

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida

3:00 p.m.  
Monday  
August 3, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Hutchinson, Chair  
Ed Braddy  
Mike Byerly  
Todd Chase  
Chuck Chestnut  
Ken Cornell  
Charles Goston  
Doug Jones  
Jim Knight/Greg Evans  
Lee Pinkoson  
Randy Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harvey Budd  
Craig Carter  
Curtis Reynolds  
Helen Warren

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons  
Marlie Sanderson  
Michael Escalante  
Lynn Franson-Godfrey

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hutchinson noted that Congresswomen Corinne Brown was not able to attend the full meeting. He recommended a motion to defer CA.4 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Coordinating Board Appointment to the October MTPO meeting (see Exhibit 1), to add item II.<sub>B</sub> Congresswoman Corrine Brown Presentation after item II. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments- Roll Forward Projects and to place item CA.8 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Correspondence- Open (Active) Street Program on the regular agenda after item V. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update- Needs Plan Project Rankings.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Meeting Agenda amended to:**

- 1. defer CA.4 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- Coordinating Board Appointment to the October MTPO meeting;**
- 2. add item II.<sub>B</sub> Congresswoman Corinne Brown Presentation after item II. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments- Roll Forward Projects; and**
- 3. place item CA.8 Florida Department of Transportation Correspondence- Open (Active) Streets Program on the regular agenda after item V. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update- Needs Plan Project Rankings.**

**Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

## II. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS- ROLL FORWARD PROJECTS

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that FDOT has requested amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program to roll forward several projects.

**MOTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to approve the roll forward projects identified in Exhibit 2. Mayor Braddy seconded. Mr. Sanderson conducted a show-of-hands vote; motion passed unanimously.**

### II.B CONGRESSWOMAN CORINNE BROWN PRESENTATION

Congresswoman Brown noted that she is the 4th ranking Democrat on the House Transportation Committee and the 1st ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Committee. She stated that transportation projects create jobs. She introduced her staff assistant, Mr. Nick Martin.

Mr. Martin provided a status report on the Federal Transportation Bill and discussed local projects that could be impacted.

Congresswoman Brown spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project and answered questions. She noted that she sent a letter of support for the Tower Road project to Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx (see Exhibit 3).

A member asked about minority contracting for the Regional Transit System maintenance facility.

Congresswoman Brown said she has conducted workshops to get certification for transportation projects. She added that she could see that there is a workshop in Gainesville.

A member thanked her for her efforts in Veterans Affairs issues.

Congresswoman Brown noted that a Veterans hospital has been built in Orlando.

A member thanked Congresswoman Brown for her support for local transportation projects.

A member asked when the MTPO will be considering priorities for the SW 62 Boulevard project that Congresswoman Brown supports.

Mr. Sanderson stated that the MTPO will be considering the prioritization of the SW 62nd Boulevard Project at its October 5, 2015 meeting.

## III. COMPLETE STREETS

Mr. Sanderson stated that FDOT District One Secretary Billy Hattaway was present to discuss FDOT's Complete Streets Policy.

Secretary Hattaway discussed the Complete Streets Policy, its implementation, application, examples and answered questions. He noted that it will begin to be implemented later this year. He added that local government needs to provide for a local development pattern that supports Complete Streets, including development plans for the complete street implementation.

#### IV. LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS

Mr. Sanderson stated that, each year, priorities for unfunded projects are submitted to FDOT. He said that these priorities are used by FDOT to develop its Tentative Work Program. He added that this year's draft List of Priority Projects includes projects from the adopted Year 2035 Livable Community Reinvestment Plan and from local agency recommendations.

Mr. Wiatt Bowers, Atkins Project Manager, discussed project funding and answered questions.

Mr. Jim Knight, FDOT Urban Planning and Modal Administrator, stated that the Archer Road 4-Laning project would need to be in the Year 2040 Cost Feasible Plan in order to be constructed.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to approve the List of Priority Projects. Mayor Braddy seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### V. 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE- NEEDS PLAN PROJECT RANKINGS

Mr. Sanderson discussed the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update development timeline and answered questions. He discussed the recommendation of the MTPO Advisory Committees and staff. He introduced the MTPO's consultant, Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Bowers discussed the Year 2040 Needs Plan project rankings and answered questions.

Mr. Jim Green, FDOT Liaison to the MTPO, reported that State Law does not allow State Funds being spent off the State Highway System.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to send a letter to FDOT to request that it consider including State Road 26 from Interstate 75 to Hawthorne Road (State Road 20) in the Strategic Intermodal System. Commissioner Byerly seconded.**

#### **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Pinkoson asked that inclusion of local bridges over the Interstate also be considered for the Strategic Intermodal System. Commissioners Cornell and Byerly accepted the amendment.**

Mr. Green stated that the District has forwarded the MTPO request to spend state funds off the State Highway System to the FDOT Central Office for a response.

Several members discussed concerns of the impact of having State Road 26 from Interstate 75 to Hawthorne Road on the Strategic Intermodal System.

Mr. Green stated that FDOT is still considering whether bicycle/pedestrian and transit projects on the State Highway System are eligible for State Funds. He noted that adding facilities to the Strategic Intermodal System is not tied to the Strategic Intermodal System update process.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Commissioner Cornell moved to:**

- 1. have staff provide a report on the impacts of Strategic Intermodal System designation that also includes statewide SIS and non-SIS project funding; and**
- 2. authorize the Chair to send a letter to request that the Florida Department of Transportation consider including local bridges over Interstate Highways as part of the Strategic Intermodal System.**

**Commissioner Byerly seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Sanderson stated that MTPO staff would work with City and County staffs to develop prioritized lists of local roads that need resurfacing.

Mr. Bowers discussed the projected federal and state revenue forecasts and answered questions.

Representing Butler Enterprises, Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, Causseaux, Hewett and Walpole Vice President, spoke in support of State Funds being spent on local projects that relieve congestion on the State Highway System.

**MOTION: Commissioner Pinkoson moved to request that the Florida Department of Transportation revisit the determination concerning the eligibility of the SW 62 Boulevard project for funding using Year 2040 State Highway System funds in the development of the Year 2040 Cost Feasible Plan. Commissioner Cornell seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Sanderson discussed transit funding. He noted that the Regional Transit System uses the entire transit revenue forecast fund to pay for operating expenses.

Mr. Bowers stated that FDOT takes funding for operations and maintenance of the State Highway System out of the revenue forecasts.

A member noted that there was an opportunity to make NW 34th Street a Complete Street. He discussed his concerns about a transfer station at Five Points. He noted the support of the SW 62nd Boulevard by Representatives Brown and Yoho.

Mayor Doug Jones, MTPO Rural Advisor, spoke in support of the NW 34th Street capacity projects and the park-and-ride projects to outlying communities.

**MOTION: Commissioner Byerly moved to:**

- 1. accept the Needs Plan Project Rankings as a completed planning document; and**
- 2. refer to Alachua County staff the development of a prioritized list for resurfacing projects.**

**Commissioner Chestnut seconded.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:**

**Commissioner Wells asked that the referral include City of Gainesville staff.  
Commissioners Byerly and Chestnut accepted the amendment.**

Mr. Dedenbach spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project. He noted broad community support. He said that there was a lot of private sector investment in developing roadway connectivity.

Representing the Gainesville-Alachua County Board of Realtors, Ms. Heather Swanson spoke in support of the NW 34th Street Project, the Archer Road four-laning project and the SW 62nd Boulevard project. She also spoke in support of funding local road resurfacing projects.

Representing the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Kamal Latham spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project, including noting the bipartisan Congressional support from Representatives Brown and Yoho. He also thanked the MTPO for its query of using State Funds on local projects that relieve congestion on the State Highway System and read Congresswoman Brown's letter of support for the SW 62nd Boulevard project aloud.

Representing Butler Enterprises, Ms. Deborah Butler spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project. She also spoke in favor of providing sufficient access and mobility for first responders.

Ms. Kristen Young spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project. She also requested an explanation of the Needs Plan project ranking scores.

Mr. Chandler Otis spoke in support of the SW 62nd Boulevard project.

Letters of support for the SW 62nd Boulevard Project are included as:

- Exhibit 4- Letter from Congresswoman Corrine Brown to the MTPO;
- Exhibit 5- Letter from Congressman Ted Yoho to the Gainesville Sun;
- Exhibit 6- Letter from North Florida Regional Healthcare to the MTPO;
- Exhibit 7- Letter from Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce to the MTPO;
- Exhibit 8- Letter from Gainesville-Alachua County Association of Realtors to the MTPO;
- Exhibit 9- Letter from Gainesville Commissioner Craig Carter to the MTPO;
- Exhibit 10- Letter from the University of Florida Health to the MTPO; and
- Exhibit 11- Letter from Gerry Dedenbach to the MTPO.

Exhibit 12 is a letter of support for the Archer Road 4-Laning Project from the Archer Chamber of Commerce.

**ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:**

**Commissioner Byerly moved to:**

- 1. accept the Needs Plan Project Rankings as a completed planning document; and**
- 2. refer to Alachua County and City of Gainesville staff the development of prioritized lists for resurfacing projects.**

**Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

A member discussed asking FDOT to designate the SW 62nd Boulevard corridor as an Interstate Business Loop.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to request that the Florida Department of Transportation consider adding SW 62nd Boulevard from State Road 24 (Archer Road) to north to State Road 26 (Newberry Road) to the State Highway System. Commissioner Wells seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Bowers reviewed the Needs Plan project ranking methodology and answered questions.

CA. 8 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CORRESPONDENCE-  
OPEN (ACTIVE) STREETS PROGRAM

Mr. Sanderson reported that FDOT has stated that it will no longer provide funding for Open Streets.

Mr. Marc Morrison, Mr. Shawn Webber, Mr. Bob Karp, Mr. Chandler Otis, Ms. Kristen Young, Mr. Raymond Rawls and Mr. Joseph Floyd spoke in support of Open Streets activities.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to request that the Florida Department of Transportation:**

1. provide permission to use State Road 26 for Open “Active” Street events; and
2. reconsider its decision not to provide maintenance of traffic for these events beyond September 2015.

**Commissioner Wells seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

VI. NEXT MTPO MEETING

Mr. Sanderson announced that the next MTPO meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. COMMENTS

A. MTPO MEMBERS

There were no MTPO member comments.

B. CITIZENS

There were no citizen comments.

C. CHAIR’S REPORT

There was no Chair’s Report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Chestnut, IV

**EXHIBIT A**

<b><u>Interested Citizens</u></b>	<b><u>Alachua County</u></b>	<b><u>City of Gainesville</u></b>	<b><u>Florida Department of Transportation</u></b>
Wiatt Bowers	Mike Fay	Dekova Batey	Jim Green
Corrine Brown <sup>#</sup>	Jeff Hays	Russ Blackburn	Billy Hattaway
Deborah Butler	Mark Sexton	Jesus Gomez	
Gerry Dedenbach		Debbie Leistner	
Joseph Floyd		Teresa Scott	
Bruce Frendahl			
Ed Griffin			
Corey Harris			
Lisa Hogan			
Bob Karp			
Kamal Latham <sup>#</sup>			
Nick Martin			
Marc Morrison			
Annie Orlando			
Chandler Otis			
Ermon Owens			
Raymond Rawls			
Barbara Sharpe			
Heather Swanson <sup>#</sup>			
Paul Thurdekos			
Sally Warrick			
Shawn Webber			
William Worth			
Kristen Young			

\* By telephone

<sup>#</sup> Spoke and provided written comments





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**CONSENT AGENDA  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA**

**Jack Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida**

**Monday, 3:00 p.m.  
August 3, 2015**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

- Page #9 CA. 1 MTPO Minutes- June 1, 2015 APPROVE MINUTES**  
This set of MTPO minutes is ready for review.
- Page #19 CA. 2 Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/16 APPROVE BUDGET**  
This budget will allow staff to monitor MTPO expenditures and make appropriate adjustments as needed.
- Page #23 CA. 3 Safety and Access Management Concerns NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**SW 34th Street, University Avenue and SW 2nd Avenue**  
The Florida Department of Transportation will be ready to report on the safety study for this area at the next meeting (October 5, 2015).
- Page #29 CA. 4 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- DEFER TO**  
**Coordinating Board Appointment OCTOBER 5, 2015 MEETING**  
Ms. Hogan's application was the only one submitted for the voting Private Transit Industry position on this Board.
- Page #33 CA. 5 Transportation Disadvantaged Program- APPROVE RESOLUTION**  
**Resolution of Appreciation OF APPRECIATION**  
This resolution of appreciation recognizes the service of Mr. Andrew Singer while serving as a member of the Alachua County Coordinating Board.

**Page #37**      **CA. 6 Transportation Disadvantaged Program-      NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**Status Report**

The MTPO has asked for regular status reports concerning this program.

**Page #47**      **CA. 7 Florida Department of Transportation Correspondence-      NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**State Road 24 (Waldo Road) Pedestrian Safety**

FDOT will conduct a pedestrian safety and speed study along portions of Waldo Road that is expected to be completed in either September 2015 or October 2015.

**Page #51**      **CA. 9 Florida Department of Transportation Correspondence-      NO ACTION REQUIRED**  
**State Road 26 (University Avenue) Speed Limit**

FDOT does not currently use variable speed limits and, therefore, will not be lowering the speed limit on University Avenue.



*We Provide Freedom™*

August 3, 2015

**To:** Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MPTO)  
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Members

**From:** Edward I. Griffin, General Manager, MV Transportation

**Subject:** MPTO Meeting August 3, 2015 Consent Agenda Item C.A. 4  
– Transportation Disadvantaged Program Coordinating Board Appointment

This letter is written concerning the proposed appointment of Ms. Lisa Hogan of Right Path Transportation to the Alachua County Local Coordinating Board (LCB) for the position of Private Transportation Industry representative.

MV Transportation has been the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Alachua County since 2003, contracted by Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). We are presently in the third year of our five year agreement, having been selected three consecutive times for this five year designation through a competitive procurement process. Throughout this time period as CTC we were charged by State Statute (Chapter 427) with coordinating transportation for several funding streams, including Transportation Disadvantaged, Elder Affairs, Alachua County, the City of Gainesville, and Medicaid, which was administered through a separate contract with the CTD. Until recently, Medicaid represented approximately 30-35% of the total revenue for the system.

In 2013, the Florida Legislature passed legislation mandating that all Medicaid recipients (with few exceptions) be enrolled with a Managed Care Organization (MCO). The legislation also included a provision that the MCOs would be responsible for transportation. The MCOs contracted with Transportation Brokers to arrange and manage their transportation needs. In 2014 and early 2015, this transition was completed, and as CTC we contracted with these Brokers to continue serving Medicaid recipients. However, outside private companies have entered the area and are contracting with these brokers as well. It is important to note that these operators are not held to the same operational, driver background, drug and alcohol testing and safety standards as our system is through FDOT and the CTD.

An important point to know is that with complete elimination of Medicaid revenue, the costs for trips for remaining funding sources, including Transportation Disadvantaged and the City of Gainesville would have risen significantly because of the loss of economies of scale through multiloading of passengers. While we have recovered some of the Medicaid work through Broker contracts, the current system revenue realized from Medicaid is now 15-20%. Rates for the remaining funding sources have increased, but not significantly due to

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our efforts to recover the work through contracts with Brokers. The loss of this revenue is a direct result of private operators coming into the area and competing for work that had historically been coordinated through the Alachua County system.

My point is simply this; while these contracts are with private entities and companies have the right to compete for this business, appointment to the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is another matter and a clear conflict of interest. The LCB is an advisory and approval board comprised of stakeholders in the system that provides guidance and also approves our rates for Transportation Disadvantaged, grant applications for funding and capital, Annual Operating Reports, and policy and service changes. Having a competitor making decisions that affect our system is clearly an attempt to gain advantage not only in the current marketplace but in upcoming procurements for Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and other contracts that are coordinated in our system.

I strongly urge you to deny this application, or table action until more information can be gathered from stakeholders, including staff from the Regional Planning Council and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), and purchasing agencies, including the City of Gainesville RTS and Alachua County. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



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EXHIBIT 3

MTPO Minutes 8/3/15

COMMITTEES:

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RANKING MEMBER  
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
WATER RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
HEALTH

MEMBERSHIPS:

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES  
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL MEXICO AND BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL DIABETES CAUCUS  
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS  
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
THE DUKAKIS CONGRESS STUDY GROUP

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

CORRINE BROWN  
5th DISTRICT, FLORIDA

June 26, 2015

REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2111 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0123  
FAX (202) 225-2258

DISTRICT OFFICES:

101 EAST UNION STREET  
SUITE 202  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202  
(904) 354-1652  
FAX (904) 354-2721

455 NORTH GARLAND AVE.  
SUITE 414  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801  
(407) 872-2208  
FAX (407) 872-5763

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
(352) 376-6476

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for the TIGER VII application submitted by Alachua County, Florida. The Tower Road Complete Street Reconstruction initiative will provide improved access to vital employment and commercial centers, improve safety, and enhance economic development initiatives for the entire region.

Tower Road (also known as SW 75th Street) is a two-lane urban arterial roadway and a key corridor in the western urbanized area of Alachua County, Florida. The corridor provides connectivity to a range of institutional and commercial land uses as well as neighborhoods, and the corridor does not currently meet the County's adopted multimodal levels of service for a collector or arterial roadway.

The completion of the bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the corridor will allow for residents and visitors to access an array of civic, institutional, office and retail land uses via walking and bicycling and will enhance the economic vitality of the area.

Safety concerns along the Tower Road corridor would be diminished through this project, as the area saw 164 total accidents over the last three years. The installation of warranted turn lanes, intersection improvements, in-street bicycle lanes, and completion of the sidewalk network would likely significantly reduce the accident rate.

The Tower Road corridor also serves as the northwestern boundary to an area of the community which has been documented to be a hotspot of poverty and related public health issues. Improving the public services in the area has been a focus of the Alachua County Commission for many years, and Commissioners have recently opened a community center

and a public health clinic in the immediate vicinity of the Tower Road corridor with an aim towards improving conditions and services for residents. The proposed project will provide safer and more convenient multimodal access for this community to the numerous public facilities and other destinations in the region.

Finally, the southwest portion of Alachua County has been actively developing for over 30 years, and several large undeveloped parcels remain along the Tower Road corridor that could be more attractive for development with enhanced capacity and improved multimodal access. Alachua County has recently adopted amendments to its Comprehensive Plan that encourage and incentivize the development of Traditional Neighborhood and Transit Oriented Developments. Several of the undeveloped parcels that are adjacent to the Tower Road corridor would be prime locations for these types of mixed-use developments, with the multimodal enhancements and pavement resurfacing being critical to enhancing this type of economic development.

The project has a total budget of \$12.5 million. Alachua County is proposing to utilize \$2.5 million in locally derived funds and is requesting a grant award of \$10 million from the TIGER program. These funds are desperately needed for a region that's growth rate far exceeds the availability of state and local resources.

This important project will not only improve the regional transportation system and access to destinations of regional importance, but will bring much needed planning, engineering, and construction jobs to the region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of the merits of this important transportation and economic development project for Alachua County.

Sincerely,



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



## COMMITTEES:

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
Business, Planning and Transportation Committee  
Chair: Corrine Brown, Ranking Member: Robert L. Williams, Jr.

## MEMBERSHIPS:

Congressman Bill Largent  
Congressman Cliff Frazier  
Congressman H. R. Lujan, Jr.  
Congressman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Congressman D. James Ross  
Congressman Robert C. Byrd  
Congressman Robert L. Williams, Jr.

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**CORRINE BROWN**  
5th DISTRICT, FLORIDA

July 22, 2015

## REPLY TO:

## WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2111 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6133  
FAX: (202) 225-7259

## DISTRICT OFFICES:

181 EAST UNDERSTREET  
SUITE 200  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202  
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FAX: (904) 284-1721

111 NORTH GORHAM AVE.  
SUITE 214  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801  
(407) 872-2200  
FAX: (407) 872-5502

13325 37th Avenue  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32218  
(904) 370-6176

The Honorable Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson  
Chairman  
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization  
2009 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite A  
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

Dear Chairman and Board Members:

I am writing to express my strongest support for prioritizing completion of SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard. This project will provide improved access to vital employment and commercial centers, improve safety, help mitigate congestion, and enhance economic development initiatives for the entire region.

I have worked hard to bring important transportation projects to the City of Gainesville and Alachua County, and have been a longtime advocate for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard link. Working with Senator Nelson and local stakeholders, I secured direct federal funding for planning and construction and worked with the Florida Department of Transportation to complete Engineering and Design for the project.

Completion of this critical artery will improve congestion on Interstate 75, SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and other local streets. This connection will also provide an enhanced driving experience for local residents as well as additional and improved route options for first responders. Moreover, it provides additional multi-modal transportation options and creates the first Transit Transfer Station and Park & Ride Lot for the community.

Completion of 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard will not only improve the regional transportation system and access to destinations of regional importance, but will bring much needed planning, engineering, and construction jobs to the region. For all these reasons, I encourage the Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization to make this project its top priority.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. The state, county, and city have been very proactive in developing a local transportation system that meets the needs of the community, and have worked together for many years in developing the 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard project. I pledge to continue to work with the state, county, and city to ensure that they receive all the federal funding necessary to complete this important project.

Sincerely,



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

CC: MPTO Board Members





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## Ted Yoho: Road expansion has many benefits

*By Ted Yoho*

*Special to The Sun*

*Published: Monday, July 27, 2015 at 6:01 a.m.*

To those outside the city limits, Gainesville is known as the college town in the Southeast. To others it is the quaint capital of the Gator Nation. To those of us who reside within this burgeoning city, our everyday lives are colored in orange and blue and we are proud to support our incredible crown jewel — the University of Florida.

UF has been nearing premier excellence as a top research university in the nation for years. This ambitious goal has been supported by the community at large and continually fueled by our competitive and innovative edge. I couldn't be more proud to represent the Gator Nation in Washington, D.C., and I want to ensure that drive for excellence continues.

That means getting Gainesville ready to meet not just today's challenges, but the challenges of tomorrow. It starts with basic infrastructure. Anyone who has driven down Tower Road, or sat in afternoon traffic on 34th Street, knows that one of the shortcomings of Gainesville and Alachua County is our roads. This has been a chronic problem that has gone unaddressed for too long. It's time we took action for our community.

Recently, a solution to alleviate congestion and ease public access across Gainesville has come forward. This plan expands Southwest 62nd Boulevard and connects the broken and dead-ended roads between Archer and Newberry roads. This area behind the Oaks Mall is an underutilized region that has the potential to help steer traffic off of Interstate 75, 34th Street, Newberry Road and many more of our more popular routes.

In addition to traffic alleviation, completion of this expansion will help solve our public safety issue. Our first responders and law enforcement are facing logistical challenges that contribute to slower response times that make our communities less safe. Slow response times and traffic benefit no one.

Finally, we have the opportunity to create construction jobs in the immediate future that will eventually lead to hundreds of permanent jobs. This is one area where President Barack Obama and I agree — we are in desperate need of shovel ready jobs. This is one.

Completing the expansion of Southwest 62nd will first and foremost benefit our citizens and improve public safety for pedestrians, drivers, law enforcement and our first responders. This opportunity will not only increase public safety while contributing to economic development but will help Gainesville as a whole support the university's growth and our city's future.

*U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho is a Gainesville Republican.*

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July 22, 2015

Commissioner Robert "Hutch" Hutchison  
Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization  
12 Southeast 1st Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Subject: SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector

Dear Commissioner Hutchinson:

North Florida Regional Healthcare supports the City of Gainesville's SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector project. This needed and impressive project has been developed through partnerships between public and private interests.

The SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector project will support North Florida Regional Healthcare's goal of improving access to state-of-the-art healthcare services for local residents as well as those in our surrounding communities and throughout the state by expanding the roadway network and alleviating congestion on the transportation system. This project will enhance transportation route and mode choice, reduce travel times and facilitate mobility, service delivery and emergency response while also providing expanded transportation choices to employees and the general public.

North Florida Regional Healthcare respectfully requests your favorable consideration of the SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Cook', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian T. Cook  
President/Chief Executive Officer





## **Position Statement**

### **Gainesville Metropolitan Area Year 2040**

### **Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan**

*Vision: "Be the Global Hub of Talent, Innovation and Opportunity"*

A safe, efficient, and convenient multi-modal transportation infrastructure facilitates regional economic development and enhances the local community.

The roadway network is the backbone of our regional transportation infrastructure, facilitating the flow of people, services, and goods, through a variety of modes, including a robust regional bus service. Having facilities for cycling and walking are also important to the community's health and overall quality of life.

As such, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville Urbanized Area should adopt a Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan that includes the appropriate mix of roadway, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects.

Specifically, the MTPO should designate SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Segment B and Segment C as the top priority projects in the Cost Feasible Plan.\*

- Segment B: Four-lane extension from Butler Plaza to SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Segment C: Widen to four lanes from SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Newberry Road

These projects have long been part of the City's long range plan and their construction would improve safety, encourage economic development and would serve to improve response times for first responders within the Gainesville urbanized area.

In addition, MTPO should prioritize roadway, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects that better connect the workforce to the workplace, consumers to commercial centers, and tourists to places of destination.

\*Segment A is private development funded.







## Gainesville-Alachua County Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, Inc.

1750 NW 80<sup>th</sup> Boulevard \* Gainesville, Florida 32606

Telephone: (352) 332-8850 \* Fax: (352) 331-7911

E-mail: [info@gacar.com](mailto:info@gacar.com) \* Website: [www.GACAR.com](http://www.GACAR.com)

### Position Statement

#### Gainesville Metropolitan Area Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan

Gainesville-Alachua County Association of REALTORS (GACAR) supports a transportation plan that addresses the needs of all of the citizens of Alachua County. This Transportation Plan would improve upon and expand Public Transit in those areas where the needs are the greatest and where the strategic return on investment is most evident. The Transportation Plan should also require the implementation of a pavement management system that addresses the needs of all of the citizens of Alachua County and its municipalities.

As such, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville Urbanized Area should adopt a Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan that addresses the most pressing needs while having the highest return on the investment. While the RTS systems continue to be improved the backlog of roadway repairs continues to grow. In 2014, Gainesville ranks no. 37 on Bicycling magazine's list of The Top 50 Bike-Friendly Cities, no. 12 on Bloomberg's list of Top 25 Bike-to-Work Cities, and no. 14 on FiveThirtyEight.com's list of top public transit cities. These awards in conjunction with a backlog of roadway repairs greater than \$400 million dollars signifies that the roads are in the greatest need of funding in our community.

The MTPO should designate all available funds for the Cost Feasible Plan to improving roadways. The \$57 million designated for State Highway Systems should be dedicated to the 34<sup>th</sup> Street projects first and then the Archer Road project. The \$21 million available for flexible projects should be designated for roadway repairs only. Specifically, the SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Segment B and Segment C. These should be the top priority projects in the Cost Feasible Plan.

The estimated project times, available funding, and the current process that revisits the long range transportation plan every five years makes these projects a priority that meets the long term plan and immediate needs of our community. These projects have long been part of the City's long range plan and their construction would improve safety, encourage economic development and would serve to improve response times for first responders within the Gainesville urbanized area.

REALTORS live and work on these roads every day. Our profession relies on safe and efficient roadways.





## CITY OF GAINESVILLE

*Office of the City Commission*

July 27, 2015

Marlie Sanderson  
Director of Transportation Planning  
North Florida Regional Planning Council  
2009 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

Dear Mr. Sanderson,

In order to better serve the citizens of the City of Gainesville, I respectfully request that the MTPO designate SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Segment B, four-lane extension from Butler Plaza to SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Segment C, widen to four lanes from SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Newberry Road, as the top priority project in the Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan. Review of the project details, descriptions and assessments of the project have clearly defined the benefits this project offers to community stakeholders.

As you know, the SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector project is proposed as a four-lane highway with dedicated transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities that will provide critical multimodal transportation for the movement of people and goods through the Gainesville Metropolitan Area by connecting high density residential areas to high density employment, education and health/medical centers.

The SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Connector will also alleviate congestion on the Federal Highway System by providing a bypass to the I-75 corridor for local travel that makes up approximately 16.8% of the current traffic traveling between SR 24 and SAR 26 inter changes and will improve response times for first responders within the Gainesville urbanized area.

I have met with the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. and the State of Florida Secretary of Transportation and have garnered their support of this unique public-private partnership which will continue to advance the City's transportation initiatives.

If I can answer any questions or expound on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Craig Carter  
City Commissioner, District 3





## UF Health Shands

**Edward Jimenez**  
Chief Executive Officer

P.O. Box 100326  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0326

Phone: 352.733.1500

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edward.jimenez@shands.ufl.edu

UFHealth.org

July 29, 2015

Marlie Sanderson  
Director of Transportation Planning  
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
2009 N.W. 67<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

Dear Ms. Sanderson:

UF Health Shands supports the City of Gainesville designating the S.W. 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard Segments B and Segment C to be the top priority projects on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPTO) priority list.

Segment B: Four-lane extension from Butler Plaza to SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Segment C: Widen to four lanes from S.W. 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Newberry Road

These projects have been a part of the City's long-range plan and their construction would improve safety, encourage economic development, and would serve to improve response times for first responders within the Gainesville urbanized area.

For these reasons, UF Health Shands fully supports this project and respectfully request your favorable consideration for making this a top priority project.

Sincerely,

Edward Jimenez  
Chief Executive Officer  
UF Health Shands





## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Commissioner Hutchinson, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization, (MTPO) Chair  
**From:** Gerry Dedenbach, AICP, LEED AP  
**Date:** August 3, 2015  
**RE:** *MTPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Roadway Priorities*

As the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) prioritizes transportation projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, a group of our clients wish to offer relevant technical information that we feel will help the MTPO and its Advisory Committees rank its projects. And, given the limited revenue projections in the LRTP 20-year horizon, our recommendation is built upon years of effort and investment in the Gainesville Urbanized Area's growth and balanced transportation alternatives.

As you know, several large- and small-scale projects are being built or approved for development in the Urban Village Area, which is bounded by I-75 and SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, from west to east, and State Road 24 (Archer Road) to State Road 26 (Newberry Road), from south to north. In addition, the Urban Village has historically been an area where the MTPO has focused great attention due to its proximity to the University of Florida, location within the City of Gainesville, existing utilities, and a growing multi-modal transportation network. CHW has designed these facilities to serve our student and resident population with roadways, highly-utilized transit, and a network of bike lanes, and now the long-awaited Archer Braid trail.

The MTPO should adopt their Advisory Committees' recommendations ranking SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard as the Number One Roadway Priority for numerous unique reasons. No other roadway or transit project in the Urbanized Area has the ability to deliver as much positive impact, due to its physical location and previous planning efforts that have cued the corridor meeting numerous community priorities.

**SAFETY** Because there's no north / south connectivity between SR 24 and SR 26, Interstate-75 functions as a local road, linking both our permanent and student population to employment centers, educational offerings, and healthcare alternatives – such as North Florida Regional Medical Center, Shands HealthCare and the V.A. Hospital. Completing SW 62<sup>nd</sup> / 52<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard from its current location just south of SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, so that the two State Roads connect, will remove approximately ten percent (10%) of the trips from I-75 and will undoubtedly relieve congestion on SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street between the same two facilities. This connection is integral to the motoring public's safety and to first responders such as our police, fire, and emergency medical services who have no alternative but to use I-75 as a local connector. Completing the corridor preserves and protects our population's health, safety, and welfare locally and regionally.

**ECONOMY** Connectivity between a community's residents and employment, shopping, and recreation creates a stronger economic future. Linking jobs, daily needs, and enjoyment of the community's many offerings, such as Forest Park, located along SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street strengthens our quality of life. This brings greater stability and satisfaction to our population today and into the future for all citizens.

**MOBILITY** As the Gainesville Urbanized Area continues to grow and mature as a community, many of the progressive transportation facilities envisioned decades ago are coming into fruition. The Hull Road extension, SW 38<sup>th</sup> Street from SW 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Hull Road, and the Archer Braid trail have all been delivered with major development projects. Each of these facilities supports a balanced transportation future. And, similar to these facilities, SW 62<sup>nd</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> Boulevard create another sustainable multi-modal link.

Private development and redevelopment is constructing nearly 1/3 of SW 62<sup>nd</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> and building the community's first combined Transit Transfer Station and Park & Ride Lot. There's unparalleled support from other local interests to complete the SW 62<sup>nd</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> link. This community catalyst mustn't be overlooked when prioritizing limited Long Range Transportation Plan fund to deliver safety, economic viability, and mobility for all current residents and future populations yet to call Gainesville and Alachua County home.







## Archer Chamber of Commerce

PO BOX 977

Archer, FL 32618

352-215-7216

July 29, 2015

Marie Sanderson, AICP Director of Transportation Planning

MTPO Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization For the Gainesville Urbanized Area

Subject: Support for the Archer Road Widening to 4-Lanes from Tower Road to SW 122nd Street (MTPO Boundary)

Dear Ms. Sanderson:

For decades the City of Archer has suffered from the highly congested and dangerous commute from Archer to Gainesville. The population of Archer has decreased by approximately 25% over the past several years. During this time we've also suffered the loss of many businesses. Archer Road was slated to be widened many, many years ago. Newberry Road was widened instead and the City of Archer and its citizens were left waiting for decades.

We strongly feel for Archer to meet it's Economic Development Plan we are in great need of the 4-LANE WIDENING OF ARCHER ROAD, specifically the MTPO controlled segment identified on the project list. In order for Archer to pull itself out of its economic depression we, the Archer Area Chamber of Commerce need and **FULLY SUPPORT THE WIDENING OF ARCHER ROAD.** Many residents that work in Gainesville have moved from Archer to Gainesville, so they will not have to make the drive in and home on Archer Road. These residents we are losing are the residents that support our business community, the City, and the County with their spending and tax dollars.

We feel the City of Archer has a lot to offer the county and surrounding area. We have a long, rich history in Alachua County and we need the opportunity to regain our lost population and thrive once again as a successful business and residential community.

We feel the widening of Archer Road will give our community the boost it needs to be a viable, thriving community once again.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Beck

President, Archer Chamber of Commerce

Shellie Banfield

Secretary, Archer Chamber of Commerce

Mary M. Hope

Vice President, Archer Chamber of Commerce

**On The Right Track!**

