



Hernando/Citrus
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regular Meeting
 ~ Minutes ~

June 17, 2021 1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at the 3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto Government Center, Lecanto, Florida.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Robert Battista	Member, City of Brooksville	Present
Jeff Holcomb	MPO Vice-Chairman, Hernando County	Present
Jeff Kinnard	MPO Chairman, Citrus County	Present
Cabot McBride	Member, City of Inverness	Present
Ruthie Davis Schlabach	Member, Citrus County	Present
Steven Diez	MPO Executive Director	Present
Carlene Riecsc	Transportation Planner III	Present
Cayce Dagenhart	Transportation Planner II	Present
Theresia Saenz	Administrative Assistant III	Present
Garth Coller	Hernando County Attorney	Present

Invocation

Mr. McBride led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McBride led the pledge of allegiance.

MPO Board & Staff Introductions

Please Silence Electronic Devices

Enter Proof of Publication into the Record

Ms. Riecsc read the proof of publication into the record.

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

Motion: *Mr. McBride made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Battista seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
SECONDER: Robert Battista, Member, City of Brooksville
AYES: Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of May 13, 2021

Motion: Ms. Davis Schlabach made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. McBride seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Member, Citrus County
SECONDER: Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
AYES: Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FDOT - US 301 from S of US 98 to SR 50 Presentation

Ms. Henzel with FDOT gave a presentation of the plans to expand US 301 from a 2 lane facility to a 4 lane facility and how it will affect Hernando and Pasco Counties. They are holding a hybrid public meeting/hearing on June 24th where they will have both in-person and virtual components for attendees.

No questions or comments from the Board.

MPO Meeting Summary from 5/13/21, and Updated Issue List

Mr. Diez recapped the meeting summary from May 13, 2021 where the Board:

Adopted the Amendment to the FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP),

Approved the Joint Certification with FDOT,

Approved the Amendment to the FY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, and

Reviewed a draft of List of Priority Projects (LOPP) for FY 2022/2023.

Mr. Diez stated the issues list remains current and as items are resolved they are removed from the list.

Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) Report

Mr. Diez stated that the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) requested their current construction report be included in the MPO packets for informational purposes. An FTE representative is at the meeting for any additional questions.

No questions or comments from the Board.

Status - Interlocal Funding Agreement

Mr. Diez stated that prior to the meeting, Mr. Oliver with Citrus County stated that the changes made by Citrus County to the interlocal agreement could proceed and the document be circulated for all parties to sign.

MPO PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Adoption

Mr. Diez stated the TIP contains the FY 2021/FY 2022 LOPPs that were approved by the MPO on July 9, 2020. The LOPP is updated annually at the beginning of the Work Program cycle and the TIP at the end of each cycle. All of the committees reviewed the TIP last month.

Motion: *Mr. McBride made a motion to adopt the TIP. Mr. Holcomb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

A roll call was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

The Board had no comments.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
SECONDER:	Jeff Holcomb, MPO Vice-Chairman, Hernando County
AYES:	Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

MPO List of Priority Projects (LOPP) for FY 2022/2023

Mr. Diez gave an update to the LOPP:

With regards to the Transportation Alternatives List, the Suncoast Parkway Trail was removed because the trail will be built by the Florida Turnpike Enterprise.

With regards to the Major Projects List, the 4 laning of Cardinal Road from US 19 to CR 491 was proposed to be added. All MPO committees supported the 4 laning although the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) thought the 4 laning should end at the Suncoast Parkway and not 491. Although the CAC's comments are noted, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) indicates future 4-laning is needed from US 19 to CR 491

There were no public comments.

There were comments from the Board.

Motion: *Mr. McBride made a motion to approve the LOPP. Mr. Holcomb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

There were no public comments.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
SECONDER:	Jeff Holcomb, MPO Vice-Chairman, Hernando County
AYES:	Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment

Mr. Diez stated the revision to the 2045 LRTP addresses several items:

- Bikeways and Trails Vision Map - add a trail need along SR 50 from the SR 50 Bypass to Lockhart Road
- Remove Exile Road from the LRTP roadway needs through the Lake Hideaway development
- Add widening Powell Road from California to US 41, from 2 to 4 lanes, as a roadway need
- Add widening of US 301 from Pasco County Line to SR 50/Cortez Boulevard from 2 to 4 lanes, as a committed/cost feasible roadway project.

There was no public input.

The Board had no comments or questions.

Motion: *Mr. McBride moved to approve. Ms. Davis Schlabach seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

A roll call was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
SECONDER:	Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Member, Citrus County
AYES:	Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

MPO ACTION ITEMS

Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. - Authorization of Phase II (Tasks 2 and 3) of the Congestion Management Process

Authorization to proceed with Phase II (Tasks 2 and 3) of the Congestion Management Process.

No public comment.

No discussion by the Board.

Motion: *Mr. McBride moved to approve. Ms. Davis Schlabach seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

There were no public comments

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
SECONDER:	Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Member, Citrus County
AYES:	Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

Board Appointment - Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

The Agency for Health Care Administration has requested replacements for their representation on the Citrus County Local Coordinating Board (LCB).

Motion: *Ms. Davis Schlabach motioned to approve. Mr. McBride seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Member, Citrus County
SECONDER:	Cabot McBride, Member, City of Inverness
AYES:	Battista, Holcomb, Kinnard, McBride, Davis Schlabach

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Eastmond stated he was contacted by a DOT consultant that DOT is planning a 3R Project that includes re-surfacing, safety upgrades, median improvements, etc., on US 98 from the ramp at the Suncoast Parkway to US 19. The project is similar to what is currently being done on US 19.

Citrus County adopted a resolution that calls for a multi-use path to be included as part of any FDOT roadway project within Citrus County wherever possible. If the Board is interested in pursuing a multiuse trail as part of the 3R project, the consultant would like to get the information early so they can plan for it. Mr. Eastmond is looking for direction from this Board.

Chairman Kinnard stated he did not believe Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has discussed this particular stretch of road for a multi-use path. He would think that the Citrus BOCC would support including a multi-use path.

Mr. Diez commented that the TA list of the LOPP includes a project from Sugar Mill Woods to the trailhead at US 98. If FDOT would approve inclusion of the multi-use path in the 3R project, it could be removed from our TA LOPP.

The construction cost would be funded by FDOT but Citrus County would have maintenance responsibility. No upfront money would be required from Citrus.

Mr. Diez offered to send a letter to FDOT from the MPO in support of adding this project.

Mr. Collier suggested bringing before the Citrus Board for ratification which Chairman Kinnard will do at the next BOCC meeting.

No objections by the Board.

Dade Conger, Crystal River resident, commented about traffic signals (continuous flow arrow) so cars can keep going.

Also going west on SR 44 from Lecanto to Inverness, the road name signs on the side roads are not visible until you pass by them.

Pete Cuccaro representing the Pine Ridge Property Owners Association, stated a letter was sent by the president of their POA to Kevin Thibault, Secretary of FDOT reminding him of the POA's opposition to the Suncoast Parkway at the interchange of CR 486 and Pine Ridge Boulevard intersection.

A discussion followed with Mr. Fine confirming that the letting (construction) for the Suncoast from SR 44 to CR 486 would be in September of 2022.

MPO DIRECTOR'S CUT

The interviews for the MPO Executive Director position will begin in the next couple of weeks and an interview panel has been selected.

The West Central Florida MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) still has a vacancy and are meeting next Friday, June 25th in Tampa, FL. Mr. Holcomb offered to attend virtually.

Mr. McBride stated the City of Inverness has placed a flashing signal warning device at the Withlacoochee Trail on US 41 and Eden Road. They would like to place them elsewhere if there were funding available.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Collier stated Jon Jouben will be the new county attorney to replace him.

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETING: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021, BEGINNING AT 1:30 P.M. AT THE LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING, 3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, LECANTO, FL 34461.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.