



Hernando/Citrus  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Regular Meeting**  
 ~ Minutes ~

December 12, 2018 10:00 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at the John Law Ayers Room, Government Center, Brooksville, Florida.

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

Mr. Kinnard led the Invocation.

Mr. Kinnard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MPO Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Proofs of publications of the Notice of Public hearing/meeting were entered into the record by Ms. Riecss.

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

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard motioned to approve the December 12, 2018 MPO Board meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Champion seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman  
**SECONDER:** Steve Champion, Member, Hernando County  
**AYES:** Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard motioned to approve the September 18, 2018, MPO Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. McBride seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman  
**SECONDER:** Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness  
**AYES:** Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb

## CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven Secretary David Gwynn Presentation

Mr. Diez introduced Mr. David Gwynn, District Seven Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mr. Gwynn reported that the State Secretary has resigned and that the position will be filled in January 2019. He stated that there is an assumption that fuel tax will be lower in the outer years of the Five-Year Work Program due to the prediction of an increase of electric vehicles and fuel efficient vehicles.

Mr. Allocco asked whether there has been any type of strategy/discussion regarding the predicted gasoline tax revenue decrease. Mr. Gwynn responded that ideas have been discussed to tax by mileage. He noted that there have been discussions regarding potential increases in federal fuel tax.

Mr. Holcomb asked what the projection was for the increase in electric cars within the next five to ten years, and the prediction of availability and charging time for charging stations. Mr. Gwynn responded that it is optimistic that within the next three to five years charging stations may become quicker in charging time.

Mr. Gwynn reported that Brightline [an express intercity high speed railroad system] will eventually come to Tampa within the next two to three years. He noted that right-of-way may be leased to accommodate the system.

Mr. Gwynn clarified the difference between Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and Non-SIS roads. SIS roadways are state funded roadways programmed for statewide mobility; Non-SIS roadways are funded by the Metropolitan Planning Organization

(MPO) or the FDOT District. It was noted that SR 50 received state funding. Mr. Gwynn stated that fifty percent of the Work Program is funded by SIS funding.

Mr. Gwynn reported that there is an effort to locate funding sources for the advancement of the US 41 project.

Mr. Gwynn stated that Governor Rick Scott vetoed most earmarks during his term in office. He noted that some earmark funding managed to get through the system for the District Seven area. Mr. Gwynn stated that earmarks are funds that are directed for a particular project, but these funds are taken away from other projects. He noted that future funding for specific projects may be earmarked to help fund other projects that are located in the same district.

Mr. Gwynn reported that the FDOT District Seven is in the process of improving their safety program which will help identify roadways and areas that are hazardous. He noted that this program helps recognize areas that are in need of sidewalks for pedestrians, and intersections that are in need of enhanced lighting or signage. Mr. Gwynn reported that in Hernando County enhanced lighting and signage was installed in areas where curves on roadways had significant crash data. He noted that lighting and signage enhancements have helped substantially with the decrease in crashes.

Chairman Dukes stated that sidewalk projects in Hernando County on the priority list have been advanced for the safety of school children that walk to and from school. He asked for the continued support from FDOT for sidewalk projects.

Mr. Kinnard reported that the US 41 project is making progress. He noted that it is the goal of Citrus County to continue north with the extension of the Suncoast Parkway through Citrus County.

Mr. McBride expressed his agreement with Mr. Kinnard regarding the continuation of the Suncoast Parkway extending north. He asked what the City of Inverness can do to help promote and expedite the completion of the US 41 project. Mr. McBride stated that this has been the number one project of the Hernando/Citrus MPO for years. Mr. Gwynn responded that complete funding is available for the portion of the US 41 project past the Inverness Middle School up to a pedestrian bridge. He noted that FDOT is in the process of purchasing right-of-way for other segments of the project. Mr. Gwynn noted that funding opportunities happen throughout the year when unused funding from other projects is identified. He noted that these opportunities may help with funding the US 41 project.

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

Mr. Diez reported that there has been approval to design and install a full traffic signal at the intersection of US 19 and St. Andrews Boulevard at the entrance of The Heather subdivision. He noted that the traffic signal should be operational within twelve months.

Mr. Diez reported that at the intersection of US 19 and CR 488 at The Heather, a traffic signal warrant study is currently being conducted to re-evaluate whether the full traffic

signal should be returned back to a flashing traffic signal. Mr. Allocco expressed his frustration regarding the approval of the traffic signal being conveyed to the MPO Board by the Homeowners Association. He noted the importance of communication from other government agencies with the MPO Board.

Mr. Diez stated that MPO staff attempts to keep the issue list current based on the information that is communicated with the department.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Weekend Institute for Elected Officials**

Mr. Diez reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) will be holding its MPOAC Weekend Institute training for elected officials on March 29 through 31, 2019 in Orlando and May 31, June 2, 2019, in Tampa.

Mr. Kinnard highly recommended the workshop.

**FY 2020 - FY 2024 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT)  
TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Diez introduced Mr. Roger Roscoe, Government Liaison, FDOT District Seven.

Mr. Roscoe provided the MPO Board with an overview of the highlights for the FY 2020 - FY 2024 FDOT Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Mr. Allocco expressed a concern regarding traffic backup near JD Floyd Elementary School (Drysdale Street). He noted that the homeowners on this roadway are being affected and are left being unable to leave their own home for hours due to the school traffic. Mr. Allocco asked whether FDOT would be able to work with the school system to come up with a solution that would help alleviate the traffic. Mr. Roscoe took note of the problem and will follow up. Mr. Diez responded that he will be attending a school board meeting in February and will recommend a walking school bus concept.

Mr. Roscoe provided the MPO Board with the following Five-Year Work Program schedule:

- December 17 - 21: Online Public Hearing
- December 20: FDOT District Seven Open House
- December 31: Public Comments Due
- January 28: MPO Comments Due
- February - March 2019: Legislature and Federal Transportation Commission (FTC) Review Period
- July 1, 2019: Adoption of the Work Program

Mr. McBride expressed a concern regarding the MPO Board's comment due date (January 28). He noted that the next MPO Board meeting was scheduled for February 19, 2019. Mr. Roscoe responded that replies may be given individually or conveyed to MPO staff to report as an MPO comment.

Mr. Roscoe introduced Mr. Jim Martin, Liaison, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE).

Mr. Martin provided the MPO Board with the FTE FY 2020 - FY 2024 Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Mr. Allocco stated that the intentions of the original discussion for the Coastal Connector was to take it from Tampa to Jacksonville. He asked whether the project was abandoned or whether there were any future plans. Mr. Martin responded that there were many concerns expressed at the community meetings held over the summer regarding the impact to private properties from the Coaster Connector. Mr. Martin stated as a result of the meetings, all studies and alignments of the Coastal Connector from Tampa to Jacksonville have been abandoned by FTE. He noted that District Five and District Two are considering implementing some of the recommendations given by the I-75 Task Force.

Discussion ensued regarding alternative routes to Red Level.

Mr. Kinnard asked whether there was any considered timeline for the extension of the Suncoast Parkway. Mr. Martin responded that he would inform the MPO Board of any updates for the project.

Mr. Holcomb asked for the expected completion date for construction of the Suncoast Parkway extension to US 44. Mr. Martin responded that he would report back to MPO staff with the information.

Mr. McBride expressed a concern for I-75. He noted that the relief of I-75 should be a priority. Mr. Martin agreed with Mr. McBride. He noted that at this time there has been no discussion for the relief of the I-75 project. Mr. McBride stated this needs to be made a priority project and should be prioritized before other projects.

Mr. McBride stated that the autonomous vehicle should be taken into consideration when planning projects. Mr. Martin responded that a plan needs to be implemented to illustrate how the automated vehicles will work together with non-automated vehicles on the roadway.

Mr. Martin reported that charging stations have been installed for electric vehicles at both the Turkey Lake Service Plaza and Fort Drum Service Plaza.

Mr. Champion stated that the Coastal Connector was abandoned because of public opposition. He stated that the Coastal Connector should be balloted for a vote to see the desires of the citizens.

Mr. Diez expressed the importance of the MPO maintaining the priority list.

## **LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) - COST AFFORDABLE PLAN AMENDMENT- PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Diez stated that in order to meet the planning consistency guidelines, FDOT requested that MPO staff update some of the limits that were in the existing LRTP and

also add new projects to the plan. It was noted that Table 5-5 was amended to include Hernando County Cost Affordable SIS projects and Table 5-9 was added which will include Hernando County Cost Affordable Trail projects.

Mr. Holcomb expressed a concern regarding the children who are walking to Powell Middle School on Barclay Avenue and Anderson Snow Road and the absence of a sidewalk. He asked whether a sidewalk project for Anderson Snow Road could replace the South Linden Drive sidewalk project on the priority list. Mr. Diez responded that there would be difficulty in stopping/moving a project that has already been programmed in the work program. He noted that he was aware of the situation on Anderson Snow Road. Mr. Diez stated that a sidewalk project on Anderson Snow Road may be eligible for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding. He noted that an evaluation of how many students utilize this roadway will be required to warrant it as a SRTS project. Mr. Holcomb reported that there was an approval by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to expand a multi-family complex in the area. It was noted that the expansion of the complex will bring more students that will need to walk to school. Chairman Dukes expressed his agreement with Mr. Holcomb. He noted the possibility of switching the priorities of projects when there is justification. Chairman Dukes instructed MPO staff to report back to the MPO Board regarding anything that may be done to expedite an Anderson Snow Road sidewalk project.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of expanding the existing Amero Lane sidewalk project to include Anderson Snow Road.

Mr. Scott Herring, Director of Public Works, reported that Hernando County has applied for an Economic Development Grant that will fund improvements on Barclay Avenue/Anderson Snow Road south to Corporate Boulevard. He reported there has been no announcement at this time for the approval of the grant.

Discussion ensued regarding impact fee funding.

Mr. Allocco asked for an update regarding the availability of right-of-way for the Barclay Avenue project. Mr. Herring reported that there were still problems with the north section of the project at the intersection of SR 50 and Barclay Avenue.

Discussion ensued regarding the Barclay Avenue project.

**Motion:** *Mr. Champion moved to approve the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendment to include the following:*

- *Amendment to Table 5-5 to include Hernando County Cost Affordable SIS Projects*
- *An addition of Table 5-9 to include Hernando County Cost Affordable Trail Projects*

*Mr. Kinnard seconded, and by roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Steve Champion, Member, Hernando County  
**SECONDER:** Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman  
**AYES:** Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb

## FY 2018/19 - FY 2019/20 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT

Mr. Diez reported that the amendment to the FY 2018/19 - FY 2019/20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was to reflect additional federal transit administration funding that will be allocated for FY 2019. He reported that tasks 3.1 and 3.8 were amended in the UPWP to reflect the funding.

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard moved to approve the amendment to the FY 2018/19 - FY 2019/20 UPWP and authorize the MPO Chairman's signature on the Authentication page and Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 form. Mr. Allocco seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman  
**SECONDER:** John Allocco, Member, Hernando County  
**AYES:** Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT - LEE BEASLEY, LRB CONSULTING GROUP

Mr. Diez stated that the Professional Services Contract with LRB Consulting Group, Inc., is to authorize and hire Ms. Lee Beasley on a part-time basis for six months as additional MPO staff.

**Motion:** *Mr. Champion moved to approve the Professional Services Contract and Scope of Services with LRB Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$55,600 and authorize MPO staff to issue a Notice to Proceed. Mr. Allocco seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Steve Champion, Member, Hernando County  
**SECONDER:** John Allocco, Member, Hernando County  
**AYES:** Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb

## HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Diez reported that there are four positions on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that will be expiring on December 31, 2018. He noted the following applicants applied to represent the respective positions on the CAC:

- Alan Garman - Hernando County, Unincorporated
- Ronald Lawson - City of Brooksville, Ronald Lawson
- Karen Esty - City of Inverness
- Beverly Clemo and Beverly Howard - Citrus County, Unincorporated (One vacancy available.)

**Motion:** *Mr. Allocco moved to approve and reappoint the following citizens to the following positions of the CAC:*

- Alan Garman - Hernando County, Unincorporated
- Ronald Lawson - City of Brooksville, Ronald Lawson
- Karen Esty - City of Inverness

*Mr. Holcomb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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|------------------|---|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | John Allocco, Member, Hernando County                               |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Jeff Holcomb, Alternate, Hernando County                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard moved to approve Ms. Beverly Howard as the Citrus County, Unincorporated representative. Mr. McBride seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

Mr. Diez reported the following vacancies that still exist on the CAC:

- City of Crystal River
- Low Income and/or Minority Representative - Hernando County
- Public Transit User - Hernando County
- Public Transit User - Citrus County



## HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Diez reported that the following two of the three members whose memberships will be on expiring on December 31, 2018, from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) submitted applications to continue their membership status on the BPAC:

- James McLean - Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County
- Dennis Reiland – Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard moved to approve and reappoint the following citizens to the Citrus County Citizen-at-Large positions on the BPAC:*

- James McLean - Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County
- Dennis Reiland – Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County

*Mr. McBride seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

## HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB) APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Diez reported that a new agency position, Persons with Disabilities Agency, was added to the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) and that Ms. Elizabeth Watson will be representing the position.

**Motion:** *Mr. Champion moved to approve that Ms. Elizabeth Watson as the Persons with Disabilities Agency representative. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Steve Champion, Member, Hernando County                             |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

## CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB) APPOINTMENTS

It was noted that the following agency positions on the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) are proposed to be represented by the

following:

- Dave Newell - FDOT District Seven
- Marilyn Farmer - Citrus County Schools
- Ginger West - Florida Association of Community Action
- Elizabeth Watson - Persons with Disabilities Agency

**Motion:** *Mr. Kinnard moved to approve the following agency representatives to the following LCB positions:*

- *Dave Newell - FDOT District Seven*
- *Marilyn Farmer - Citrus County School*
- *Ginger West - Florida Association of Community Action*
- *Elizabeth Watson - Persons with Disabilities Agency*

*Mr. Holcomb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Jeff Holcomb, Alternate, Hernando County                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

## PROPOSED 2019 HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Diez reported the following tentative 2019 Hernando/Citrus MPO meeting dates to the MPO Board for approval:

- Tuesday, February 19
- Tuesday, March 19
- Tuesday, May 15
- Tuesday, June 18
- Tuesday, August 20
- Tuesday, September 17
- Wednesday, October 30
- Wednesday, November 20
- Wednesday, December 4

Mr. Diez reported that the 2019 MPO Board meetings will be held at the Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness, Florida.

Mr. Diez responded to Chairman's Dukes question regarding the change of the Citrus County meeting location. He noted that the conference room at the Lecanto Government Building had been previously reserved by another department.

Mr. Diez reported that a Citrus County Commissioner or County Administrator would be

needed to override the other department's reservation for the conference room. It was noted that Mr. Kinnard would contact the County Administrator to get the conference room reserved for the MPO Board meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the conference room.

**Motion:** *Mr. Allocco moved to approve the 2019 MPO Board meeting schedule with the understanding the board meetings will be held in an alternative room other than Room 100 at the Citrus County Courthouse. Mr. Kinnard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | John Allocco, Member, Hernando County                               |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Jeff Kinnard, MPO Vice-Chairman                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Kinnard, Champion, Allocco, Battista, Fitzpatrick, McBride, Holcomb |

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

## BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman Dukes reminded the Board members that all comments for the anticipated Five-year Work Program must be turned into MPO staff as soon as possible.

Mr. Holcomb expressed the importance of being aware of earmarks.

Mr. Kinnard expressed the importance of the Suncoast Parkway moving north through Citrus County. He asked for the support of the MPO Board.

Chairman Dukes stated that if the process of the extension for Suncoast Parkway continues slowly due to lack of direction, referendums should be put on the ballot for the next election. He noted that both Citrus and Hernando Counties should participate in the process to get the project expedited.

Mr. McBride expressed his appreciation to Mr. Diez for assisting the City of Inverness with the process of applying for a grant to get flashing signals installed where a trail crosses over a heavily congested roadway in the city.

Mr. Holcomb requested that there be discussion at the next MPO Board meeting regarding the extension of the Suncoast Parkway going north and where it should continue.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019, beginning at 1:00 P.M., at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.

The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at <http://hernandocountyfl.iqm2.com/citizens> or at [www.hernandocitrusmpo.us](http://www.hernandocitrusmpo.us).