



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting beginning at 10:04 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and Citrus Chronicle newspapers and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Herring, Chair, Hernando County Department of Public Works
Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Public Works Department
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
Zachary Daniel, City of Inverness
Brian Hermann, Vice Chair, City of Crystal River
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle Miller, Hernando County Planning Department
Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Planning Department
Sean Arnold, Hernando County School District
Dave Peters, City of Brooksville
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
William Roll, Kimley-Horn General Planning Consultant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Herring called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and led the Moment of Silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the Committee and staff followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum was declared and the affidavit of advertisement read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Eastmond and seconded by Ms. Granger. The Motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF 2023 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Motion: A Motion to elect Mr. Eastmond as Chair for 2023 was made by Ms. Granger. There were no other nominations. The Motion passed without dissent.

Motion: A Motion to elect Mr. Herring as Vice Chair for 2023 was made by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Daniel. The Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2022

Motion: A Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Mr. Herring and seconded by Ms. Granger. The Motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2027 ADOPTED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Motion: A Motion to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the amendment to add project number 257165-4 (US41/SR45 from S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge to N of N Sportsman Point) was made by Mr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Herring. The Motion passed unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS ANALYSIS OF CITRUS COUNTY TRANSIT – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Ms. Granger, Citrus County Transit Director, presented the Comprehensive Operations Analysis of Citrus County Transit – Draft Final Report and answered questions from Committee members. Mr. Dixon asked how Mobility-on-Demand/MOD (door-to-door) worked and Ms. Granger affirmed reservations are made via telephone. He also inquired about ridership to the YMCA and Ms. Granger stated 30 in February. Chair Eastmond inquired about plans for bus shelters and if a bus stop was planned for the new Target. Ms. Granger affirmed they have added seven bus shelters and a bus stop is planned for the new Target. Ms. Granger indicated ridership is coming back post-covid and routes are regularly reviewed and adjusted based on reduced headways, deviations in routes, and availability of bus drivers. Mr. Roll asked if the analysis showed any indication of the need to connect transit to Ocala. Ms. Granger affirmed they continue to explore interconnectivity to Ocala and Tampa. There is a weekly route to Ocala, limited to riders needing service to the Veterans Administration and Social Security offices. Committee members will be informed when they are able to retrieve a copy of the presentation from the Hernando/Citrus MPO website [TAC 2023 Agendas, 3-22-23 Addendum to Agenda](#).

Motion: A Motion to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the Comprehensive Operations Analysis of Citrus County Transit – Draft Final Report was made by Mr. Herring and seconded by Mr. Dixon. The Motion passed unanimously.

CRYSTAL RIVER/TURKEY OAK DRIVE BYPASS STUDY – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. William Roll, Kimley-Horn General Planning Consultant, presented the Crystal River/Turkey Oak Drive Bypass Study – Draft Final Report and answered questions from Committee members. For the Hernando/Citrus area, Mr. Roll mentioned the challenge of not having good ladder lines for traffic to flow between I-75 to Suncoast and US 19 to Suncoast. There was group discussion on existing Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) classified roads and the need for multijurisdictional discussions to review SIS facilities during the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. One impact of removing a SIS facility is the expense of maintenance shifts from a SIS fund to a district budget. The SIS plan is being updated and will be incorporated in the 2050 LRTP update. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the beginning phase of developing a resiliency plan which will also be incorporated in the 2050 LRTP update. Committee members will be informed when they are able to retrieve a copy of the presentation from the Hernando/Citrus MPO website [TAC 2023 Agendas, 3-22-23 Addendum to Agenda](#).

Motion: A Motion to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the Crystal River/Turkey Oak Drive Bypass Study – Draft Final Report was made by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hermann. The Motion passed unanimously.

2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) SCOPE B PROPOSAL

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

Motion: A Motion to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope B Proposal was made by Mr. Herring and seconded by Mr. Dixon. The Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - there were no citizens present

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Chair Eastmond shared the CR 491 section from south Audubon Park Path up to Walmart in Lecanto (two-lanes to four) is ready and awaiting DOT certification. Once certified, they can proceed with construction and the project is expected to take two years.
- Mr. Herring inquired about the status to adjust the start time of future meetings. The Committee discussed briefly and entered a motion to move the start time of future TAC meetings to 9:00 a.m.

Motion: A Motion to change the meeting time of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. was made by Mr. Herring and seconded by Mr. Daniel. The Motion passed unanimously.

HERNANDO/CITRUS MPO STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Esposito shared updates to projects the Hernando/Citrus MPO is currently working on and indicated he would be reaching out to the TAC members, among others, seeking approximately 20 stakeholders to participate in a 2050 LRTP/Resiliency Study Stakeholders Workshop which tentatively has two meetings scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, and Wednesday, May 17, 2023.
- The Comprehensive Operations Analysis of Citrus County Transit and the Crystal River/Turkey Oak Drive Bypass Study are complete and were presented during today's meeting.
- The MPO is updating the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for FY2024-FY2028 and Scope B of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will begin shortly.
- In preliminary stages to collaborate with Ocala/Marion County TPO and FDOT District 7 to identify potential opportunities to use Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funding for off-SIS facilities.
- Mr. Esposito thanked the Committee and expressed his appreciation for their support and participation.

ADJORNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Eastmond adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.
