

**HERNANDO/CITRUS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2020**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on October 28, 2020, via Zoom. The meeting was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times and the Citrus Chronicle and the agenda was available online at: [www.hernandocitrusmpo.us](http://www.hernandocitrusmpo.us).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Public Works Department  
David Gordinier, Hernando County Public Works Department  
Chris DeAnnuntis, TBARTA  
Jannina Stampfli, Hernando County Transit  
Brian Herrmann, City of Crystal River Planning and Community Development Services  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County Schools  
Greg Rice, City of Inverness Community Development  
Michelle Miller, Hernando County Planning Department  
Lon Frye, Citrus County Transit  
Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Growth Management

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Diez, MPO Executive Director  
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III  
Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II  
Terri Saenz, Administrative Assistant III

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Herring called the meeting to order at 10:03am.  
A quorum was declared.

Introductions were made.

**B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Eastmond seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 26, 2020**

Ms. Riecss referenced corrections to prior minutes where Walt Eastmond was incorrectly referenced as the chairman.

**Motion:** Mr. DeAnnuntis made a motion to approve the amended minutes for August 26, 2020. Mr. Stampfli seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **D. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 1. FDOT FY 2022-2026 Tentative Work Program – Online Hearing

Mr. Diez advised FDOT intends to present their work program sometime during the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>. When the hearing opens you can go the following link: <https://www.d7wpph.com/>. If the link changes, MPO staff will advise.

Chairperson Herring suggested once the draft project is out there for the work program that we review and post any comments to it.

There were no questions or comments.

### 2. MPO Meeting Summary – September 10, 2020

Mr. Diez stated no changes to what is presented.

There were no questions or comments.

### 3. Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Diez advised that this is the MPO calendar for the 2021 meetings that will be presented to the MPO Board for approval on November 12, 2020. He further advised that all MPO meetings next year will be in Citrus County.

Chairperson Herring asked for clarification on where committee meetings will be held next year. Mr. Diez advised that those will still rotate between counties.

Ms. Dagenthart interjected that Mr. Hochadel (alternate for Mike Sherman, Citrus County) is attending via ZOOM chat and that she will monitor any questions he may post.

### 4. Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Impact Significance (M-CORES) Status

Mr. Diez stated that FDOT M-CORES group has been hosting meetings around the state. The MPO has provided links to the committee members and on our website for those wanting to comment. Our only involvement would be the Suncoast Connector and the Northern Turnpike Corridor. The final report should be completed by November 15, 2020.

Mr. Diez mentioned that the City of Inverness does not want it anywhere near their city because one of the options is using SR 44 as a connector. Mr. Herring stated the Legislature will meet in March 2021 so we will see what will happens.

There were no further questions or comments.

#### **E. ACTION ITEMS**

Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) – Establishment of Performance Measures for Citrus and Hernando County

Mr. Diez communicated that the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) requires the MPO to adopt Public Transportation Safety performance measures within 6 months of the local transit agencies adopting their Public Transportation Safety Plans (PTASP). The performance measures have been developed based on the PTASP and are presented to the TAC to recommend approval by the MPO Board.

**Motion:** Ms. Stampfli motioned to accept and approve. Mr. Rice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **F. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizens present via ZOOM online or telephone.

#### **G. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS /UPDATES**

Mr. Diez mentioned a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Best Practices Symposium hosted by Florida LTAP Center and FDOT. MPO staff will send out the link if anyone is interested in registering. They are an hour and half sessions on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **H. MPO STAFF COMMENTS/UPDATES**

Mr. Diez called upon Brian Herrmann with the City of Crystal River to give an update regarding SR 44.

Mr. Herrman announced the City has been working with the FDOT for the last year regarding SR 44 which connects into US 19. Both roads are SIS corridors in the City of Crystal River. The last 6-8 blocks of SR 44 are in the City and literally splits an African American neighborhood. They have held a charrette with a lot of community participants and the community is not happy with the FDOT proposal. The City asked to meet with the FDOT Secretary. The City has been pushing for a traffic light at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is a big deal for the City to solidify that area as more of a community and less than just a thoroughfare. FDOT was asked to do a study on US 19, SR 44 and Turkey Oak with Turkey Oak being a bypass around the City.

Mr. Hermann further stated that this is an FDOT resurfacing project. They were really upgrading it with significant changes to the patterns where you could cross streets and closing off a lot of street access. FDOT has agreed to scale back, but the City will now need to find funding to work forward on how they will do all their projects.

Mr. Diez reported that FDOT suggested that the MPO do a subarea study for that section of SR 44 by putting it on our list of priority projects to move it forward. It will not get funded overnight but once get it on the list, it would be eligible for funding.

Mr. DeAnnuntis with TBARTA commented that they had partnered with a TNC, called UZURV for an innovation and service development grant application with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). This will provide cross county trips for the transportation disadvantaged. The CTD has recommended approval of this grant and service will begin December 1<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Mr. Diez for a letter he wrote in support of this project.

Mr. Diez commented that this will be a huge benefit for the TD population to have this mobility option available to them.

Chairperson Herring congratulated all those involved in making it happen.

Ms. Miller asked when this is approved if Mr. Diez or Mr. DeAnnuntis could get information out to her as she serves on the Housing Advisory Committee and also works with a number of the low-income neighborhoods.

Mr. Eastmond stated Citrus County had just finished reconstructing/resurfacing about 1.5 miles of road at Citrus Springs Boulevard. The road was 18' wide which is an odd width for a paved surface. They did a lane diet and wrote an article for the Citrus Chronicle explaining the project. The edge line was moved, created a standard 11' lane which left 7' for a bike lane. It is now a nice 1.5 miles buffer bike lane they have added to their road inventory for biking. They later went out to see the progress and bicyclists were already using it.

Mr. Eastmond further commented that after the Chronicle ran the article, Bay News 9 picked up as newsworthy and they will be doing a spot tomorrow on the subject.

Mr. Diez stated that sidewalks were being constructed at Pleasant Grove Road.

#### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

It was announced that the next TAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.