

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

Jack Durrance Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

3:00 p.m.
Thursday
March 1, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Barrow, Chair
Mike Byerly
Chuck Chestnut IV
Mayor Paula DeLaney
Pegeen Hanrahan
Robert Hutchinson
Rodney Long
Warren Nielsen
Dave Newport
Ed Poppell
Aage Schroder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Penny Wheat

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 2

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

MTPO Chair John Barrow called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. He congratulated Mr. Aage Schroder's on his recent appointment as the new Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 Secretary.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

A member of the MTPO requested a discussion of the status of the State Roads 26 and 26A projects.

A member of the MTPO requested a discussion of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to approve the consent agenda and the meeting agenda amended to include discussion of the State Roads 26 and 26A projects as agenda item III and an EPA grant as agenda item IV. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. SOUTHEAST (SE) CONNECTOR SUBCOMMITTEE- STATUS REPORT

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that, at its December 14, 2000 meeting, the MTPO appointed an MTPO SE Connector Subcommittee. He said that the Subcommittee has met to discuss various SE Connector issues and has requested an opportunity to present a status report at today's meeting.

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the project's mission statement, study area boundary and internet website.

A. CITY AND COUNTY LIAISON

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its February 16 meeting, the MTPO SE Connector Subcommittee discussed the establishment of a formal staff team for the SE connector project and to have the MTPO consider requesting that the City and County Commissions direct their respective staffs to assign appropriate personnel to the team.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to adopt EastGainesville.org as the internet website URL. Commissioner Hanrahan seconded.

SUBSTITUTE

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to adopt PlanEastGainesville.org as the internet website URL. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; Commissioner Hutchinson called the question; question call passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dedenbach discussed forthcoming mapping that will be prepared for the next meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to accept the study area as shown in Exhibit 1 and to look at the study area in the following phases:

1. Phase 1- southeast Gainesville urban area below University Avenue;
2. Phase 2- northeast Gainesville urban area above University Avenue; and
3. Phase 3- E University Avenue.

Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to adopt as the Southeast Connector mission statement- *"As a result of conducting a significant public participation program, develop joint City of Gainesville and Alachua County special area, land conservation and transportation plans to revitalize the Eastern Gainesville urban area after considering the environmental, economic, neighborhood and transportation impacts of proposed development in this area."*

Mayor DeLaney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to request that the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Commission appoint appropriate liaison to the MTPO Southeast Connector Subcommittee. Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to amend the MTPO Southeast Connector mission statement document's potential impacts and issues section to include:

6. *policy consistent with the MTPO Long Range Transportation Plan.*

Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that MTPO staff, in cooperation with Alachua County and City of Gainesville planning departments, develop a scope of work for the Subcommittee's consideration and, if necessary, bring back a proposed request for qualification (RFQ). Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. FDOT REPORT CONCERNING THE
FLORIDA INTRASTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (FIHS)

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its February 16 meeting, the MTPO SE Connector Subcommittee discussed whether the SE Connector would ever become part of the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS). He said that the Subcommittee Chair sent a letter to FDOT requesting information regarding this issue.

Mr. James Dees, FDOT District 2 Planning Manager, discussed the FIHS and answered questions. He stated that, in order for the SE Connector to ever become part of the FIHS, both FDOT and Alachua County would have to agree to make it part of the FIHS.

III. STATE ROADS 26 AND 26A STATUS REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that various agency representatives were present to answer MTPO questions concerning the status of the State Roads 26 and 26A projects.

Ms. Joye Brown, FDOT District 2 Assistant Planning Manager, stated that FDOT has established April 1 as the deadline for receiving funds from the City and County in order for the project to proceed on time and so that FDOT consultant contracts would not have to be renegotiated. She said that arrangements, involving a local funding agreement and a memorandum of agreement, between the City and FDOT need to be made regarding placement of funds into an escrow account.

Mr. Wayne Bowers, Gainesville City Manager, discussed the funding for the State Roads 26 and 26A projects. He said that City staff are preparing materials to identify individual components of both projects. He stated that this was necessary in order to identify which components of the projects would be funded by FDOT and which would be funded by local governments. He noted that it was important to know how quickly the University of Florida would be able to amend the Campus Development Agreement (CDA).

Mr. Ed Poppell, University of Florida Interim Vice President for Administrative Affairs, noted that, as long as the University was responding to a change from one-way pairs to a resurfacing project, the University could respond very quickly. He said that the amendment would not have to go to the Board of Regents.

Mr. Bowers said that City staff would complete its work and agenda this issue for the second City Commission meeting in March.

Mr. Dave Wagner, MTPO Attorney, discussed necessary revisions to the campus development agreement in order to proceed with the State Roads 26 and 26A projects. He noted that the only thing that needed to be done was to redescribe the project. He added that he has seen an amendment, approved by County staff and Mr. Poppell, to redescribe the project. He said that he was unaware of the April 1 FDOT deadline.

Mr. Bowers stated that FDOT preferred an agreement involving only one local government.

A member of the MTPO asked why there was only one local government agreement.

Mr. Dees noted that one agreement simplifies the process, but that FDOT could execute two local government agreements.

Mr. Wagner said that agreements between the FDOT and the City and County regarding the City's \$1.25 million CDA funds and the County's \$1.25 million CDA funds could be done. He summarized that amending the CDA to redescribe the State Roads 26 and 26A projects needed to be done, that University of Florida staff could act as delegate for this amendment and that the necessary agreements regarding disbursement of funds could be done.

IV. EPA GRANT

A member of the MTPO discussed an EPA - Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) grant program. She said that 10 grants will be awarded, ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000, that address reduction of air pollution.

Mr. Dave Bruderly discussed the OTAQ grant program and volunteered to help with the grant application.

Mr. Sanderson stated that MTPO staff did not have the time or resources to prepare the grant application, but that staff would schedule a meeting with Mr. Bruderly and County Department of Environmental Protection staff to discuss how the grant application could be prepared.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to:

- 1. file the optional intent to apply for the OTAQ Grant; and**
- 2. direct MTPO staff to assemble a team to prepare the grant application.**

Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is currently scheduled for April 12 at 1:30 p.m.

IV. COMMENTS

- A. MTPO MEMBERS- There were no member comments.
- B. CITIZENS- There were no citizen comments.
- C. CHAIR'S REPORT- There was no Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barrow adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Date

Warren Nielsen
Secretary/Treasurer

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