

**HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(TAC)**

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2021

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The meeting was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times and the Citrus Chronicle and the agenda was available online at: www.hernandocountyus.com/hernandocitrusmpo.com.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Engineering
Chris Mundell, Hernando County School District Transportation
David Gordinier, Hernando County Public Works
Chris DeAnnuntis, TBARTA
Jannina Stampfli, Hernando County Transit
Greg Rice, City of Inverness Community Development
Lori Hall, Citrus County Transit

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Diez, MPO Executive Director
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III
Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II
Terri Saenz, Administrative Assistant III
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike
Roger Roscoe, Florida Department of Transportation

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Eastmond called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Introductions were made.

B. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Nomination and Election of 2021 TAC Chairperson
[2020 it was Scott Herring from Hernando County, but it alternates to Citrus County this year]

Motion: Ms. Stampfli made a motion to recommend Mr. Eastmond. Mr. Gordinier seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Nomination and Election of 2021 TAC Vice-Chairperson
[2020 it was Walt Eastmond from Citrus County, but it alternates to Hernando County this year]

Motion: Mr. Gordinier made a motion to recommend Ms. Stampfli. It was seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

No changes or modifications to the Agenda.

D. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 28, 2020

Motion: Ms. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gordinier seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Florida Department of Transportation Presentation – Five-Year Tentative Work Program (FY 2022-2026)

Mr. Roscoe made a presentation on the tentative 5-year program. Highlights included:

- Right of Way -- US 41 from Live Oak Lane to Arlington
- Preliminary Engineering -- Cobb Rd. from Cortez to Brooksville Water Reclamation Dr
- Deferred Construction -- Cortez Blvd from Buck Hope Rd to Jefferson
- Resurfacing (Preliminary Engineering) – Ponce de Leon from Hernando County Line to US 19; Gulf to Lake Hwy from US 41 to Sumter County Line; US 98 from Spring Lake Hwy/Mondon Hill to Lockhart Rd; and US 98 at Mondon Hill Rd

Further information and comments can be made at: www.D7wp-ph.com

2. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise -- Five-Year Tentative Work Program (FY 2022-2026)

Mr. Fine with Florida's Turnpike gave an update on their 5-year program.

- Resurface Suncoast Parkway/SR 589 from MP 37.3 to MP 44.5 (milling and resurfacing, guardrail installation, signing, and pavement marking improvements) and MP 44.5 to MP 55.2 (Milling and resurfacing) – Hernando County.
- Construction of the Suncoast Parkway 2, from SR 44 to CR 486 (Four toll lanes will be provided. The project also includes extending the Suncoast Trail from US 98 to CR 486). – Citrus County. Construction is programmed for FY 2023.

3. TMA Leadership Group – Transit Funding Position Statement

This is informational only and this MPO is not part of the TMA (only Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties), but they issued a statement supporting the need to expand funding for the region's underfunded transit agencies rather than reallocating resources.

4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2021-FY 2022 – Modification

The MPO is required to modify the UPWP when money is moved from one task to another. To accommodate a scope of services for the congestion management process to the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc., funding was shifted from task 3.4 to 3.8. The modification did not change the amount of the UPWP budget.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Safety Performance Measures – [Resolution 2021-01]

In 2018, the MPO adopted a resolution supporting FDOT's "Vision Zero" as an aspirational target for the safety measures with a 5% reduction based on a 5- year average. Mr. Diez reported based on new crash data there is an increase in crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries in Citrus and Hernando. Distracted driving, mainly driving off the road, has been identified as a major contributor associated with the increase reflected in the new crash data

Motion: Ms. Stampfli made a motion to approve. Mr. Rice seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Unified Planning Work Program – Goal Setting

The UPWP budget document is created every two (2) years and updated in the second year. The document identifies the work tasks of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) annual transportation planning effort with the proposed budget cost and funding sources.

FY 2021-FY 2022As we prepare for the second year, project tasks are being provided to the committee to review and comment. The budget for FY 2022 was estimated and will be amended upon receipt of the apportionment notice amount.

The UPWP was approved in May of 2020 and this is the second year that will be updated in May 2021 with a draft in March 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the TAC review the project tasks outlined in the FY 2021- FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program and identify and recommended additions or modifications to the MPO Board.

After discussion Mr. Diez stated the item did not require a motion.

3. Congestion Management Process – Scope of Services

This Congestion Management Process/State of the System scope includes the following tasks:

Task 1 - Level of Service Update which include developing motorized vehicle traffic count growth rates, generalized tables spreadsheets, existing (2020) and existing plus committed (2025) roadway motor vehicle LOS and reports using the latest available data to analyze congested corridors

Task 2 - Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update

This task helps address the Federal requirements for the CMP with emphasis on demonstrating the extent to which mobility options exist within congested corridors and identify strategies that may help reduce congestion and/or provide mobility options. This task also includes generating the Annual CMP State of the Systems Report.

Task 3 - Detailed analysis

The consultant will provide a detailed analysis on up to 3 specific locations to evaluate effectiveness of recommended strategies.

Task 4 - 2045 LRTP Amendment Assistance

As needed, the consultant will prepare one revised LRTP amendment.

The cost of all 4 tasks included in the scope is \$139,958.00 as outlined in Attachment A of the scope document.

Motion: Mr. Gordinier made a motion to approve. Ms. Stampfli seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

G. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chair Eastmond noted for the record that he did not ask for public comment as there was no public in attendance.

H. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Stampfli with The Bus reported ridership is increasing again. They are back to providing regular full service and fares are being generated again. They just purchased two new buses.

Ms. Hall with Citrus Transit reported they still have no orange line service (ID and fixed route) and are using those drivers to assist with paratransit and have expanded service 6am to 6pm. They are still offering no fare trips and recently ordered 2 new vans and 2 buses.

Mr. Eastmond reported that Citrus recently completed a 2-mile road widening project at CR 491 and SR 44. He complimented FDOT staff for their efforts on US Highway 19, the safe routes to school project/CR 581, Forest Ridge Boulevard, Withlacoochee State Trail reconstruction (huge project).

Mr. Gordinier stated that Hernando county also accomplished several safe routes to school projects in 2020 and they already have one completed in 2021. They will be starting on the second one in March. They have done a few resurfacing jobs over the last year, Shoal Line and Hernando Beach, and Croom Road. They are back to doing traffic studies; traffic volumes are down (due to COVID-19) and speeds are up. They continue getting complaints about people speeding in neighborhoods.

Mr. Mundell stated that the Hernando County School District has been greatly impacted by the pandemic. They have protocols in place and continue to address concerns as they arise. There have been some issues with parents' vehicles overcrowding the parking lots because a lot more parents are working from home. There is also concern about the McKinney-Vento kids, which are homeless children. They picked up six yesterday. If the allowance of rent payments on behalf of tenants due to the pandemic, subsidizes they risk seeing more children.

Mr. Diez asked about the JD Floyd Study which has to do with the school parking lot. Mr. Mundell did not know the status but will find out.

Discussion continued about the parents in both counties lining up in the parking lots hours before children are out of school, causing problems for parents/guardians needing to get their children from school for a doctor appointment prior to the end of the school day. Parents arguing and entering crosswalks with their vehicles when people are in them. Parents are afraid to utilize the school buses and if one child ends up with COVID, then other children that were sitting around that child need to be quarantined. Bus drivers are having to constantly update seating charts and luckily have videos from the buses to assist them.

Mr. Diez updated the committee that he will be retiring at the end of October.

- I. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING** – The meeting concluded at 11:02 am. The next regular meeting of the TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Citrus County Transit Center, 1300 S Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL.