

**HERNANDO/CITRUS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2020**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) 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.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.us.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Henize, Citizen-at-Large, Hernando County
Jim Lipsey, Hernando County Schools
James McLean, Citizen-at-Large, Citrus County
Scarlett Sharpe, Citizen-at-Large, Hernando County
Michelle Minnie, Hernando County Parks and Rec
Sergeant Kelly Brown, Hernando County Sheriff's Office
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County Schools
Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness

OTHERS PRESENT

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

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Sharpe called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made, a quorum was declared.

B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Henize seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion: Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the August 26, 2020 minutes as presented. Mr. Henize 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 14th. When the hearing opens you can go the following link: <https://www.d7wpph.com/>. If the link changes, MPO staff will advise.

No comments or questions.

2. MPO Meeting Summary – September 10, 2020

Mr. Diez asked for any questions about the meeting summary or the issue list as he had nothing to add.

Mr. McLean inquired if anyone from the MPO Board had questions regarding the TRIP.

Mr. Diez stated no comments from the MPO group but that the CCC (the regional group) had comments about one of the platforms being carried to the legislature next year for the TRIPS program will be to have a consistent balance; we are asking for \$250 million as right now there is next to nothing in the TRIP program.

Mr. McLean expressed concern about the multiuse trail priority projects listed.

Mr. Diez stated the MPO did not have any comments about the trail program either.

3. Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Diez reiterated that all MPO meetings next year will be held in Citrus County at the Lecanto Government Building with the committee meetings still rotating between the two counties, either at the Hernando Building Division Training Facility or at the Citrus County Transit Building. There will be MPO meetings every month except for November but they are subject to change as well. The MPO Board should approve at our meeting next month.

No comments or questions.

4. Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Impact Significance (MCORES) Status

Mr. Diez stated the FDOT has been asking for public input since around September 29th and it closed October 14th. Per Florida Statutes they are required to have public input by November 15th.

Mr. McLean commented that it tends to bring more questions than answers.

Mr. Diez mentioned that the City of Inverness has issued opposition to using SR 44 as a connector for the part of the turnpike and parkway connector. It would increase traffic congestion not only for Inverness, but also for Citrus County. Mr. Diez further mentioned that this project of 3 turnpikes will be biggest road building project in Florida since the interstate.

Mr. Henize hoped that their mention of no havoc environmentally is correct.

5. FDOT Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety Report 2020

Mr. Diez referenced the FDOT bicycle report for 2020 and looking through the report bike and pedestrian are high on the list for fatalities and injuries. The most prevalent crash types for pedestrians is crossing outside of the crosswalks and for cyclists it is the failure to yield. FDOT is trying to blend into engineering countermeasures to make the roads more bike and pedestrian friendly, and less hazardous. He complimented FDOT for finally noticing that there are a lot more users on the roads than just motorists.

A member commented that the areas of concern seem to be in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties more than Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus.

Mr. Diez stated they are focusing on the high crash numbers or fatalities in the denser areas.

Chairperson Sharpe commented they are concentrating on the entire District 7 and trying to make the roads safer for all users.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Performance Measures

Mr. Diez explained that pursuant to the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) requirements, the MPO is required to adopt the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Performance Measures (PTASP) within 180 days of adoption by the transit agencies. Hernando County (The Bus) adopted theirs on June 23, 2020 and Citrus County (Citrus County Transit) on September 8, 2020. Staff is recommending this committee approves adoption by the MPO Board at their next meeting.

Mr. McLean questioned why the difference in each county Exhibit “A” – Hernando states “Incidents” and Citrus reads “Injuries.”

Mr. Diez revealed he asked both transit folks who stated that each transit agency can set their own performance measures and they call them different things. He further stated incidents means an injury basically.

Mr. Henize asked what are “Safety Events?”

Chairperson Sharpe suggested that in Tampa they do something called a “street rodeo” where they set up tents hand out safety material to people walking or bicycling by.

Motion: Mr. Henize made a motion to approve the adoption of the resolutions by the MPO. Mr. McLean seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Dagenhart commented that there are no citizens at the meeting.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS /UPDATES

Mr. McLean communicated that the Withlacoochee Trail extension to the Dunnellon Trail is under construction. Also repairs on sections of the Withlacoochee State Trail will be done shortly.

H. MPO STAFF COMMENTS/UPDATES

Mr. Diez referenced a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Best Practices Symposium put on by Florida LTAP Center and FDOT. MPO staff will send out the link if anyone is interested in registering.

I. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Sharpe adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

It was announced that the next BPAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 3:30 p.m.