



**HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVED  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 26, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.**

The Technical Advisory Committee met on October 26, 2022, at 10:00 AM in the Lecanto Government Center, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto Florida. The meeting was advertised, and the agenda was posted on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's website. Attendance at the meeting included: Scott Herring, Chairman, Hernando County Director of Public Works/County Engineer, Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Planning Department; Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Public Works Department; Chris Mundell, Hernando County School District; Greg Rice, City of Inverness; Brian Hermann, and Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit Director.

Absent were the following members: Michelle Miller, Planning Administrator, and Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District.

Also present were Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director, Carlene Riecse, Transportation Planner III, and Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator. Suzanne Monk, Government Liaison, Eric Henry and Emmeth Duran from the Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Office were in attendance at the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Scott Herring, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. A Moment of Silence, Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of Committee Members and Staff occurred. A quorum of members was declared.

### **APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Walt Eastmond to approve the agenda as provided. Mr. Mundell seconded the motion, and it passed 7-0.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 25, 2022**

The minutes of the May 25, 2022, meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee were presented for review and approval. A motion was made by Joanne Granger to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Brian Herrmann and carried 7-0.

### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Florida Department of Transportation Safety Presentation**

Mr. Eric Henry of the FDOT District 7 Safety Office and Mr. Emmeth Duran, Consultant, for the District 7 Safety Office provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Henry indicated that Citrus and Hernando make-up approximately 10% of the fatalities in District 7 and while that number is not a big number, he noted that Hernando has a marked increase of twenty-one percent (21%) compared to the same time last year. Hernando and Citrus counties are seeing an increase over previous years. He noted that in 2021, about half of the fatalities were on local roads. He noted that Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding is available to help with improvements.

FDOT adopted a Safe System Approach with 5 key objectives. Safe Actions at the State Level include Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Target Zero Behavior Campaign, Florida Design Manual Revisions, and Safe Strides.

Mr. Duran reviewed safety actions taken at the State Level. In District 7 that involves the 5E Safety Approach (**E**ducation, **E**ngineering, **E**nforcement, **E**valuation, and **E**ncouragement).

Mr. Herring asked about the pedestrian beacons. Mr. Duran stated that it was not appropriate in all locations for the beacons but is predicated on need.

Mr. Mundell questioned the data on the slide reflecting safety challenges. Mr. Duran clarified that the data was a ranking of causes not the number of occurrences and related to serious injury crashes but not all crashes.

### **Consultant Scopes of Service**

Ms. Riess reviewed two scopes that the Staff will be proposing to the MPO Board at their meeting on November 3, 2022. The first scope involves traffic counts and the second is to begin the Vulnerability Assessment Study. She noted that the new count data will be used in assessing roadway conditions and levels of service for transportation and land use planning applications.

She reviewed the tasks to be undertaken by the Vulnerability Study which will include an assessment of facilities, critical priorities, using a mitigation matrix to prioritize the projects, and forming stakeholder groups. Mr. Herring noted members of the Emergency Operations Center should be participating in the study.

### **Update from September 1, 2022, MPO Meeting/Workshop**

There was no discussion by the Committee on the update of the September 1, 2022, MPO Board meeting as provided in the packet.

### **Discussion – Joint Committee Meetings**

Mr. Esposito discussed the possibility of having joint meetings with the MPO committees as a way to be more efficient. Mr. Herring noted no concerns with having joint meetings when appropriate. Mr. Eastmond indicated he was not in favor of joint meetings. Mr. Herring noted that it made sense at times to have joint meetings especially between the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Public Participation Plan, Title VI, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

Ms. Riecss introduced the draft update of the Public Participation Plan (PPP), Title VI, and Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). She noted a 45-day public comment period is required before MPO Board action. The plan has been updated to make it more clear as to what is required in terms of notifications, committee actions/reviews requirements, etc.

There was no public comment.

***Motion*** Mr. Eastmond moved to recommend approval of the plans to the MPO Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mundell and carried 7-0.

### **2023 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Riecss provided a proposed meeting calendar for 2023 for review. She noted that not all of the meetings may occur but needed to reserve the meeting space in advance.

***Motion*** Mr. Eastmond moved to recommend approval of the plans to the MPO Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and carried 7-0.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Herring opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

Mr. Herring opened the floor for member comments and updates. There were no member updates.

### **MPO STAFF COMMENTS/UPDATES**

Ms. Riecss noted that the Vulnerability Assessment Study was provided to members separate from the agenda packet.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hernando County Building Department's Training Room, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.