
HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2022

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at the Lecanto Government Building 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166 Lecanto, Florida 34461. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun Times and the Citrus Chronicle, and the agenda was available online at: www.hernandocountyus/hernandocitrusmpo.com.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scarlett Sharpe, Hernando County
Jim McLean, Citrus County
Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness
Dennis Henize, Hernando County
Alicia “Michelle” Minnie, Hernando County Parks and Recreation
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District
Brian Herrmann, City of Crystal River

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III
Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II
Robert Esposito, Executive Director
Julia Scourtas, Financial Operations Assistant
Suzanne Monk, Florida Department of Transportation

A. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Sharpe called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- Introductions were made.
- Proofs of publication of meeting notice were entered into the record by Ms. Riecss.
- A quorum was declared.

B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

Motion: Ms. Sherry Bechtel motioned to approve the agenda as presented Mr. Jim McLean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Mr. Dennis Henize made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Jim McLean seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. MPO Meeting Update – May 5, 2022

The meeting summary from the MPO’s May 5, 2022, meeting is provided as an informational item; no action required.

2. Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) – Presentation

FTE Staff made a presentation to the TAC regarding the Northern Extension of the Florida Turnpike.

3. Benesch and Associates – Complete Streets Presentation

Benesch and Associates staff made a presentation to the TAC regarding the Completed Streets project.

The MPO contracted with Benesch and Associates, Inc to perform a Scope of Services for the Complete Streets Policy and Implementation plan. The project is focusing on development of a Complete Streets Implementation Plan for the MPO, and its local agency partners based on the Implementation Strategies identified in the Phase I document.

The project is nearing completion and the consultant will be providing the TAC with an update prior to finalization.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2023-2027

The TIP contains the funded FDOT Five-Year Work Program and the local jurisdiction Transportation Work Programs. The TIP implements the projects contained in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Projects are required to be shown in the TIP for inclusion into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and subsequent funding through joint participation agreements.

A draft TIP was submitted to the FDOT on May 13, 2022. The FDOT has a prescribed timeframe to review the draft and provide comments to staff. The comments will be addressed in the FY 2023-FY 2027 TIP prior to MPO approval. A 30 day public comment period was opened on May 16, 2022. Additionally, the draft TIP has been posted to the MPO website.

The draft TIP will be reviewed by the MPO Board on June 2, 2022, and final action scheduled for July 7, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Jim McLean made a motion to provide comments as noted to the MPO regarding the draft 2023-2027 TIP. Mr. Dennis Heize seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

MPO's in Florida are required to perform an annual review of the federally funded List of Priority Projects (LOPP). Consistent with the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), revisions to the program take into account the project development activities of the prior year. The Hernando/Citrus MPO LOPP includes a list of Major Projects and Transportation Alternative Projects.

The attached LOPPs highlight changes in red for review. The TA list switches the placement of the N. Independence Highway Sidewalk with the Cardinal Drive Sidewalk. The CAC requested that consideration during a discussion in March. Two additional projects were suggested for addition to the major project list at the TAC meeting in March including Rock Crusher from CR 490 to SR 44, and Venable/Crystal Oaks from US 19 to SR 44.

With regards to the Major Project List, at the May 5, 2022, MPO Meeting, the Board moved County Line Road up to #1 on the Congestion Management/Major Project list and Cobb Road to #4.

The proposed changes will be reviewed by the MPO Board in June, and final adoption at their July 7, 2022, meeting. The LOPP will be incorporated into the FY 2023-FY 2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

Motion: Mr. Dennis Henize made a motion to recommend approval of the LOPP as presented. Mr. Jim McLean and the motion carried unanimously.

F. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

G. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Henize mentioned the issue of E-bikes as it relates to use on the trails. Discussion ensued.

H. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING – The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) WILL TENTATIVELY BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022, AT 3:00 P.M. AT THE LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING 3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166 LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461

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

www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.