

MEETING SUMMARY
GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
DESIGN TEAM

NCFRPC Conference Room
Gainesville, Florida

Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.
March 21, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Dixon, Chair
Jesus Gomez
Brian Kanely
Bill Lecher
Cynthia Moore
Meg Niederhofer
Dom Nozzi
Reid Rivers
Cindy Smith
Tim Strauser

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rob Ayers
David Mayo
Teresa Scott

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Atkins
Dick Bush
F.M. Lynch
Ladd Roberts
Bruce Strickland
Clifton Ward
Penny Wheat

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Andrea Vogler

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Planner, stated that Design Team Chair, Len Buffington has resigned. He asked the Design Team to appoint a new Chairperson.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to nominate Linda Dixon as Design Team Chairperson. Jesus Gomez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and asked for introductions.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to approve the meeting agenda. Brian Kanely seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dixon requested that the election of a Vice Chairperson be added to the next Design Team meeting agenda.

III. NW 34TH STREET INTERSECTION MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its February meeting, the Design Team referred consideration of a triangular pedestrian refuge island at each new right turn lane at the intersections of NW 34th Street and NW 8th and NW 16th Avenue to the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team (ACTST). He said that, although the Design Team has requested ACTST information, Chair Rob Ayers, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 Regional Planning Administrator, has stated that the FDOT can not wait for their recommendation.

Mr. Dedenbach also stated that, at the February meeting, the Design Team approved a motion to request that FDOT contact the School Board of Alachua County (SBAC). He said that they were to determine the feasibility of relocating the Littlewood Elementary School bus turnaround in order to preserve greenspace and increase the buffer between school children and vehicles when the southbound right turn lane is constructed. He said that FDOT representatives have stated that they have contacted SBAC concerning this issue. He said that FDOT has requested that final Design Team recommendations concerning the 34th Street intersections be made at today's meeting.

Mr. Brian Kanely, City of Gainesville Transportation Services Manager, gave a presentation concerning the proposed NW 34th Street and NW 8th Avenue intersection modifications and answered questions.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that Mr. Kanely contact the SBAC concerning the bus turnaround at Littlewood Elementary School.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to:

- 1. approve the proposed FDOT modifications to the intersection at NW 34th Street and NW 16th Avenue; and**
- 2. request that the following information be provided at the next Design Team meeting:**
 - a. photographs and measurements of the proposed width of the intersection of NW 34th Street and NW 8th Avenue; and**
 - b. a response from the SBAC concerning the bus turnaround at Littlewood Elementary school.**

Brian Kanely seconded; motion passed unanimously.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that the City of Gainesville planning staff research the feasibility of constructing a "parent drop off" in front of Littlewood Elementary School on NW 34th Street.

IV. STATE ROAD (SR) 20/HAWTHORNE ROAD - STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its February meeting, the Design Team discussed the SR 20/Hawthorne Road project and approved a motion to accept the SR 20/Hawthorne Road concept and to request the FDOT consider implementing the project in phases. In addition, he said that the Design Team also requested that Landers-Atkins, Inc review the planting plans with the City of Gainesville Arborist and present the preliminary planting schedule at today's meeting. He noted that MTPO staff was informed that Landers-Atkins, Inc. has not yet contacted the City Arborist.

Mr. Dedenbach stated that FDOT correspondence which recommends implementing the project in phases if the cost of the project exceeds the programmed budget is included in the meeting materials. He noted that FDOT also suggests reducing the amount of landscaping materials to meet the budget or delaying construction until sufficient funds can be allocated. He said that FDOT has requested that the Design Team make final recommendations at today's meeting concerning the SR 20/Hawthorne Road project.

Mr. Ladd Roberts, Landers-Atkins, Inc. Landscape Architect, discussed the SR 20/Hawthorne Road project and answered questions.

The Design Team discussed the SR 20/Hawthorne Road project.

Ms. Meg Niederhofer, City of Gainesville Arborist, stated that the planting plans include several non-native plants. She requested that Landers-Atkins, Inc. revise the planting plans to include more native species. She distributed a list of recommended native plants.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that Landers-Atkins, Inc. provide three color elevations of their final planting plan, which incorporates the City of Gainesville Arborist's suggestions, at the next meeting.

Mr. Bruce Strickland, FDOT District 2 Contracts Engineer, stated that this corridor has a rural maintenance classification. He said that large maintenance equipment is used when a road has a rural maintenance classification. Therefore, he said, there are limited options in terms of what plants can be used and where they can be placed. He noted that the urban maintenance classification allows for more flexibility because of the use of smaller equipment. He said that it is typically more expensive to maintain roads with the urban maintenance classification.

The Design Team discussed the planting limitations of the rural maintenance classification.

ACTION: Cindy Smith moved to request that the MTPO ask FDOT to consider changing the maintenance classification of the SR 20/Hawthorne Road corridor, from Lakeshore Drive to the Prairie Creek bridge, from rural to urban. Tim Strauser seconded; motion passed unanimously.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that the MTPO receive a presentation concerning the FDOT maintenance classifications when they discuss the SR 20/Hawthorne Road project.

Ms. Cindy Smith requested that, when possible, wildflowers, rather than grass, be planted in the medians in this corridor.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that Landers Atkins, Inc. review the final planting plans with FDOT prior to the next Design Team meeting.

V. US 441 @ GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, at its February meeting, the Design Team discussed the design plans for access modifications on US 441 at Gainesville High School between NW 16th and NW 21st Avenue and requested that FDOT determine the feasibility of constructing bike lanes in this corridor. He said that FDOT's response to this request stating that the plans have not changed since the February Design Team meeting is included in the meeting materials. He said that FDOT is requesting that the Design Team make final recommendations at today's meeting concerning the US 441 at Gainesville High School access modifications.

The Design Team reviewed and discussed the proposed access modifications.

ACTION: Brian Kanely moved to accept the FDOT proposed access modifications on US 441 at Gainesville High School between NW 16th Avenue and NW 21st Avenue. Bill Lecher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. RETENTION/DETENTION BASINS

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, included with the meeting materials, are City of Gainesville and Alachua County materials, as Exhibits 1 and 2 respectively, that were discussed in a December staff meeting concerning this issue. He said that the the City of Gainesville prepared price estimates for the recently constructed SW 4th/Depot Avenue basin. He added that their calculations indicated that a curvilinear/ aesthetically pleasing basin, which was constructed, would cost approximately 20 percent more than a rectilinear/fenced basin. He also noted that the County has also prepared price estimates for proposed basins along Tower Road. He stated that their calculations indicated that a curvilinear/aesthetically pleasing basin would cost approximately 25 percent more than a rectilinear/fenced basin due to land costs in the Tower Road area. He noted that a final decision, regarding which basin to construct, hasn't been made.

Mr. Dedenbach also stated that the County's planning staff is currently updating their Land Development Regulations (LDR) to include more criteria which will mandate aesthetically pleasing basins and will be holding several public hearings over the next several months. He

said that the first of these LDR meetings is scheduled for May, 2000. He said that Staff will provide, to the MTPO and Design Team, updates of the County's progress updating the LDR.

Commissioner Penny Wheat suggested that the County consider:

1. establishing procedures for mosquito abatement;
2. the use of more attractive vinyl fencing rather than metal chain-link fencing around the basins; and
3. options for neighborhood associations to "adopt" their retention/detention basins.

Commissioner Wheat noted that approximately 400 new retention/detention basins are approved annually. She suggested that the County work quickly to implement standards for the more aesthetically pleasing basins in order to limit the number of retention/detention basins being constructed under the old standards.

It was a consensus of the Design Team to request that Alachua County staff provide a status report of their progress updating their LDR with regard to retention/detention basins at the next meeting.

VII.1. ROADWAY BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS POLICIES

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

VII.2. MTPO URBAN DESIGN AND STREETSCAPE POLICIES

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

VII.3. ROUNDABOUTS - LANDSCAPE AND SIGNAGE

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Dedenbach stated that the next MTPO regular business meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium and the next Design Team meeting is scheduled for April 18 in the NCFRPC conference room.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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