



Hernando/Citrus
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regular Meeting
 ~ Minutes ~

June 19, 2018 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., on June 19, 2018, at the Hernando County Government Center, 20 North Main Street, John Law Ayers Commission Chambers, Room 160, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times and the Citrus Chronicle and the agenda was posted on the MPO's website at: www.hernandocitrusmpo.us.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Wayne Dukes	MPO Chairman	Yes
Steve Champion	Member, Hernando County	Yes
John Allocco	Member, Hernando County	Yes
Ronald Kitchen	Member, Citrus County	Yes
Jeff Kinnard	Member, Citrus County	Yes
Robert Battista	Member, City of Brooksville	Yes
Pat Fitzpatrick	Member, City of Crystal River	Yes
Cabot McBride	Member, City of Inverness	Yes
Jeff Holcomb	Member, Hernando County	No
Garth Coller	Hernando County Attorney	Yes
Steven Diez	Transportation Planner III	Yes
Carlene Riecscs	Transportation Planner III	Yes
Colleen Conko	Administrative Assistant II	Yes

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McBride led the Invocation

Mr. Kinnard led Pledge of Allegiance.

MPO Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Proofs of publications of the Notice of Public meeting were entered into the record by Ms. Riecscs.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Board and Staff)

Mr. Diez announced that Item D2, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) Coastal Connector Update, will be stricken from the agenda. He stated that the representatives from FTE reported that they were unavailable to attend meeting.

Mr. Kitchen requested to speak/discuss the FTE Coastal Connector during its scheduled time on the agenda. Chairman Dukes responded in the affirmative.

Motion: *Mr. Kinnard moved to approve the June 19, 2018, MPO Meeting Agenda as amended. Mr. Champion seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 15, 2018

Motion: *Mr. Champion moved to approve the May 15, 2018, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FDOT Presentation - SR 50 Project from US 301 to CR 33

Mr. Diez introduced Mr. Jack Freeman of Kittleson and Associates, Incorporated, Consultant for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five.

Mr. Freeman provided the MPO Board members with a presentation for the SR 50 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study that is being conducted from US 301 to CR 33 in Hernando, Sumter and Lake Counties. It was noted that the purpose of the study is to evaluate transportation improvements of a 20 mile section of SR 50 between US 301 in Hernando County to CR 33 in Lake County. The study will look at options to widen the roadway to four-lanes and/or additional passing lanes.

Chairman Dukes asked whether there was enough right-of-way for the project. Mr. Freeman responded in the negative.

Mr. Freeman reported that the cost of the project with right-of-way and construction will total \$41.3 million. He noted that environmental evaluations are also being conducted. Mr. Freeman stated that the total impact on the project will affect 39 acres of wetlands and 39 acres of forest.

Mr. Freeman stated that archeological features are also being identified throughout the areas of the project. He noted that four (4) sites will be assessed in the next phase of the evaluation, one being located in Hernando County, the S-Line Richloam Railroad, which is eligible to be registered with the National Register of Historical Places.

Mr. Freeman reported that there are twenty-one animal species and forty-nine plant species identified within the Withlacoochee State Forest (WSF). He noted that Kittleson and Associates, Incorporated, is working with the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and other agencies regarding potential locations of animal/wildlife crossings in the WSF.

Mr. Freeman responded to Chairman Duke's question regarding whether there will be fencing installed to prevent animals from crossing the roadway and what type of animal crossing will be utilized for the project. He stated that FFS is in favor of animal crossings, but not fences. He noted that the type of crossing that

will be utilized is still being reviewed at this time. Mr. Coller stated that Monroe County provides crossings under the roadways that allow key deer and other wildlife to go from one part of the island to the other.

Mr. Freeman reported that the final PD& E of the project will be completed in July 2019. He noted that final design will take thirty-six months to complete.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) Update Regarding the Coastal Connector

Mr. Diez stated that FTE informed him that they would need to cancel their presentation due to another scheduling conflict. He noted that there was an article in the Citrus Chronicle regarding an injunction with the Coastal Connector project.

Chairman Dukes asked whether FTE would be able to attend the next MPO Board meeting. Mr. Diez responded that he had asked, but has had no response from them.

Mr. Kitchen stated that the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners have not changed their position with the continuation of the Suncoast Parkway II in Citrus County. He noted that Marion County passed a resolution to prevent the Coastal Connector from going through their county. Mr. Kitchen stated that both Alachua and Levy Counties are also against the Coastal Connector going through their counties. He noted that Citrus County is in favor of being presented with one proposed route being brought to them for review as opposed to five routes. He noted that Citrus County needs an identifiable corridor that can be discussed and vetted with the Citrus County citizens.

Mr. Kinnard stated that Citrus County was shown a variety of possible routes for the Coastal Connector, but was given no explanation why they had been chosen. He noted that there should be a proposed route that has been very well discussed and/or vetted, has the least amount of impact in an area, and has the most amount of reasons why it should be built (evacuations and/or freight). Mr. Kinnard stated that Citrus County is in favor of continuing the Suncoast Parkway north.

Mr. McBride concurred with Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Kinnard. He noted that the proposed routes go up to Marion County and cross over I-75 north to Ocala. Mr. McBride stated that the study totally disregards the issues of the I-75 relief committee. He noted that it would not be a feasible alternative to take traffic to CR 301. Mr. McBride stated the proposed routes do not answer questions of future traffic jams that will occur on I-75 in the future.

Mr. Allocco questioned the vision of FTE. He questioned the purpose of a highway/route that takes traffic to an area of where there is nothing located.

Ms. Jennifer Carpenter, Beverly Hills Citizen, expressed her concerns with the proposed corridors and noted the importance of FTE communicating its plans

with citizens and boards. Ms. Carpenter stated that the MPO Board should continue to protect its citizens from such projects that are being produced.

Mr. Chris Penski, Marion County Citizen, requested more information regarding the process of how traffic counts are conducted on roadways. He stated that he understood that traffic counts, conducted countrywide, are estimates that are over exaggerated.

Mr. Kinnard responded to Mr. Allocco's concern regarding a route that is designed to direct traffic to nowhere. He noted that a seemingly best route for the corridor would be to go north and connect to I-10, not I-75.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the Suncoast Parkway.

Mr. Diez responded to Mr. Penski's question regarding traffic counts. He noted that the County uses tubes with traffic counters that are laid across the road to count the traffic. Mr. Diez stated that there may soon be a transition to utilize Bluetooth technology.

Fort Island Trail Multi-Use Path Feasibility Study

Mr. Diez introduced Ms. Amber Gartner, Consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Incorporated.

Mr. Kitchen informed the MPO Board that it is not the intention of Citrus County to spend \$50 million on a bicycle path. He noted that Citrus County has a plan to seek funding for the project.

Ms. Gartner provided the MPO Board Members with a presentation for the Fort Island Trail Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study. She noted that the Fort Island Trail is Citrus County's top multi-use trail priority project. Ms. Gartner stated that the Ft. Island Trail project has been identified by Florida Greenways and Trails System as an opportunity corridor. She noted the purpose of the study is to help identify constraints and potential costs of connecting the Ft. Island Gulf Beach over to US 19 with a separated multi-use path.

Mr. Kitchen stated that it is nine miles on a 10-foot wide road to the boat ramp and beach. He noted that there are boat trailers up to 10 1/2 feet in width traveling this road leaving no safe space for bicyclists to ride on due to the road being too narrow. Mr. Kitchen stated that Citrus County would like to complete the project in sections. He noted that Citrus County plans to seek funding sources from different funding methods. Mr. Kitchen stated that Citrus County intends to concentrate on the less inexpensive sections of the project before completing the more expensive sections, such as future bridge replacements. Per the request of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Mr. Kitchen asked for an endorsement from the MPO Board. He requested that the MPO Board increase the Ft. Island Multi-Use Path project from an opportunity corridor to a priority corridor. Mr. Kitchen stated that Citrus County would be responsible for funding the maintenance of the trail.

Chairman Dukes stated that the project will take several years to complete due to all of the bridges. Mr. Kitchen responded that the project will never be completed if it never gets started.

Mr. Kinnard stated that a most desirable route for a bicyclist is a flat path. He noted that the conditions of the road and its bridges are unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Kinnard asked for support of the project from the MPO Board.

Ms. Gartner responded to Mr. Kinnard's question regarding the total cost of the bridges/water crossings for the project that had the lowest estimated cost. It was noted that there were three (3) options for the cost in funding to complete the project in the presentation: Alternative A - \$28,821,800, Alternative B - \$56,959,200 and Alternative C - \$25,251,200. She noted that \$5 million would be the total cost for the bridges/water crossings.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding of the WST project.

Mr. Diez stated that the WST had to be described as a reconstruction project in order to get the project funded. Mr. Kitchen stated that the MPO Board approved the WST project as a resurfacing project.

Mr. McBride asked for clarification regarding the WST projects. Mr. Diez responded that the WST project was always the number one maintenance project for Citrus County. He noted that the WST project had not been ranked in Hernando County. Mr. Diez stated that the Suncoast Trail (SCT) and Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) had been ranked. He noted that a feasibility study needs to be completed for the WST. Mr. Diez stated that Transportation Alternative (TA) funding could be used for the study.

By the request of the Citrus County BOCC, Mr. Kitchen requested than an action be taken from the MPO Board to support and change the priority of the Ft. Island -Multi-Use Trail from an opportunity corridor to a priority corridor.

Motion: *Mr. Kitchen moved to approve and support the change in priority for the Ft. Island Trail – Multi-Use Trail project in Citrus County from an opportunity corridor to a priority corridor. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion ensued regarding importance of the Ft. Island Trail project.

Hernando/Citrus MPO Board Meeting Summary - Press Release and Issue List

Mr. Diez asked the MPO Board members whether there were any questions and/or comments regarding the press leases that were submitted to the Hernando and Citrus County Public Information offices that provided a summary of the May 15, 2018, MPO Board meeting.

It was noted that at this time that there were no questions from the MPO Board.

Mr. Diez reported that FDOT was present at the meeting to answer any questions regarding US 19.

Mr. Diez introduced Mr. Roger Roscoe, Government Liaison for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven.

Mr. Roscoe provided information regarding project number 405822-2, US 19 from West Green Acres to West Jump Court, regarding a multi-use trail. He reported that a multi-use trail will be built as part of the ongoing US 19 construction project.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Diez reported that the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board must be in compliance with specific performance measurement and target requirements based on new federal guidelines. He noted that this information will be updated in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and that it is also referenced in the FY 2019 – FY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Diez stated that this will be part of the new LRTP that will be completed in December 2019.

Motion: *Mr. Kitchen moved to approve the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendment to incorporate the new language for the performance measurement and target setting requirement. Mr. McBride seconded, and by roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.*

FY 2019 - FY 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – ADOPTION

Mr. Diez provided an overview of the Draft FY 2019 – FY 2023 TIP. He stated that the TIP implements projects that are contained in the 2040 LRTP. He noted that the TIP consists of local projects from both Hernando and Citrus Counties as well as the FDOT Work Program for the next five years. Mr. Diez stated that the Unified Major Improvement projects, Congestion Management projects, and Bicycle/Pedestrian project are also included in the TIP.

Mr. Diez stated that the TIP was reviewed and approved to recommend to the MPO Board by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) at their May 30, 2018. He noted the following changes suggested by the committees:

- Move the Floral City Sidewalks/Bicycle Route project to number eight (8) in ranking on the Citrus County Complete Streets Priority Projects list.
- Move the WST rehabilitation project from unranked to number two (2) on the Hernando County Complete Streets Priority Projects list.

- Move the US 19 from Cardinal Street to Green Acres from unranked to number thirteen (13) on the Major Improvement and Congestion Management Programs list.

Mr. Allocco expressed his concern regarding the Sunshine Grove project on the Hernando County list. He stated that he had received an email that informed him the project was moved to a lower ranking on the list.

Chairman Dukes asked whether there were any changes to the sidewalk projects on the priority lists. Mr. Diez responded that there were two minor changes on the Hernando County list and some changes on the Citrus County list. Chairman Dukes asked for clarification regarding “minor” changes. Mr. Diez responded that both the WST Rehabilitation project SCT Resurfacing project were prioritized from unranked to ranked on the priority list.

Mr. Allocco questioned how it was possible to keep number (3), the Sunshine Grove Road sidewalk project, as number three (3) after the WST Rehabilitation project was moved from unranked to number two (2) on the list. Mr. Diez responded that the list presented was a proposed list. He noted the list will be adopted after the approval of the MPO Board.

Mr. Champion questioned why the WST Rehabilitation project was prioritized at a higher ranking than the sidewalk projects on the Hernando County list. Mr. Diez responded that the project was prioritized higher due to the age of the trail, the priority of the trail in Citrus County (number one), and the amount of press the trail receives. He noted that the funding for the trail will be utilized to complete a feasibility study. Mr. Diez stated that the WST project will be a long-term project.

Mr. Allocco questioned whether the other projects on the list (3 – 14) would be completed before the WST project. Mr. Diez responded that FDOT will be completing the project list in sequential order as assigned by the MPO Board. Mr. Allocco expressed his disapproval of the list and stated that he would vote against the TIP. Mr. Champion concurred with Mr. Allocco.

Mr. Kitchen stated that it would be helpful for staff to present a strikethrough list of the projects that will clarify the revised placement of a project’s ranking. He noted that staff should show the MPO Board what the committees are suggesting on the list under a separate column. Mr. Kitchen stated that it is to the discretion of the MPO Board to decide the final prioritization of a project ranking.

Mr. Champion stated that the MPO Board was very adamant regarding the prioritization of the projects. He expressed his disapproval of a trail project being higher prioritized than a sidewalk project. Mr. Diez responded that the changes in ranking came from the committees. He noted that the MPO Board does have the final decision.

Mr. Allocco stated that it was understood by the MPO Board last year to prioritize sidewalk projects first so school children can walk safely to school. He noted bicycle

trails are great to have after school children can walk safely to school. Chairman Dukes concurred with Mr. Allocco.

Mr. Kitchen stated that in the past the MPO Board had been informed that there would be separate funding categories for projects; one for maintenance and the other for construction. He noted that the MPO Board had been informed that the Sunshine Grove Sidewalk project would be completed before the two higher ranked maintenance projects. Mr. Kitchen questioned the current process of how projects get funded and completed. Mr. Diez responded that the source of funding for the projects will come from the same source. He noted that in the past, MPO staff had intentions to set aside \$500,000 per year from TA funds for maintenance/rehabilitation projects.

Mr. Ed McKinney, Procurement Administrator at FDOT District Seven, responded that TA funds cannot be used for regular maintenance. He noted the GNT and WST projects were rehabilitation projects.

Mr. Kinnard expressed a concern for the period of time that will be spent waiting to have a \$6 million to \$8 million project completed. He noted the importance of completing the school sidewalk projects before the WST rehabilitation project. Mr. McKinney responded that the TA program as a district has \$7 million that must be divided between, Hernando, Citrus, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties. He noted that on a percentage share, the Hernando/Citrus MPO received a larger portion of the funding than the other counties.

Mr. McKinney suggested that MPO staff work with FDOT to hire a consultant to identify the high priority sidewalks projects that would be eligible for TA funding. He noted that once the high priority sidewalks projects are identified, a plan can be projected to show how Hernando and Citrus's portion of TA funding can be applied to the projects in a realistic timeframe.

It was noted that the TIP is required to be adopted before the new fiscal year begins, July 1, 2018.

Mr. Champion stated that it would be helpful for the MPO Board to be knowledgeable of project costs.

Mr. Kitchen expressed his disapproval for being required to adopt a document that has not had enough time to review. He noted that the document should have been brought to the meeting prior for review and discussion.

Mr. Allocco noted that there seems to be a disconnect with the committees (TAC, CAC, and BPAC) when they are making decisions regarding the ranking of projects. He noted that the MPO Board should be given reasons why a committee believes a project should be moved to a higher or lower ranking.

Discussion ensued regarding the priorities and funding of sidewalks as opposed to trails.

It was noted that there was a decision by staff and the MPO Board to add another column to the priority lists in the future that will show the previous ranking of the projects.

Motion: *Mr. Allocco moved to reprioritize number one (1), the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) – Rehabilitation Project, to number seven (7), and reprioritize number two (2), the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST) – Reconstruction Project, to number eight (8), and reprioritize the following projects in sequential order on the Hernando County FY 2019/2020 Complete Streets Priority Projects list. Mr. Champion seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Kinnard requested clarification/status update regarding number one (1), the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST) – Rehabilitation project, and number two (2), Forest Ridge Elementary – Phase II Sidewalk Project, on the Citrus County Complete Streets Priority Projects list. Mr. Diez responded by providing the most recent updates for the following Citrus County projects, (It was noted that the following projects may be removed from the Citrus County List):

- Project #2- Forest Ridge Elementary - Sidewalk Project (a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project): Has been identified as having serious drainage issues. (It was noted that major drainage improvements cannot be completed with SRTS funding.)
- Project #3 - Crystal River Middle School – Covered Sidewalk Project: The City of Crystal River may be able to locally fund and complete the project.
- Project #4 - Rock Crusher Elementary - Sidewalk Project: It was identified that no one would utilize the sidewalk.

Mr. Battista asked for an estimation regarding the length of time to complete the GNT project due to the project being lowered in ranking to number seven (7). Mr. Diez estimated the project would be delayed by one to two years.

It was noted that the MPO Board began to review the Citrus County Complete Streets list. Mr. Kinnard requested that Mr. Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Engineer Director, come before the MPO Board to report any Citrus County project updates.

Mr. Eastmond reported the following project updates recently provided by FDOT for Citrus County:

- Project #2 - Forest Ridge Elementary – Phase II Project: The project is identified on the list as a SRTS project. Due to the amount of drainage modifications required to accommodate the sidewalk, the project will no longer be eligible for SRTS funding. The project may be able to be funded under TA funding.
- Project #3 - Crystal River Middle School – Covered Sidewalk Project: The project has been identified as an “on-site covered sidewalk” project and will no longer be eligible for TA funding.

It was noted that the WST rehabilitation project on the Citrus County list is a \$300,000 rehabilitation study project. This project will be completed prior to the other projects on the list.

Motion: *Mr. Kinnard motioned to approve the Citrus County FY 2019-2020 Complete Streets Priority Projects list as presented. Mr. Kitchen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Motion: *Mr. Allocco moved to approve the adoption of the FY 2019 – FY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as amended. Mr. Champion seconded, and after roll call vote the motion carried unanimously*

HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION/FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION JOINT CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Mr. Diez provided the MPO Board with a brief overview of the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization/Florida Department of Transportation Joint Certification Statement. He noted that the certification package includes a summary of noteworthy achievements by the MPO Board and the MPO Joint Certification Statement.

Motion: *Mr. Champion moved to approve the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization/Florida Department of Transportation Joint Certification Statement and authorize the MPO Chairman's signature on the document. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS FUNDING ALLOCATION

Mr. Diez provided the MPO Board with a brief overview of the Bikeways and Trails Funding Allocation. It was noted that Scope B was initially planned to be funded by contract G0D90; however, a shift was proposed by staff to utilize contract G0787. It was also noted that there will be no change in funding.

Motion: *Mr. Allocco moved to approve the funding allocation for the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan for Scope B. Mr. Champion seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Ms. Bartlett provided the MPO Board with a presentation for the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan Executive Summary.

Motion: *Mr. Kitchen moved to approve the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan Executive Summary and associated mapping. Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

MPO LEASE AGREEMENT

Mr. Diez stated that the MPO office was relocated from the Hernando County Government Center to 1661 Blaise Drive due to space limitations in the Center. He noted that \$7,210.56 is the total annual amount of the lease. Mr. Diez reported that payments for the lease will begin on July 1, 2018.

Motion: *Mr. Kitchen moved to approve the Lease Agreement between the MPO and the Building Division for a term of twelve months (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) in the amount of \$7,210.56 and authorize the MPO Chairman's signature on the lease agreement. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

CITIZENS COMMENTS

It was noted that at this time there was no citizen comment.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Mr. Diez provided the MPO Board with information regarding the financial impact that bicycling will bring to a community.

BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion ensued regarding the lawsuit against the continuation of the Suncoast Parkway.

Mr. Kinnard commented on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory County (MPOAC) Weekend Institute. He noted that the training was very informative.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

It was announced that the next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018, beginning at 1:00 P.M., in the John Law Ayers County Commission Chambers.

The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at <http://hernandocountyfl.ig2.com/citizens> or at www.hernandocounty.us/mpo.