

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

Jack Durrance Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

1:30 p.m.
Thursday
March 14, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Hutchinson, Chair
John Barrow
Mayor Tom Bussing
Mike Byerly
Chuck Chestnut IV
Rodney Long
Dave Newport
Warren Nielsen
Ed Poppell
Aage Schroder
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pegeen Hanrahan

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante
Lynn Franson-Godfrey

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, asked the MTPO to approve the meeting agenda and consent agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda. Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. US 441 BICYCLE SAFETY STUDY- ADDITIONAL CONCEPTUAL CORRIDOR DESIGN

Mr. Sanderson stated that, in September, the MTPO contracted with Sprinkle Consulting, Inc. to prepare the U.S. 441/Payne's Prairie Bicycle Safety Study. He said that the purpose of this study is to develop and recommend physical design alternatives that will enhance bicycle and motor vehicle safety through the U.S. 441- Paynes Prairie Basin. He reviewed the current activity within the corridor and the five conceptual corridor designs. He noted that, although the contract specified that Sprinkle develop up to four conceptual corridor designs with cost estimates for

each design, they developed five corridor designs with cost estimates. He added that Sprinkle has identified one additional conceptual corridor design that it recommends be considered. He described the design as another version of the four-lane conversion to two lanes (with sidepaths) that includes multiple parking areas on both sides of the road. He noted that FDOT has stated that any lane-reduction alternative would not be acceptable to State and Federal officials.

Mr. Aage Schroder, FDOT District 2 Secretary, and Mr. Tom Cavin, FDOT District 2 Safety Engineer, discussed the US 441 Bicycle Safety Study and answered questions.

The following persons spoke concerning the US 441 Bicycle Safety Study:

Chandler Otis George Edwards Cindy Smith Linda Crider

Chair Hutchinson requested that FDOT provide crash data for vehicles leaving the roadway at the next meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Newport moved to request that FDOT construct the Seven-Foot Shoulder Option (five-foot bikelane with two-foot rumble strip) as soon as possible because it meets budget and safety eligibility. Commissioner Chestnut seconded.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to table this motion until the next MTPO meeting. Commissioner Newport seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. SW 34TH STREET BIKELANES

Mr. Sanderson discussed the MTPO recommendations for the SW 34th Street resurfacing project. He stated that there has been a request for funds to add color to the SW 34th Street resurfacing project bikelanes.

Dr. Linda Crider, University of Florida (UF) Associate Scientist, discussed the opportunity to add color to the bikelanes and asked that the MTPO request that FDOT fund this modification to the project.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to:

- 1. support the concept of a coloration treatment for the SW 34th Street corridor bikelanes from Archer Road to West University Avenue as an experimental project; and**
- 2. authorize the MTPO Chair to send letters to the FDOT District 2 Secretary and the University of Florida to seek their support and engage in a partnership for the project.**

Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. PLAN EAST GAINESVILLE PROJECT

A. STATUS REPORT

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the status of the Plan East Gainesville project and answered questions.

B. PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Dedenbach stated that, now that the Plan East Gainesville study is underway, the MTPO needs to appoint a Steering Committee which will guide the process. He discussed a draft membership list of the Steering Committee. He noted that several interested citizens, who have either participated in the project since its inception or have expressed an interest in being on the Committee, have been included in the recommendation.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to establish the MTPO Plan East Gainesville Steering Committee consisting of:

1. two MTPO representatives each from:

- A. Alachua County (Robert Hutchinson and Rodney Long); and the**
- B. City of Gainesville (Chuck Chestnut IV and Warren Nielsen);**

2. an agency representative from the:

- A. City of Gainesville Department of Community Development;**
- B. Alachua County Department of Growth Management;**
- C. Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection;**
- D. Florida Department of Transportation;**
- E. East Gainesville Development Corporation (Sherwin Henry);**
- F. Front Porch Florida- Neighborhood Council (Patricia West/ Gilbert Means);**
- G. Gainesville Regional Utilities;**
- H. MTPO Citizens Advisory Committee;**
- I. Santa Fe Community College;**
- J. University of Florida; and**

2. citizens-at-large including:

- A. Regional Transit System (Mike House); and**
- B. two study area residents (Paul Hoffhein and Tom Coward).**

Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. CONTINUATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Hutchinson stated that the MTPO should discuss whether this Subcommittee is needed and should continue to meet.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to dissolve the Plan East Gainesville Subcommittee. Commissioner Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Long moved to authorize the MTPO Chair to send letters to notify:

- 1. the Plan East Gainesville Steering Committee appointees; and**
- 2. encourage other Plan East Gainesville stakeholders to continue their participation in the project along with the Steering Committee.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. MTPO REFERRALS TO THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE AND ALACHUA COUNTY

Mr. Sanderson stated that a member of the MTPO is requesting that a process be established so that referrals to the City and County can be acted upon more quickly. He discussed the existing MTPO referral process and a proposal to use a "summary of action email" similar to procedures used by the Alachua County Manager.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to approve a referral procedure that has MTPO staff sending emails, the day after each MTPO meeting, to the City and/or County Managers informing them of MTPO actions and requesting appropriate action. Mayor Bussing seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. STATE ROAD (SR) 26A- WEST OF SW 34TH STREET

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its February 14 meeting, the MTPO approved a motion to:

“request that MTPO staff work with City and County Public Works Department staff to solicit at least three proposals from at least three traffic engineers with traffic calming design experience to:

- A. review FDOT’s design for State Road 26A west of SW 34th Street;*
- B. compare the FDOT design to the MTPO staff design; and*
- C. provide a report back to the MTPO.”*

He reported that, since the last MTPO meeting, staff has been working with City staff concerning this action and that staff is waiting for City and County staff to complete their research of ethical issues concerning this type of peer review.

Ms Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Department Director, discussed the peer review process for the project and answered questions.

Secretary Schroeder discussed the SR 26A project and answered questions.

The following persons spoke concerning the SR 26A project:

Cindy Smith Teresa Scott Matt Dominy

The following persons provided phoned-in comments:

Dennis Daunhauer Jeff Peterson

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to have staff report back, to the MTPO, with an estimate of the impact of the SW 62nd Boulevard-SW 24th Avenue corridor on the right turn movement activity from SW 2nd Avenue onto SW 34th Street. Mayor Bussing seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Commissioner Barrow moved to have staff proceed with developing a second opinion and evaluate whether the FDOT design is consistent with the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan. Commissioner Byerly seconded.

SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Commissioner Byerly moved to have staff develop a scope of services for a second opinion based on the MTPO-approved criteria on page 177 of the MTPO meeting packet to compare the FDOT design with the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan. Commissioner Barrow seconded.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Commissioner Wheat moved to direct staff to bring back to the MTPO a scope of work which includes the following MTPO-approved criteria to:

- 1. review the FDOT design;**
- 2. compare the FDOT design to the staff design and the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan; and**
- 3. provide a report back to the MTPO.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed 5 to 1.

ACTION: Mayor Bussing moved to have staff agenda, for the MTPO's next meeting, a presentation on the City of Gainesville's proposed design alternative for the western confluence of SR 26 and SR 26A. Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VII. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF) TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT STUDIO

Mr. Sanderson stated that the UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning design studio has prepared a presentation on transit-oriented development along the South 16th Avenue corridor.

Mr. Damien Miller and Ms. Susan Bridges, UF planning graduate students, discussed how transit-oriented development could be accomplished along South 16th Avenue, the design studio transit-oriented plan and answered questions.

Chair Hutchinson directed staff to prepare a letter of thanks to Dr. Ruth Steiner, UF Assistant Professor, for his signature.

VIII. TOUR OF FLORIDA CITIES

Mr. Dedenbach reported on the MTPO staff's recent tour of cities in Florida that have retrofitted on-street parking to downtown city streets and answered questions.

IX. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

X. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no MTPO member comments.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

C. MTPO CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no MTPO Chair's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Date

Mike Byerly
Secretary/Treasurer

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EXHIBIT 1

Interested Citizens

Kali Blount
Wayne Bowers
Susan Bridges
Linda Crider
Dennis Daunhauer (telephone call)
Amy Dickerson
Matt Dominy
Damien Miller
Joe Montalto
Chandler Otis
Jeff Peterson (telephone call)
Carlos-Andres Ramirez
Randall Reid
John Sabatella
Teresa Scott
Cindy Smith
Dave Welch

Florida Department of Transportation

Gina Buscher
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Karen Taulbee
Suraya Teeple
Fred Wright