

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

Jack Durrance Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

7:00 p.m.
Thursday
August 14, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Warren Nielsen, Chair
Ed Braddy
Rick Bryant
Mayor Tom Bussing
Mike Byerly
Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Tony Domenech
Craig Lowe
Ed Poppell
Lee Pinkoson
Aage Schroder
Penny Wheat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Chestnut IV
Rodney Long

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit 1

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Thomas Hill
Mike Escalante

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warren Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sanderson asked the MTPO to approve the consent agenda and meeting agenda.

A member of the MTPO requested an opportunity to discuss a NW 39th Avenue drainage problem.

Chair Nielsen stated that the NW 39th Avenue drainage problem could be discussed during the MTPO Member Comment portion of the meeting.

The MTPO member suggested that, since the NW 39th Avenue Drainage Project has not started, it could be expanded to include this additional drainage problem. He said that this issue could be added to a future MTPO meeting agenda.

Chair Nielsen directed MTPO staff to get the necessary information and include the NW 39th Avenue Drainage Project as an item for the next MTPO meeting.

Mr. Ed Poppell, University of Florida Vice President for Finance and Administration, requested that the University be included as a participant in the September 10 Plan East Gainesville workshop. Chair Nielsen directed MTPO staff to include the University as a participant in this Workshop.

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

II. NEWBERRY ROAD TURNLANES

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the June 19 MTPO meeting, representatives of the Council of University Neighborhood Associations (CUNA) expressed their concerns regarding the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) plans to modify the three median openings on Newberry Road between NW 43rd Street and NW 39th Road. He said that, in response to CUNA's concerns, the MTPO requested that FDOT meet with this neighborhood association to discuss the issues and try to reach an agreement on planned median opening modifications. He reported that FDOT met with CUNA representatives and reached an agreement on the Newberry Road median opening modifications. He noted that FDOT will continue with plans to add a left-turn lane to the two medians immediately west of NW 39th Road, but will close the median opening just east of NW 43rd Street.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to approve the Florida Department of Transportation's recommendations discussed in its June 30 memorandum. Commissioner Bryant seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO and Chair Nielsen thanked FDOT for working with citizens in reaching an acceptable compromise for this project.

A member of the MTPO asked that the RTS Director provide a status report on paratransit issues. Chair Nielsen stated that this could be discussed under the MTPO Member Comments portion of the meeting.

III. DRAFT YEAR 2003 LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, each year, the MTPO develops recommended transportation priorities for projects that are needed but not currently funded. He said that this information is used by FDOT each fall to develop its Tentative Five Year Work Program. He discussed the priorities document, MTPO Advisory Committee recommendations and answered questions.

Mr. Michael Fay, Alachua County Public Works Department Acting Director, discussed the County's Main Street lane reduction project and answered questions.

Mr. Wayne Bowers, City of Gainesville Manager, discussed a proposed modification to the MTPO boundary on Archer Road between SW 91st Street and Tower Road and answered questions.

Mr. Aage Schroder, FDOT District 2 Secretary, also discussed the MTPO boundary adjacent to Archer Road between SW 91st Street and Tower Road and answered questions.

Mr. Tom Walker, University of Florida Natural Areas Advisory Committee representative, discussed the SW 20th Avenue Charrette project, Campus Master Plan amendment process and answered questions.

Mr. Poppell stated that the University has established a task force to determine the academic and research impacts of the SW 24th Avenue extension through the southernmost boundary of the University. He said that these impacts must be identified prior to presenting them to the Campus Master Plan Amendment Process committees so that they can understand what is being done. He added that, once the task force identifies the issues and mitigations, they would be taken to the committees. He said that the Campus Master Plan would need to be amended. He noted this process would continue in the fall when the faculty has returned. He said that the task force should complete its work in the fall semester and then the findings would be forwarded to the committees.

Mr. Jeff Logan, Regional Transit System Director, discussed funding for transit and answered questions. He noted that the Plan East Gainesville area was part of the transit program and was being addressed in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorization.

A member of the MTPO requested information regarding the timeline and process for the SW 24th Avenue extension project east of SW 34th Street.

Mr. Poppell discussed the SW 20th Avenue Charrette project, the Campus Master Plan process and answered questions. He said that the University would go through this process in an expeditious manner.

ACTION: Commissioner Domenech moved to approve the Year 2003 List of Priority Projects document that contained the joint recommendations. Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed 9 to 1.

ACTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to request information from the University regarding the timeframe for amending the Campus Master Plan to donate the land necessary for the four-lane extension of SW 24th Avenue across the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory. Commissioner Pinkoson seconded.

Mr. Poppell stated that a motion was not necessary and that information regarding the timeline and process for the SW 24th Avenue extension project would be provided to the MTPO.

A member of the MTPO discussed the NW 23rd Avenue extension west of NW 98th Street. He requested background information on the history of the NW 23rd Avenue extension in the long range planning process. Chair Nielsen stated that this information would be included on the next MTPO meeting agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Braddy moved to table the request for information from the University regarding the timeframe for amending the Campus Master Plan to donate the land necessary for the four-lane extension of SW 24th Avenue across the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory. Mayor Bussing seconded; motion passed 8 to 2.

Mr. Schroder discussed funding for the four-laning of Archer Road and answered questions.

Chair Nielsen had to leave the meeting and passed the gavel to Vice Chair Byerly.

IV. MTPO PLANNING BOUNDARY AND VOTING MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Mr. Sanderson discussed the *Planning Area Boundary and Voting Membership Report* and answered questions. He noted the additional information regarding the voting procedures of all Florida MPOs and reported the MTPO Advisory Committees' and MTPO Staff recommendations.

ACTION: Commissioner Domenech moved to select Alternative 1 and to request that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions prepare resolutions of support. Commissioner Braddy seconded.

SUBSTITUTE ACTION:

Commissioner Wheat moved to:

- 1. select Alternative 2 which is a membership comprised of:**
 - A. seven voting members from the City of Gainesville;**
 - B. five voting members from Alachua County, for a total of 12;**
 - C. adding one Rural Advisor as a nonvoting member; and**
 - F. using the existing MTPO voting procedures; and**
- 2. request that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions prepare resolutions of support for this alternative.**

Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed 8 to 1.

A member of the MTPO requested that the MTPO consider approving Map 7 with one revision to eliminate the area south of Archer Road between SW 91st Street and SW 75th Street.

Mr. Schroder and Mr. Sanderson both discussed the Gainesville Metropolitan Area map boundary and answered questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheat moved to approve Map 7 of the MTPO Planning Area Boundary and Voting Membership Report as the metropolitan planning area boundary. Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed 8 to 1.

V. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson noted that there was a consensus to not meet in September. He stated that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for October 30th at 1:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium.

VI. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBER COMMENTS

A member of the MTPO requested an update on the transition process of transportation disadvantaged services.

Mr. Logan discussed the status of the transportation disadvantaged services and answered questions.

A member of the MTPO requested that a letter be sent to the Congressional Delegation requesting that there be a guarantee for substate spending of transportation enhancement funding in the reauthorization bill for the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

ACTION: Mayor Bussing moved to authorize the MTPO Chair to send letters to the Congressional Delegation regarding House Bill (HB) 2989 requesting that the guarantee on substate spending for transportation enhancement projects be included in the TEA-21 reauthorization legislation. Commissioner Domenech seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A member of the MTPO discussed the possibility of adding resurfacing projects, such as NW 8th Avenue, to Table 1 of the List of Priority Projects.

Ms. Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville Public Works Department Director, also discussed this issue.

Vice Chair Byerly asked if the MTPO Member would like to have this issue discussed at the next MTPO meeting. The MTPO member stated that he would.

Mr. Sanderson stated that he would take the issue of addressing resurfacing projects for next year's List of Priority Projects to the MTPO Advisory Committees and come back to the MTPO at its next meeting with recommendations concerning how to deal with resurfacing projects and identify which roads can be resurfaced using federal funds.

A member of the MTPO requested that the City's Public Works Department Director discuss the NW 39th Avenue drainage problem in front of the Springtree subdivision.

Ms. Scott stated that whether a blockage of the drainage system caused water buildup on NW 39th Avenue was investigated. She said that there was no blockage. She reported that FDOT staff was researching whether a larger diameter drainage pipe and adding a drainage grate would correct this drainage problem.

Mr. Schroder stated that FDOT was going to fix the NW 39th Avenue drainage problem.

It was the MTPO's understanding that, since FDOT stated that they were going to fix the NW 39th Avenue drainage problem, this issue did not need to be placed on the next MTPO meeting agenda.

A member of the MTPO requested that, when MTPO staff provide information to one MTPO member, they provide this same information to all MTPO members .

Mr. Sanderson stated that he would do this.

B. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Byerly adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Date

Chuck Chestnut, Secretary/Treasurer

EXHIBIT 1

<u>Interested Citizens</u>	<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>	<u>Alachua County</u>	<u>City of Gainesville</u>
Richard Fletcher	Gina Buscher	Michael Fay	Wayne Bowers
John Skelly*	Doreen Joyner-Howard	John Sabatella	Jeff Logan
Tom Walker	Aage Schroder	Dave Wagner	Teresa Scott
	Myrna Widmer		

* By telephone