

MINUTES

GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Multi-Purpose Meeting Room
Gainesville Regional Utilities
Gainesville, Florida

2:00 p.m.
Wednesday
July 11, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Lecher, Vice Chair
Linda Dixon
John Gifford
Doreen Joyner-Howard
Charles Justice
Steve Lachnicht
Erik Lewis
Jeff Logan
John Maruniak
Mac McEachern
Melissa Norman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dean Mimms, Chair
Greg Dubois
Bob Elmore
Brian Kanely
Patricia Reynolds

OTHERS PRESENT

Zachary Andrews
Bob Alderman
Cathie Cash
Orlando Cordero
Onelia Lazzari
John Sabatella
John Skelly

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Michael Escalante
Lynn Franson-Godfrey
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bill Lecher, Alachua County Public Works Department (ACPWD) Assistant Director, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Lecher introduced himself and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Ms. Linda Dixon, City of Gainesville Transportation Planning Analyst, stated that she was resigning her position with the City to take a position at the University of Florida (UF).

Mr. John Sabatella, ACPWD Senior Planner, noted that the County was scheduling special meetings of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (B/PAB) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to review the draft Alachua County Transportation Needs Priorities.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, suggested discussing the Hogtown Creek project first to accommodate meeting visitors and that discussion on the List of Priority Projects occur when Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (ACTDCB) members and staff arrive at the meeting.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to approve the meeting agenda, amended to discuss the Hogtown Creek Project first and the List of Priority Projects when the ACTDCB members and staff arrived at the meeting. Charles Justice seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: Mac McEachern moved to approve the May 23, 2001 minutes. Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Sanderson announced that the MTPO meeting scheduled for July 19 is cancelled and therefore, the MTPO will meet August 2 at 1:30 p.m. He further stated that the next set of Committee meetings is scheduled for July 18. He said that the Committees will need to meet on this date if they do not take final action today concerning the List of Priority Projects.

V. AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED- LISTED IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

C. HOGTOWN CREEK SEDIMENT PROJECT

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, stated that, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently scheduled to make drainage modifications to Hogtown Creek, near W 34th Street and W University Avenue, in Fiscal Year 2001/2002. He said that these drainage modifications will include the construction of two concrete sediment traps, in the curves near State Roads 121 and 26, which are approximately 200 feet long. He noted that the sediment traps will be accessible, via concrete ramps, to front end loaders and other maintenance type vehicles. He reviewed the Design Team recommendations concerning this project.

Mr. Orlando Cordero, FDOT Maintenance Engineer, discussed the FDOT and City of Gainesville project negotiations and answered questions. He noted that the FDOT and the City are still negotiating the details of the project.

ACTION: Linda moved to recommend that:

1. the MTPO request that FDOT:
 - A. follow a more ecological approach in its design for the project with regards to stream restoration;
 - B. design the project to solve flood-related problems associated with storm events of greater than five years;
 - C. install less visible fencing than the standard steel chain link;
 - D. provide naturalistic landscaping to shield the project;
 - E. remove right-of-way encroachments and transform these area into green space;
 - F. provide shared access to the creek at both State Road 26 and State Road 121 through existing development driveways and right-of-way;
 - G. submit the revised landscape plan for review by the Design Team; and
 - H. delay final project approval until negotiations with the City of Gainesville, regarding the transfer of maintenance responsibilities, are concluded.
2. the MTPO request that the City of Gainesville seek additional funding for amenities such as observation areas and walkways for the project.

Erik Lewis seconded; motion passed unanimously.

A. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF) TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Mr. Sanderson discussed UF transportation projects that are funded over the next five years. He explained that these projects are not scheduled for review by the MTPO's Design Team. He requested that the TAC discuss whether to recommend that the MTPO refer these projects to its Design Team and, if so, when.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to recommend that the MTPO refer the UF Campus Master Plan's list of transportation projects to its Design Team. Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. John Maruniak, UF University Planner, discussed the Campus Master Plan transportation projects and answered questions. He noted that there has been preliminary discussion of a joint UF-FDOT project, development and environmental (PD&E) study.

Ms. Doreen Joyner-Howard, FDOT Transportation Planner, recommended that the University should contact the Mr. Aage Schroder, FDOT District Secretary and Mr. Dave Byrd, District Production Manager, regarding the status of the proposed joint (PD&E) study.

It was a consensus of the TAC to schedule a status report on this project in three months.

B. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED OPTIONAL GAS TAX DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Sanderson stated that, on April 20 a joint City/County meeting was held to discuss the proposed Five Cent Optional Gas Tax. He reported the proposed tax revenue allocation. He discussed the County's direction that City, County and MTPO staff prepare an analysis of this scenario and issues it raises including maintaining existing infrastructure for the City and County. He suggested that the TAC establish a Subcommittee to prepare this analysis.

Vice Chair Lecher discussed the proposed optional gas tax distribution and answered questions.

ACTION: Charles Justice moved to refer the preparation of an analysis of the proposed Five Cent Optional Gas Tax allocation to the TAC Subcommittee. John Gifford seconded; motion passed unanimously.

F. LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS (LOPP)

Mr. Sanderson stated that the TAC needs to develop recommendations for needed, but unfunded, transportation projects by its August 30 meeting. He said that the current draft LOPP identifies those projects which were recommended by staff that are based on the Livable Community Reinvestment Plan. He reviewed the project recommendations.

Ms. Lynn Franson-Godfrey, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the ACTDCB recommendations and answered questions. She reported the ACTDCB recommendation for the purchase of five lift-equipped vehicles with Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds as the first priority on Table 1- Capacity Modification Priorities.

Mr. Jeff Logan, Regional Transit System (RTS) Director, discussed RTS' needs for additional STP funding for public transit programming and answered questions.

Ms. Dixon reported the B/PAB recommendations.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 1- Capacity Modification Priorities, modified to include:

1. the purchase, each year, of five lift-equipped vans with STP funding as the first priority; and
2. the inclusion of “charrette and area/corridor planning study” in the W 6th Street project description.

Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 2- Enhancement Priorities. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Logan discussed transit priorities and answered questions.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 3- Public Transportation Priorities. Doreen Joyner-Howard seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dixon discussed the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team’s safety project priority recommendations and answered questions.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 4- Safety Priorities comprising of the US 441 project as the first priority and the Glen Springs Road project as the second priority. Ralph Hilliard seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 2- Enhancement Priorities amended to add the Village Drive sidewalk project as priority number eight and the SW 20th Avenue sidewalk project as priority number nine. Erik Lewis seconded; motion failed 4 to 7.

ACTION: Ralph Hilliard moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 2- Enhancement Priorities amended to add the SW 20th Avenue sidewalk project as priority number eight and the Village Drive sidewalk project as priority number nine. Erik Lewis seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Jeff Logan moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 5- Traffic Operations Priorities, amended to add the traffic signal preemption project as priority number three. Linda Dixon seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve Table 5- Traffic Operations Priorities amended to add the State Road 121 transportation system management (TSM) project as priority number four. Jeff Logan seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Linda Dixon moved to recommend that the MTPO approve:

1. Table 6- Transportation Disadvantaged Priorities- Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund;
2. Table 7- Transportation Disadvantaged Priorities- Federal Transit Administration Section 5311- Nonurbanized Area Formula Program; and
3. the LOPP as modified as a completed document.

Erik Lewis seconded; motion passed unanimously.

D. LOCKWOOD GREENE REPORT

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at its June 7 meeting, the MTPO discussed the conclusions of the Lockwood Green Report. He said that, during this discussion, the MTPO approved a motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter in response to issues raised in this study. He added that the draft letter is included in the meeting materials for the Committees' review.

Ms. Dixon suggested checking with Mr. Dom Nozzi, City of Gainesville Senior Planner, and the TEA21.org website for additional information. She noted that the Gainesville Downtown Owners and Tenants (GDOT) business owners endorsed the Main Street lane reduction project.

It was a consensus of the TAC to recommend that the MTPO approve the draft Lockwood Green Report response, amended as appropriate to include Mr. Nozzi's and the TEA.org website's information, and have it forwarded to the Gainesville Council for Economic Development.

E. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE LIVABLE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PLAN

Mr. Sanderson stated that, at the April 20 joint City of Gainesville-Alachua County Commissions meeting, the County Commission requested that its staff work with city staff, and invite the UF Planning Department, MTPO staff, and the smaller municipalities, to review the comprehensive plans of both the County and the City of Gainesville, the small municipalities, the UF Campus Master Plan, including the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan, for compatibility with respect to the Livable Communities Reinvestment Plan with a report back to the Commissions before final approval of their respective comprehensive plans. He discussed some transportation and growth management issues to consider during this review. He said that MTPO staff will participate in this review process.

Ms. Melissa Norman, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department Senior Planner, noted that the review should evaluate how the multimodal transportation systems are incorporated into the comprehensive plans.

Mr. Ralph Hilliard, City of Gainesville Planning Manager, noted that the City's comprehensive plan allows for the development of up to 150 dwelling units per acre and that the County needs to increase its density near the City.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Date

Dean Mimms, Chair

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