

A member of the CAC requested that the CAC also receive a presentation from County planning staff concerning the Transportation Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to schedule a required CAC meeting with City and County staff, on a date to be determined, to review the Transportation Elements of their Comprehensive Plans. Phyllis Saarinen seconded; motion passed nine to five.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Date

Joseph N. Wilson, Chair