

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

**Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 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](http://www.hernandocountyus.com/hernandocitrusmpo.com).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Engineering  
David Gordinier, Hernando County Public Works  
Chris DeAnnuntis, TBARTA  
Jannina Stampfli, Hernando County Transit  
Greg Rice, City of Inverness Community Development  
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit  
Brian Hermann, City of Crystal River  
Michelle Miller, Hernando County Planning

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Diez, MPO Executive Director  
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III  
Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II  
Terri Saenz, Administrative Assistant III  
Cody Wirth, Citrus County Transit  
Roger Roscoe, Florida Department of Transportation

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Eastmond called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Introductions were made

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

**B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

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

**C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 24, 2021**

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

#### **D. ACTION ITEMS**

##### 1. FY 2021-FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Diez reviewed the items in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 2-year UPWP that will be included:

- a. Crystal River Bypass Study (Task 3.8)
- b. Resiliency Study (Develop a vulnerability assessment to identify at risk and critical infrastructure) (Task 3.6)
- c. Interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) For Mapping and Enhanced Public communication (Task 3.5)
- d. Move funding into task 3.4 (Bicycle/Pedestrian) for Complete Streets Project - this will balance funding shift for the Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- e. Provide funding in task 3.6 to begin autonomous, connected, electric shared vehicles (ACES) analysis.
- f. Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) for Citrus Transit System (Task 3.1).

Mr. Diez went over the proposed changes to the UPWP. On Packet Page 28 we added the purchase of speed feedback signs (both portable and stationary). He asked Mr. Gordinier for an update.

Mr. Gordinier stated they have identified locations, but he has not supplied the map with exact placement and Mr. Herring has put it on hold until they know what the costs, replacement costs and maintenance will be of speed feedback signs. Also, the costs of the thermo directional “curve ahead” signs Mr. Diez requested but they need to know those costs before they can add it to their budget.

Mr. Diez stated he will reach out to Mike again. He stated there was \$803,000 close out money added to the UPWP.

Mr. Eastmond asked if that would be enough money to cover items a through f.

Mr. Diez confirmed that it will address all of those projects.

Ms. Stampfli asked about page 36, “Develop a Google transit compatible map database for TheBus” as they already partner with Google Transit. They already provide their files/data to them in December of each year so they can update Google maps, which includes any changes in timing or routes, it will automatically upload on Google Transit. It also works with the BING search engine.

Ms. Granger asked about the next item on the same page “comprehensive operational analysis” for Citrus County. What operational?

Mr. Diez stated it is the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) which is a useful tool to do an analysis of the whole system, different than a TDP. It looks at where you have been, at routes and ways to optimize the routes and his understanding is it is a “full under the hood look.” It is different than the Transit Development Plan (TDP) which looks out 10 years. Hernando County is not ready for one right now but if Citrus wants to do one, he has a cost estimate from the consultant to do one.

Mr. Eastmond asked what kind of deliverables will come out of that.

Mr. Diez stated it looks for ways to streamline the system and route study, i.e., if we need to add or change routes, look at your current operations and EPA/waste reduction. He stated that Citrus County is looking towards going to a more formal fixed route system.

Ms. Granger stated they are looking at their fixed route and if there are better ways of doing it.

Mr. Diez stated that if they go that route, it affects ADA.

Ms. Granger asked if he meant going to standard fixed route versus deviated fixed route.

Mr. Diez further stated that this update is going before the MPO for review and further adoption.

Mr. Eastmond opened to the public, but there was no one from the present.

**Motion:** Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the FY ‘21 – FY ‘22 UPWP Amendment. Mr. Rice seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 2. MPO Transportation Planning Funds Agreement Modification

Mr. Diez stated that this is a modification of the agreement between the FDOT and the MPO to incorporate the close-out balance of \$803,307 into the FY 2021/FY 2022 UPWP, bringing the totally budgetary ceiling to \$1,808,955.

**Motion:** Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the MPO Transportation Planning Funds Agreement Modification. Mr. Gordinier seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## 3. FY 2021-FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/State Transportation Improvement (STIP) Amendments

Mr. Diez stated this amendment is because the FDOT added a new project. It is to add lanes to US 301 from the Pasco County Line to SR 50/Cortez Boulevard into the FY 2021-FY 2025 program. This is for design funding.

**Motion:** Mr. Gordinier made a motion to approve the FY ’21 – FY ’25 TIP/STIP Amendments. Mr. Rice seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 1. Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) Construction Report

Mr. Diez stated the FTE construction report connects US 19/98 to SR 44 but does not include CR 486 after the Suncoast Parkway. This would make US 19 look and feel more like a freeway. The current yellow flashing lights in Yankeetown and other places on US 19, would probably be overpasses. They feel it makes more sense to upgrade US 19 than to carve out a brand new belt. This would eliminate the initial costs for the southern M-CORES and Turnpike Extension would go away leaving Suncoast Parkway as the only project.

### 2. MPO/FDOT Annual Certification 2020

Mr. Diez stated this certification is when the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) ensure that the MPO is meeting all the federal requirements and this certification states the MPO is on track.

### 3. MPO Media Release from 3/18/21 Meeting

Mr. Diez stated this a standard item that the MPO provides highlighting what took place at their most recent MPO meeting.

## **F. DISCUSSION**

### 1. Annual Update to List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Diez stated every year, the FDOT requires the MPO to submit a list of their Major Improvement Projects and Transportation Alternative (TA) projects. The current list in this agenda packet was approved last July. The MPO is proposing to add 2 new projects to the Major Project LOPP. The US 301 project as discussed earlier and Pasco/Hernando County Line Road. We are also requesting County Line Road be added to the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). Funding is supposed to be a 60/40 split with Hernando paying 60 percent and Pasco, 40 percent. So far, Hernando County has spent around \$120 million and Pasco about \$300,000.

Ms. Stampfli mentioned that TheBus added another route that includes Mariner Boulevard and County Line Road, up Shady Hills Road. Pasco County Public Transit is using Shady Hills Road going up and around the hospital as of last year, using our (Hernando) roads. They are bringing residents of Pasco County into our county for the Publix and shopping areas.

Mr. Diez asked how long that route has been in place.

Ms. Stampfli stated that started it around October of 2020.

Ms. Miller stated that if they need to look at the demographic forecasting to let her know, because they have had a number of rezoning cases that have been approved recently and a lot of those are moving into the initial plat phase based on the current real estate market.

Mr. Diez stated that with all these new projects at some point, it will have to be 4 lanes, so development plans should recognize a need for potential right of way.

Ms. Miller stated they have been preserving the right of way, working with DPW to make sure they have that in place.

Mr. Eastmond stated Citrus County would like to add Cardinal Street from US 19 to CR 491 (adding 2 lanes to existing 2 lanes). With the Suncoast Parkway going through, and an interchange at Cardinal, they would like to have that facility added to the list.

Mr. Eastmond stated Citrus County would like this to be a FDOT project so he assumes federal funds will be used. He also indicated they are requesting Items 3, 5, 7, and 8, on the Major Project LOPP to be changed from local funding to FDOT as well.

Mr. Roscoe stated to send a formal email request to Justin Hall to federalize the projects referenced and it will be reviewed.

Mr. Roscoe confirmed that if FDOT approves the request, the projects would stay on the list, if FDOT denies the request, they would need to be removed..

Mr. Hermann stated the City of Crystal River started a charrette last year on SR 44 (US 19) and they are coming back in June to do a live follow-up for this \$200,000 event. They have not engaged the public yet.

Mr. Diez stated it is tied to the Turkey Oak bypass study, particularly the part the City wants to make more bicycle pedestrian friendly and remove the US 19 SIS designation. The MPO Board plans to conduct a study and the project is being added to the UPWP but it has not been scoped out yet; not even assigned to a consultant. If the City of Crystal River wants to do their own study, it might be the cart before the horse without results from the bypass study. He does not know when that study will be conducted based on our MPO financial situation because earlier he discussed we had just been approved for 1.8 million dollars, but we do not have that in the bank.

Mr. Hermann stated that makes sense.

Ms. Riecss asked Mr. Roscoe if he knew a timeframe for review of the request to federalize the Citrus County projects mentioned earlier. .

Mr. Roscoe stated he would find out.

Mr. Diez stated we would get the TIP adopted and would have to amend it.

Ms. Riecss stated we would also be incorporating into the LOPPs the status of the projects based on the new snapshots. Our plan is to bring this back to show the changes of the projects at the May meeting.

Mr. Eastmond asked for clarification that if Items 3, 5, 7, and 8 can be changed to FDOT, then they can stay on the LOPP list, but if not they will come off.

Ms. Riecss and Mr. Diez both stated that was their understanding.

Mr. Eastmond stated if there were no federal or FDOT dollars, then they would remain in the Citrus County capital program.

Mr. Diez stated it could still show up in their CIPs, but not in the MPO program and affirmed not in the LOPPs.

Ms. Riecss stated when she spoke with FDOT that a section of SR 200 from US 41 to Marion County line in District 5 is getting ready to move forward and that should move up on the list.

Mr. Eastmond questioned whether District 5 is thinking about doing something on the northside of the bridge.

Ms. Riecss stated that is what she understood, and they might want to contemplate the placement of that project on the LOPP.

Mr. Eastmond stated that if the MPO staff has discussions with FDOT, if they could find out which District is going to take care of the bridge.

Ms. Riecss confirmed that they will.

Mr. Roscoe stated he sent Mr. Eastmond's question to Justin Hall regarding the federalized timeframe and Mr. Hall replied it would depend on what Citrus County has done on those projects at the local level.

Mr. Eastmond stated that Citrus County has done some work as far as completing a piece on the north of Croft Avenue but on the south end they have not touched.

Mr. Roscoe stated that Mr. Hall responded again to Mr. Eastmond's question that it could take 6 months to 2 years depending on what has been done, it could take to federalize a project.

He will draft the request and send it to Mr. Diez who can forward to FDOT.

Mr. Diez stated there are no proposals to the TA list. FDOT has told us to keep Withlacoochee State Trail as the number 1 project because even though critical areas are being fixed, the trail itself

is not in good shape. There is very little TA funding, and nothing for earlier than 2024. That is the only type of money that is available for trails and sidewalks.

Mr. Eastmond asked that Mr. Diez address these concerns and the funding that is available to the MPO Board.

Ms. Miller stated the Planning Department is in the process of awarding a consultant to complete the design and engineering for pedestrian improvements for the area of Kass Circle. It will include traffic calming, potential crosswalks, etc. so, it can probably come off the TA list. Sidewalks are still in need, but she will get back to us on removing Kass Circle from the list.

Discussion on removing the Suncoast Parkway trail off the TA list occurred because FTE is constructing as part of the Suncoast project

Mr. Eastmond stated that Sugar Mill residents want a connection from Courtwood to the Suncoast Trail along CR 480 . Citrus County plans to do this project with in-house. Halls River Road is also on the next Citrus County agenda. He gave an update on Fort Island Trail they are looking at costing and Citrus County doing a mile section from the west end of the beach and coming east about a mile. They just completed a survey for that section, and he will be presenting to their Board for review.

## **G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one from the public was present.

## **H. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

## **I. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING – The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.**

**The next regular meeting of the TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Citrus County Transit Center, 1300 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL.**

The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at:

[www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo](http://www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo).