

**HERNANDO/CITRUS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)  
Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2018**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a public meeting on January 18, 2018, at the Citrus County Transit Center, 1300 South Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times and the Citrus County Chronicle and the agenda was available on the MPO's website at: [www.hernandocitrusmpo.us](http://www.hernandocitrusmpo.us).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James McLean, Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County  
Steve Gouldman, City of Brooksville  
Scarlett Sharpe, Citizen-at-Large, Hernando County  
Dennis Reiland, Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County  
Jill Edwards, Hernando County School District  
Dennis Henize, Citizen-at-Large, Hernando County  
Francine Nobles, Citrus County Parks and Recreation

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness  
Nicole Bell, Hernando County Parks and Recreation  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Steve Johnson, Hernando County Sherriff's Office  
Michelle Tewell, Citrus County Sheriff's Office

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Diez, Transportation Planner III  
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III  
Colleen Conko, Administrative Assistant II  
Jennifer Bartlett, Tindale Oliver and Associates, Incorporated  
Michael Bates, Citrus County Chronicle  
Robert Van Eck, Citrus County Citizen  
Ed Schultz, Citrus County Citizen  
Preston Walters, Citizen

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman McLean called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was declared.

Proofs of publications of the Notice of Public Meeting were entered into the record by Mr. Diez.

**ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

***Nomination and Election of 2018 BPAC Chairman***

Mr. Diez reported that nominations for the Hernando/Citrus BPAC Chairman must be a BPAC member from Hernando County.

Chairman McLean opened up nominations for the BPAC Chairman.

Mr. Gouldman nominated Ms. Sharpe as Chairperson to the Hernando/Citrus BPAC.

No further nominations were made.

***Motion:*** *Mr. Gouldman moved to approve Ms. Sharpe as the Chairperson to the Hernando/Citrus BPAC. Mr. McLean seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

***Nomination and Election of 2018 BPAC Vice-Chairman***

It was noted that the Hernando/Citrus BPAC Vice-Chairman must be BPAC member from Citrus County.

Chairperson Sharpe opened up nominations for the BPAC Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Reiland nominated Mr. McLean as Vice-Chairman to the Hernando/Citrus BPAC.

No further nominations were made.

***Motion:*** *Mr. Reiland moved to approve Mr. McLean as the Vice-Chairman to the Hernando/Citrus BPAC. Mr. Henize seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 26, 2017:**

***Motion:*** *Mr. McLean moved to approve the October 26, 2017, BPAC Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Reiland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN – SCOPE KICK-OFF:**

Mr. Diez introduced Ms. Jennifer Bartlett, Consultant for Tindale Oliver and Associates, Incorporated.

Ms. Bartlett stated that she was seeking information from the BPAC members regarding issues or problems areas of trails and desired trail locations. She noted that after the meeting, maps would be provided for BPAC members to mark up and indicate where trail locations are needed, and any problem areas on trails or locations where trails may be favorable.

Mr. Bartlett provided the BPAC with a Project/Schedule Review of the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan that included ten (10) tasks that will be utilized to help assist with the completion of the master plan. She noted the master plan will be completed in June of 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding the description and implementation of the following ten (10) tasks:

- Coordination
- Community Outreach
- Vision and Goals
- Needs Identification
- Toolbox
- Recommendations
- Cost Estimates
- Funding Guidance
- Performance Measures
- Committee and Board Presentations

Ms. Bartlett stated that at the next BPAC meeting there will be discussion regarding the visions and goals, performance measures, and objectives of the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan.

Ms. Bartlett stated that Geographic Information System (GIS) data will be utilized as a tool to help assist with identifying where existing trails are located and where gaps need to be filled with trails, on-road bikeways and/or sidewalks. She noted that the prioritization of projects will also be a major factor due to limitations in funding.

Ms. Bartlett stated that there will be two to three tiers of projects that will be identified and meet the criteria, funding guidance, and performance measures.

Ms. Bartlett stated that there are three online resources that have been developed: Project Website - [www.hernandocitrusbiketrailplan.com](http://www.hernandocitrusbiketrailplan.com), Wikimap (Online Mapping Tool) - <http://bit.ly/HernandoCitrusBikePedMap>, Online Survey – <http://bit.ly/HernandoCitrusBikePedMap>.

Ms. Bartlett noted that there are two scheduled workshops for the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan: January 31, 2018, at the Citrus County Transit Center and February 7, 2018, in Hernando County at: 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville.

Ms. Bartlett opened up discussion to the BPAC members. She requested information from the committee regarding probable bicycle trail locations and what the trails should include to help in the process and completion of the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan.

Mr. Reiland asked whether existing bicycle trail maps/information will be utilized for the plan. Ms. Bartlett responded in the affirmative and noted that the existing information will be utilized to initiate the process of needed trail locations and trail connections.

Discussion ensued regarding existing bicycle trails and the envisioning of bringing more trails into the Hernando and Citrus areas.

Ms. Bartlett asked the BPAC members for suggestions of what the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan should include.

Mr. Ed Schultz, Citrus County Citizen, suggested building a 100-mile loop that would begin in the City of Inverness, connect to the existing Suncoast Parkway Trail, continue over to the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT), and extend all the way to the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST). He noted that it was favorable to have trails with destinations.

Ms. Bartlett asked the BPAC members for opinions of existing accommodations for trikes.

Mr. McLean responded that the conditions were poor due to narrow paths.

Discussion ensued regarding importance of widening the bicycle lanes to accommodate all utilizers of trails/bicycle paths, locations, and active lifestyles.

Mr. Reiland expressed his concerns regarding bikeway trails:

- Safety issues should be addressed
- Multi-use paths should be scenic
- Promoting active lifestyles
- Maintenance on older existing trails
- Upkeep and maintenance on new trails.

Chairperson Sharpe indicated the importance of trail accessibility for the public that do not own a vehicle.

Discussion ensued regarding funding sources for trails.

Chairperson Sharpe stated that bicycle trails should be protected. Ms. Bartlett responded that buffered bicycle lanes are a standard of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Discussion ensued regarding bicycle trail needs and options.

Mr. Reiland indicated the significance of a growth management plan that will help enable communities to grow together. Ms. Bartlett responded that this help with connectivity for what exists and what will be planned.

Mr. McLean provided a following list of what the Bikeway and Trails Master Plan should include:

- Dedicated traffic control signals for bicyclists
- Multi-use paths on each side of the roadways
- Intersection transition standards
- Green boxes at intersections
- An access trail from Suncoast Parkway to the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST) on CR480

Discussion ensued regarding the involvement to acquire funding for the trails. It was mentioned that FDOT would not be able to fund all of the trail projects.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

***Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) Update***

Mr. Diez reported that the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) will be completed by the middle of 2018. He noted that there are plans for a grand opening celebration in October of 2018. Mr. Diez stated the event will included a two-day festival in Downtown Brooksville.

***Coast to Coast Trail Update***

Mr. Diez reported that right-of-way (ROW) for the Coast to Coast Trail (CTC) will be purchased in 2019 – 2020 and construction will begin in 2022.

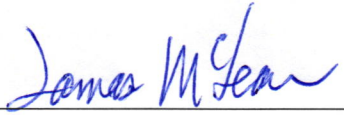
**OTHER ISSUES / CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

It was noted at this time there was no other public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. It was announced that the next BPAC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018, beginning at 3:30 p.m., at the Hernando County Building Division Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville.

**The January 18, 2018, BPAC Meeting Minutes were approved on April 19, 2018.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James McLean, BPAC Vice-Chairperson

cvc