



Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Schlabach called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2023, in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. This meeting was advertised in the Citrus Chronicle and the Hernando Sun newspapers. The notices and meeting agenda packets were available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

Attendee Name	Title
Ruthie Davis Schlabach	Chair, Citrus County
Jerry Campbell	Vice Chair, Commissioner, Hernando County
John Allocco	Commissioner, Hernando County
Blake Bell	Council Member, City of Brooksville
Cabot McBride	Council Member, City of Inverness
Rebecca Bays	Commissioner, Citrus County
Joe Meek	Council Member, City of Crystal River
Robert Esposito	MPO Executive Director
Carlene Riecss	Transportation Planner III
Mary Elwin	MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner	MPO Administrative Assistant III

Invocation

Council Member McBride delivered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MPO Board & Staff Introductions

MPO Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Please Silence Electronic Devices

The Chair asked everyone to silence their electronic devices.

Enter Proof of Publication into the Record

Ms. Riecss read the proof of publication for the February 2, 2023, meeting into the record.

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

Council Member McBride made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF MPO OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Annual Election of MPO Officers and Appointments for 2023

Hernando/Citrus MPO Board

Council Member McBride made a motion to elect Commissioner Schlabach as Hernando/Citrus MPO Board Chair for 2023. Council Member Bell seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to elect Commissioner Jerry Campbell as Hernando/Citrus MPO Board Vice Chair for 2023. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

MPO Committee Appointments

Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC)

Commissioner Bays made a motion to elect Commissioner Schlabach as representative for SCTPA CCC. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Commissioner Schlabach made a motion to elect Commissioner Jerry Campbell as SCTPA CCC Alternate. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group

Commissioner Bays made a motion to elect Robert Esposito as representative for the TMA Leadership Group. Council Member Cabot seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC)

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to elect Commissioner Jeff Kinnard as representative for MPOAC. Council Member Cabot seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to elect Commissioner Steve Champion as alternate representative for MPOAC. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners proffered John Allocco as Chair of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board for 2023. Commissioner Bell made a motion to elect Commissioner John Allocco as TDLCB Chair. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

The Citrus County Commission proffered Ruthie Davis Schlabach as the Chair for the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board for 2023. Commissioner Bays made a motion to elect Ruthie Davis Schlabach as LCB Chair. Council Member Cabot seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bays made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022, and December 15, 2022, MPO Board meetings. Council Member Meeks seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME OF CITRUS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, STEVE L. HOWARD

Mr. Esposito introduced Steve Howard, Citrus County Administrator. Mr. Howard expressed his appreciation to serve the citizens of Florida and thanked the Board for their hard work and support. Commissioner Allocco welcomed and congratulated Mr. Howard and wished him success and is looking forward to working and creating opportunities together.

ACTION ITEMS

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Member Appointments

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to appoint Dennis Henize, Sherry Bechtel, and Michael Dolan, as BPAC members. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Appointment

Commissioner Bays made a motion to appoint Scarlett Sharpe as CAC member. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion and it carried 7-0. Commissioner Allocco also affirmed there we plenty of openings for additional CAC members.

Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Appointment

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to appoint Gerry Whitted as TDLCB member. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Hernando County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Selection Recommendation

Commissioner Allocco made a motion to select Mid Florida Community Services as Hernando County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028. Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Alternate Member

Commissioner Bays made a motion to elect Jerry Flanders as LCB Board Alternate Member. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Resolution to Adopt the Annual Safety Performance Measures (PM-1)

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) are required to establish safety performance measures and update annually. Mr. Esposito asked the MPO Board to approve the Annual Safety Performance Measures listed in "Exhibit A" which represents a five-percent reduction from previous year. Mr. Esposito stated Janice Martinez, law enforcement agent, would provide an updated safety presentation at next month's MPO Board and could address Commissioner Bell's question if performance measures could be benchmarked. Commissioner Allocco requested FDOT provide category definitions for each of the safety performance measures (i.e., what defines a serious injury). Chair Schlabach asked if there were comments from the public and received no comments. Commissioner Bays made a motion to adopt PM-1. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Resolution to Adopt Attendance Standards for State Agency Representative Members on Mandated Boards

Commissioner Allocco expressed frustration at non-attendance of statutorily/rule required State Agency Representative Members at public meetings. At the suggestion of Commissioner Bays, MPO Staff will draft a letter to each of the state agencies, copying the supporting State Senator, to reinforce the importance of attendance at state-mandated board meetings. For greatest impact, Commissioner Allocco suggested to not make letters look like a "form letter" approach. Commissioner Allocco made a motion to adopt the Resolution for Attendance Standards for State Agency Representative Members on Mandated Boards (Resolution 2023-01). Commissioner Bays seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

MPO Board Meeting Summary for December 15, 2022

Mr. Esposito shared the Meeting Summary for December 15, 2022. No action required as this is provided as information only. The MPO Board indicated Meeting Summaries are a helpful addition to the Meeting Minutes and asked MPO staff to continue providing.

Quarterly Financial Reports for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Mr. Esposito shared the quarterly financial reports for the periods ending September 30, 2022, and December 31, 2022. Mr. Esposito noted that the fund currently has a cash balance of approximately \$492,000.

He noted that the purchase orders for traffic counts and the vulnerability study (resilience) have been issued.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS

FDOT follow-up from December 15, 2022, MPO Board Meeting

Mr. Esposito provided follow-up based upon an email sent by the Government Liaison, Suzanne Monk. In regard to the matter of being charged a fee for usage at EV charging stations, this subject is still under discussion by FDOT. Commissioner Allocco expressed the need for vehicles to pay for EV charging stations, especially since EV vehicles are not paying road taxes. Justin Hall, FDOT Interim Director of Transportation Development, clarified there will be a usage charge at EV charging stations. The FDOT is reviewing whether FDOT or a third-party organization would be managing the fee collection. Commissioner Schlabach agreed with Commissioner Allocco that usage fees at EV charging stations should be used for roads. Commissioner Bell commented several states charge an upcharge on hybrid or EV vehicles when a license plate is obtained. Commissioner Bell also pointed out that it is not only consumer electric vehicles using the road, but several commercial vehicles are electric and not paying road tax collected via current gasoline taxes.

Project 444482-1 Update (Crystal River's Runway 9-27 Extension)

FDOT District 7 is currently working on the agreement with their Legal Department and will provide it to Quincy Wylupek in the Citrus County Engineering office within the next week or so.

FDOT Changes to Five-Year Tentative Work Program – Funding for Rumble Strips

Tying back to the Five-Year Program, Ms. Monk notified us on January 26, 2023, that both Citrus and Hernando counties were programmed to receive new funding for rumble strips (Citrus=\$130,000 and Hernando=\$527,000).

Turkey Oak/Crystal River By-Pass Project Update

Kimley-Horn, General Planning Consultant, is finishing up Phase II of the project to determine the impacts of the extension of Suncoast Parkway to local roads. They will also be providing a final report to conclude the entire project.

2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Project Status (LRTP)

This project is tasked to Kimley-Horn, one of the contracted General Planning Consultants. The Long-Range Transportation Plan is one of the federal requirements for the MPO to produce. Scope A is underway which involves the updating of data necessary to include in the LRTP.

Comprehensive Operational Analysis for Citrus County Transit (Phase II)

This project is tasked to Benesch & Associates are in the final stages completing the project.

Follow-up from Siao Si Fine, of the Florida Turnpike Enterprise

What is the acreage of land that will be used for the construction of the Suncoast Parkway from SR 44 to US 19 (CAC question)?

- The Suncoast Parkway II projects Phase 2, 3A and 3B are estimated to use approximately 980 acres of land between SR 44 to US 19. Phase 3A and 3B projects are currently in design and final right-of-way maps are in developmental stage. Total acreages are subject to change.

Are there any origin/destination studies being done on the existing Suncoast Parkway (MPO Board question)?

- Mr. Fine responded in the affirmative. There have been origin-destination studies performed on the existing Suncoast Parkway. The studies were performed in 2014 and 2019.

Consideration of Meeting Location Change in Citrus County

Mr. Esposito noted that he was asked by the Citrus County Administrator to find out whether the Board would consider moving MPO Board meetings to the Lecanto courthouse as it offered security screenings. The consensus of the Board was to remain at the Lecanto Government Building as the current location better accommodates meeting size and is centrally located.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Allocco commented on the recently opened roundabout at US 98 and Citrus Way and was pleased with how smooth traffic was able to safely maneuver through the intersection.

Commissioner Bays suggested the MPO Board draft a letter to send to the State Agencies. Refer to above Action Items to Adopt Attendance Standards for State Agency Representative Members on Mandated Boards.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schlabach adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023, beginning at 1:30 pm, in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. [The March 2, 2023, meeting has been subsequently cancelled and the next meeting date is April 6, 2023.]