

# North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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December 31, 2003

TO: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)

FROM: Marlie Sanderson, Director of Transportation Planning

**SUBJECT: MTPO Transportation Symposium**

## **MTPO STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

No action required. This agenda item is for information only.

## **BACKGROUND**

The MTPO will conduct a *Transportation Symposium* on Thursday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium. The dictionary defines a *symposium* as “a meeting at which several speakers deliver short addresses on related topics or on various aspects of the same topic.” The topics for this *symposium* include transportation issues primarily related to traffic safety, traffic congestion and community livability issues.

### **List of MTPO Approved Topics**

1. What is adopted versus existing level of service and how are these determined?
2. What most influences the capacity of a major urban roadway- the number of travel lanes or operating conditions at intersections?
3. What is the optimal travel speed on an urban arterial roadway and how does average travel speed influence capacity?
4. Is there a relationship between the width of travel lanes and capacity?
5. Is there a relationship between the width of travel lanes and safety?

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a grid roadway network?
7. What are pedestrian emphasis zones and how should these zones be used in the transportation network?
8. Are major retailers and franchise corporations successfully locating in areas without traditional (multi-lane) highway access? If so, where and under what conditions?
9. What are the key transportation requirements for urban redevelopment and retail-oriented village centers (i.e. parking - quantity and location, road frontage, road capacity, transit accommodations, etc. as related to projects such as Midtown and the SW 20 Avenue Charrette Student Village)?
10. What land use patterns and design elements best support transit operations (i.e. transit oriented development)?

### **List of Speakers**

The following people will discuss the topics listed for this symposium.

Mr. Walter Kulash, P.E., Glatting, Jackson, Kercher, Anglin, Lopez, Rinehart, Inc.

Mr. Dan Burden, Walkable Communities, Inc. Director

Mr. Randal O'Toole, Thoreau Institute Senior Economist

Mr. David Coffey, P.A., Haile Plantation

Mr. Robert (Bob) Rowe, Haile Plantation

Mr. Barry Rutenberg, Barry Rutenberg Homes

### **Tour of Florida Cities**

In December 2001, the MTPO decided to send staff on a field trip to collect information from other Florida cities that have experienced an increase in economic activity and development in their downtown areas after reducing the number of travel lanes on downtown streets. During this trip, we visited the following cities-

De Land, New Smyrna Beach, Ft. Pierce, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Delray Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Lakeland and Dunedin.

A member of the MTPO has requested a staff presentation concerning this trip. In response to this request, MTPO Chair Warren Nielsen instructed staff to prepare a presentation to show what we observed on this trip. He also requested that we be prepared to make this presentation as part of the MTPO Symposium.

**Symposium Packet Documents-**

The following documents are included with the meeting packet as separate documents:

**(Listed in Chronological Order)**

Gainesville West University Avenue Corridor Traffic Study (April 1999)

University Avenue and Main Street Corridor Traffic Analysis (June 2000)

Gainesville Sun Newspaper Article- Bringing Back University Avenue (June 2002)

Gainesville Sun Newspaper Article- Bringing Back Main Street (June 2002)

Gainesville Sun Newspaper Editorial- Speed Kills “Main Streets” (June 2002)

Main Street Lane Reduction (January 2002)

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