

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium and
Via Communications Media Technology
Gainesville, Florida

October 24, 2022
3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

David Arreola
Adrian Hayes-Santos, Chair
Charles Chestnut IV
Raemi Eagle-Glenn
Lauren Poe
Anna Prizzia
Reina Saco
Marihelen Wheeler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ken Cornell
Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Desmon Duncan-Walker
Harvey Ward

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
Scott Koons
Michael Escalante

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Gloria James
Karen Taulbee/Greg Evans

CALL TO ORDER - October 24, 2022

Chair Adrian Hayes-Santos called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

DECLARE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MOTION: Commissioner Wheeler moved to declare an extraordinary circumstance due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to conduct the meeting as a hybrid meeting enabling members that are not present in-person to participate in the meeting via communications media technology. Commissioner Prizzia seconded; motion passed 7 Yeas and 1 Nay.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hayes-Santos asked for approval of the meeting agenda and consent agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Arreola moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Prizzia seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

II. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT -
AMERICAN RESCUE PLANNING ACT OF 2021 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
ROUTE RESTORATION PLAN GRANT AWARD

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation is requesting that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization amend its Transportation Improvement Program to add an American Rescue Planning Act of 2021 grant award for a route restoration plan for the Regional Transit System. He discussed the project and answered questions.

MOTION: Mayor Poe moved to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment for an American Rescue Planning Act of 2021 grant award for a route restoration plan for the Regional Transit System. Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV seconded the motion. Mr. Koons conducted a roll call vote.

City Member	Yes	No	County Member	Yes	No
David ARREOLA	X				
			Charles CHESTNUT IV	X	
			Raemi EAGLE-GLENN	X	
Lauren POE	X				
			Anna PRIZZIA	X	
Reina SACO	X				
			Marihelen WHEELER	X	
Adrian HAYES-SANTOS	X				
Totals	4	0		4	0

Motion passed unanimously.

III. PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Transportation will present an overview of passenger rail. He introduced Rickey Fitzgerald, Florida Department of Transportation Freight and Rail Office Manager.

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Passenger rail services in Florida;
- Passenger rail service industry trends; and
- Passenger rail projects.

MOTION: Mayor Poe moved to authorize the Chair to send letters to the:

- 1. Florida Department of Transportation and AMTRAK encouraging reestablishment of passenger rail service to Alachua County, Florida;**
- 2. Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and the municipalities within Alachua County requesting that those jurisdictions send letters to the Florida Department of Transportation and AMTRAK encouraging reestablishment of passenger rail service to Alachua County, Florida.**

Commissioner Arreola seconded;

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Chair Hayes-Santos suggested that staff research the scope and cost for a passenger rail demand study and report back to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Amendment accepted by Mayor Poe and Commissioner Arreola.

MOTION AS AMENDED

Mayor Poe moved to authorize the Chair to:

1. Send letters to the:

- A. Florida Department of Transportation and AMTRAK encouraging reestablishment of passenger rail service to Alachua County, Florida; and**
- B. Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and the municipalities within Alachua County requesting that those jurisdictions send letters to the Florida Department of Transportation and AMTRAK encouraging reestablishment of passenger rail service to Alachua County, Florida; and**

2. Have staff research the scope and cost for a passenger rail demand study and report back to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Commissioner Arreola seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEXT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING

Chair Hayes-Santos stated that its next scheduled meeting is December 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. COMMENTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

There was no report.

B. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

There were no member comments

C. PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

D. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Koons noted that the meeting was the last meeting for Karen Taulbee, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, Urban Planning Manager, because she will be retiring in November 2022. He and several members thanked her for her service.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

12/12/22
Date


Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Secretary/Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

Interested Citizens

None

Alachua County

Corbin Hanson*
Alan Yeatter
Chris Dawson

City of Gainesville

Cynthia Curry*
Jesus Gomez*
Deborah Leistner*
Malisa McCreedy*

Florida Department of Transportation

Brian Austin*
Rickey Fitzgerald*

* Via communications media technology
Provided written comments

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

**John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium and
Via Communications Media Technology
Gainesville, Florida**

**3:00 p.m.
October 24, 2022**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Page #7 CA. 1 Minutes - August 22, 2022 APPROVE MINUTES**
- This set of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization minutes is ready for review.
- Page #21 CA. 2 Transportation Alternatives Program/
Safe Routes to School/
Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Applications APPROVE STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**
- The Florida Department of Transportation will be notifying agencies concerning the Transportation Alternatives Program/Safe Routes to School/Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail grant application cycles.
- Page #27 CA. 3 2023 Meeting Schedule APPROVE STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**
- The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization 2022 Meeting Schedule needs to be approved.
- Page #31 CA. 4 Selection of Auditor for Fiscal Year 2021-22,
Fiscal Year 2022-23 and Fiscal Year 2023-24 APPROVE AUDIT COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**
- The recommended auditor for the next three years is Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants.
- Page #33 CA. 5 Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit APPROVE STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**
- The audit this year will be prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants.

Page #41 CA. 6 Proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This amended budget will allow staff to monitor Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization expenditures and make appropriate adjustments as needed.

Page #45 CA. 7 Florida Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General Audit Report FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Florida Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General has completed an audit of Metropolitan Transportation invoices and has issued its audit report.

Page #63 CA. 8 Transit Ridership Status Report FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has been monitoring ridership recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Page #75 CA. 9 Florida Department of Transportation Safety Newsletter - Traffic Safety Talk FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Safety Office has provided a newsletter concerning several transportation safety issues.

Page #85 CA. 10 Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinator Designation APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item concerns the use of a competitive request for proposals process for the selection of the Alachua County Community Transportation Coordinator.

Page #87 CA. 11 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Status Report FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has requested regular status reports concerning this program.