



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

### MINUTES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and Citrus Chronicle newspapers and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

#### **TAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Walt Eastmond, Chair, County Engineer, Citrus County Public Works Department  
Todd Crosby, Hernando County Department of Public Works  
Anthony Cavaliere, Hernando County School District  
David Peters, City of Brooksville  
Zachary Daniel, City of Inverness  
Sabrinna Utter, City of Crystal River  
Georgia Lim, Hernando County Transit  
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit

#### **TAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Michelle Miller, Vice Chair, Alternate, Hernando County Planning Department

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director  
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator  
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III  
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

- Chair Eastmond called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the Moment of Silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the Committee members and staff followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum was declared, and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

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

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Granger to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crosby and the motion passed 7-0.

*[It is noted for the record that Hernando County School District member, Anthony Cavaliere, arrived at the meeting.]*

#### **REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES – JULY 26, 2023**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Crosby to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and the motion passed 8-0.

#### **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE 2024 MPO MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Esposito explained that committee meetings are scheduled each month to ensure availability of meeting space and while the TAC is required to meet four times per year, it is unlikely the TAC will conduct 12 meetings in 2024. He also shared that to finalize the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by October, the TAC may have a busier meeting schedule in 2024. Mr. Crosby asked if the MPO Board meetings would be conducted at the Brooksville City Council Building or the Hernando County Commissioners Chambers. Unless space becomes available at the County Commissioners Chambers, Mr. Esposito relayed MPO Board meetings will likely be at the Brooksville City Council Building.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Peters to recommend the MPO Board approve the 2024 MPO Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and passed 8-0.

## **VULNERABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT (RESILIENCE STUDY) FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT**

Mr. Esposito reviewed a presentation from General Planning Consultant Benesch & Associates. Benesch was assigned the task of preparing a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study to identify vulnerable transportation infrastructure assets and develop recommendations and mitigation strategies that promote transportation system resilience. Benesch & Associates has completed the study and will present the final report to the MPO Board on October 5, 2023. Ms. Elwin added that the strategies and recommendations from this Study will be incorporated into the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She also highlighted that the index, which starts on page 79, lists the roadway segments that were considered and the recommended strategies to lessen their vulnerability.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Cavaliere to recommend the MPO Board accept the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Final Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and passed 8-0.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – There were no citizens present.

## **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

- Chair Eastmond shared that the Citrus County Board of County Commissions (BOCC) approved the construction contract for the next phase to widen CR 491 from Audubon Park Path to Horace Allen Street. Chair Eastmond thanked and recognized the partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 to move this project forward.

## **MPO STAFF UPDATES**

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study is complete.
- Work on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is progressing as expected.
- The County is in the process of finalizing the General Planning Consultant contracts (Kimley-Horn and Benesch & Associates) for MPO Board approval.
- The Apportionment Plan will be presented to the TAC at its meeting on October 25, 2023.

Siaosi Fine with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) was asked to provide an update on the Suncoast II-Phase 3 project (CR 486 to CR 495 and CR 495 to US 19). Mr. Fine shared that construction is funded for FY 2026-FY 2028 but the bulk of the funding and construction will occur in FY 2026. He also mentioned the FTE five-year work program is being developed and will be shared with the committee once completed. Mr. Crosby asked if the Suncoast segment to I-75 is still off the table and Mr. Fine affirmed that FTE is currently not pursuing due to the lack of public interest.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Chair Eastmond adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. The regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.