

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

Jack Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

7:00 p.m.
Monday
March 20, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chuck Clemons, Chair
John Barrow
Bruce Delaney
Pegeen Hanrahan
Robert Hutchinson
Ed Jennings
Dave Newport
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Chestnut
Paula DeLaney
Gerald Schaffer
Huey Hawkins

OTHERS PRESENT

Don Ahrens
Rob Ayers
Melanie Barr
Wayne Bowers
Stephen Boyes
Linda Crider
Sandra Crowe
Maggi Davison
Linda Dixon
Deborah Goforth
Sam Goforth
Jesus Gomez
Brian Kanely
William Kennedy
Bill Lecher
Jeff Logan
Jesselyn Long
Vince Mally
Marion Mark
D. Martinez
Mickey Milam
Chandler Otis
Gerry Patton
Robert Pierce

OTHERS PRESENT

S.R. Poll
Anthony Porter
Linda Porter
Adam Roland
Kerry Rowell
Barry Rutenberg
Cathy Saenz
Mark Sexton
Tim Vaughn
David Welch

CALLERS

Shirley Lassiter
Jill Miller
Cathy Prevatt
Richard M. Watts

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

MTPO Chair Chuck Clemons called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN- MAIN STREET PUBLIC HEARING

A. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the purpose of tonight's public hearing is to consider reducing portions of Main Street, between N. 8th Avenue and Depot Avenue, from four travel lanes to two travel lanes. He said that one of the goals of this project is to increase the walkability of the downtown area by providing additional on-street parking and enhanced pedestrian facilities.

Ms. Linda Dixon, City of Gainesville Transportation Planning Analyst, gave a presentation concerning the proposed Main Street lane reductions and answered questions.

The following persons spoke concerning the proposed project.

Don Ahrens	Shirley Lassiter	Gerry Patton	Cathy Prevatt
Melanie Barr	Vince Mally	Robert Pierce	Kerry Rowell
Steven Boyes	Mickey Milam	S.R. Poll	Mark Sexton
Linda Crider	Jill Miller	Anthony Porter	Richard M. Watts
Sam Goforth			

Chair Clemons closed the public comment period on the proposed Main Street lane reductions.

B. PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT

Mr. Sanderson reviewed the MTPO Advisory Committees' and staff's recommendations concerning the proposed Main Street long range transportation plan amendment. He said that the TAC and MTPO staff recommend that the MTPO defer taking action on this plan amendment until additional technical information is available from the Main Street traffic analysis. He said that this traffic analysis is currently being prepared by Renaissance Planning Group and is expected to be completed in about two months.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to defer action on the proposed Main Street long range transportation plan amendment until addition technical information is available from the Main Street traffic analysis. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to amend the motion to request additional information at the next public hearing, including visual aids showing design details, whether there should be parallel or angle parking, future traffic counts on surrounding roadways, whether bus bays should be included in the project, and whether there should be instreet bikelanes adjacent to the onstreet parking or whether bicycles should be encouraged to divert to adjacent side streets. Commissioner Delaney seconded.

The following citizens spoke concerning the proposed amendment to the motion:

Sarah Poll Vince Mally Mark Sexton

ACTION ON AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to amend the motion to request additional information at the next public hearing, including visual aids showing design details, whether there should be parallel or angle parking, future traffic counts on surrounding roadways, whether bus bays should be included in the project, and whether there should be instreet bikelanes adjacent to the onstreet parking or whether bicycles should be encouraged to divert to adjacent side streets. Commissioner Delaney seconded; amendment passed unanimously.

Mr. Rob Ayers, FDOT District 2 Regional Planning Administrator, stated that the MTPO needs to make a decision before June concerning the proposed Main Street lane reductions.

Mr. Don Ahrens, Ahrens Z Car Specialist Owner, spoke concerning the proposed motion.

Chair Clemons stated that the MTPO will make a final decision concerning the proposed Main Street plan amendment after the next public hearing in May or June and he instructed staff to see that this is stated in the public hearing display ad.

ACTION ON ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:

Commissioner Wheat moved to defer action on the proposed Main Street long range transportation plan amendment until addition technical information is available from the Main Street traffic analysis and to request additional information at the next public hearing, including visual aids showing design details, whether there should be parallel or angle parking, future traffic counts on surrounding roadways, whether bus bays should be included in the project, and whether there should be instreet bikelanes adjacent to the onstreet parking or whether bicycles should be encouraged to divert to adjacent side streets. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. PROPOSED REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) ROUTE 35

Mr. Jeff Logan, RTS Transit Director, gave a presentation concerning the proposed new transit route in Southwest Gainesville and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to refer the proposed Regional Transit System Route 35 to the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Managers for proposed funding mechanism alternatives, including consideration of a municipal services bonding unit. Commissioner Delaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ayers noted that the MTPO would need to amend the adopted long range transportation plan if the proposed funding mechanisms involve State or Federal funds.

IV. EAST UNIVERSITY AVENUE- ON-STREET PARKING OPTIONS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, in October, the MTPO discussed the need for additional parking for people conducting business at the Alachua County Courthouse in downtown Gainesville. He said that, during this discussion, the MTPO approved a motion to request that FDOT consider restriping State Road (SR) 26 (East University Avenue) in the City of Gainesville, between East 1st Street and SR 24 (Waldo Road), for parallel parking on both sides of this road.

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its November meeting, FDOT District 2 Staff stated that they needed additional information concerning the MTPO's October request. He said that it was a consensus of the MTPO to have FDOT present various on-street parking alternatives along E. University Avenue at a future MTPO meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Hanrahan moved to defer discussion of this agenda item until additional information is available from the University Avenue traffic analysis. Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed 6 to 1.

V. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is currently scheduled for April 6, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.

VI. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBERS

The MTPO expressed regret that Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Planner, has resigned. They commended Mr. Dedenbach for his years of outstanding service to the organization.

Mr. Dedenbach thanked the MTPO.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to present Mr. Dedenbach with a letter of commendation and a plaque in recognition of his dedicated service.

B. CITIZENS

Ms. S.R. Poll requested that the southbound left turn lanes at the intersections of NW 23rd Avenue at NW 6th Street and NW 16th Avenue at Main Street be extended. She also requested the addition of a northbound right turn lane at the intersection of Main Street at N. 16th Avenue and turn lanes in front of St. Patrick's Elementary School on NE 16th Avenue.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to refer this request to staff.

Ms. Poll noted that disabled members of the community have repeatedly commented to the MTPO that the proposed brick or textured-paver sidewalks were difficult for individuals with certain types of disabilities to navigate. She questioned why the MTPO is still considering the use of brick or textured pavers for sidewalks on Main Street.

It was a consensus of the MTPO to refer this issue to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for review and to develop a recommendation for the MTPO.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Clemons adjourned the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Date

Robert Hutchinson
Secretary/Treasurer

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