



Hernando/Citrus

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Regular Meeting

Minutes - Final

November 2, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, Vice Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
John Allocco, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Steve Champion, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Blake Bell, Mayor, City of Brooksville Mayor
Rebecca Bays, Alternate, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Cabot McBride, City of Inverness Councilman
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River Councilman
Brian Hunter, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Suzanne Monk, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Chair, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Jon Jouben, Hernando County Attorney
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Tim Roberts, Law Enforcement Liaison Program Coordinator

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

MPO Board & Staff Introductions

The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation.

Please Silence Electronic Devices

Enter Proof of Publication into the Record

A quorum was declared, and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

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

Motion

A motion was made by Mayor Bell to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman McBride and the motion passed 7-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Blake Bell
SECONDER:	Cabot McBride
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESULT:	ADOPTED
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

Review and Approve the October 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes of the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board

[13072](#)

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Bays to approve the October 5, 2023, meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allocco and the motion passed 7-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Rebecca Bays
SECONDER:	John Allocco
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

PRESENTATIONS

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Law Enforcement Liaison Presentation on Safety

[12654](#)

Tim Roberts, FDOT Law Enforcement Liaison, made a Powerpoint presentation to the MPO Board on the Traffic Safety Grant Program. He illustrated the FY 2024 grants awarded to various entities in the state including the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office and provided an overview of the Traffic Safety Grant application process, emphasis areas where grants can be

used, and how to submit a concept paper for grant funding which is required January 1 through February 28 each year. Traffic Safety Grant submission is not limited to law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Champion asked if Hernando County will remain in the Group II - Population of 50,001 to 200,000 category for FY 2025 grant submission and if the numbers reflected in the matrices are for serious injuries and death. Mr. Roberts affirmed both queries. In comparison with other U.S. states, Commissioner Allocco, asked if Florida's horizontal and perpendicular road design versus states with curved and rolling roads had an impact on safety. Mr. Roberts shared that while there are many factors involved in road safety, road design is a component; however, driver behavior largely influences road safety. Mr. Roberts encouraged the MPO Board members to have representation in the State's Safety Coalition and meeting information can be found on the FDOT webpage at :

<https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/safety-coalitions/coalitionsresources.shtm>.

Additional, traffic safety data can be reviewed and analyzed at <https://signal4analytics.com/>. Commissioner Allocco would like to review a summary of the numerical data behind the matrix rankings of 1 to 15 for the Group II counties. Mr. Roberts will review and report back to the MPO staff. Council Member Holmes asked if there is a list of the counties/school districts conducting teen driver education in school. Mr. Roberts will investigate and report back to the MPO staff.

Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five-Year Work Program (FY 2025-FY 2029) Presentation

[12653](#)

Suzanne Monk, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 Government Liaison for Hernando/Citrus MPO, provided an update on programming strategies and the proposed Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY 2025 - FY 2029. A flyer provided by the Florida Department of Transportation for the public hearing process was included in the packets and is posted on the MPO's website. Ms. Monk provided the web page for public comment which will be open through November 13, 2023.

Commissioner Allocco requested the location of the Sidewalk Gaps that were added to FY 2028 and FY 2029. Ms. Monk stated she will check with the project manager and report back to MPO Staff. Commissioner Allocco will provide a list to the MPO of State Road sidewalks that need repair. Commissioner Champion mentioned the intersection at US 41 and US 50 has ruts in the road and may need to be a higher priority. MPO staff will confirm if this on the LOPP. *[Subsequent to this meeting, Mr. Esposito confirmed FDOT Project #416735-1 will address this concern in FY 2026.]*

Florida Turnpike Enterprise Tentative Five-Year Work Program (FY 2025-FY 2029) Presentation

[12691](#)

Siaosi Fine from Florida Turnpike Enterprises (FTE) made a presentation on how FTE projects are funded, prioritized, and provided an update on the proposed Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY 2025 - FY 2029. Commissioner Allocco asked if an interchange at Centralia Road was planned. Mr. Fine will forward information to the MPO which was previously shared with Representative Holcomb on applying for an interchange. The Board

expressed their support to pursue applying for an interchange on Centralia Road in Hernando County.

Commissioner Allocco shared his experience of receiving toll invoices for vehicles not registered to him. Councilman Holmes asked for more information on project listed on agenda packet page 33 for Ridge Road partnership/new interchange. Mr. Fine explained Pasco County was to construct Ridge Road and FTE would construct the interchange.

ACTION ITEMS

Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) [12966](#)
Appointment

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Bays to reappoint Stephen Brown to serve as a member for the Person with a Disability position on the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) effective January 31, 2024, through January 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holmes and the motion passed 7-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Rebecca Bays
SECONDER:	Robert Holmes
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

Adoption of Apportionment Plan by MPO Board Resolution 2023-08 [12488](#)

Mr. Esposito shared the Apportionment Plan is prepared based upon the decennial (2020) census and no changes in the structure of the MPO Board are being recommended.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Bays to adopt the Apportionment Plan for the Hernando/Citrus MPO pursuant to the 2020 Census update, authorize the Chair’s signature on the associated Resolution 2023-08, and allow for MPO staff to transmit the Plan to the Florida Department of Transportation’s District office or processing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Champion and the motion passed 7-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Rebecca Bays
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

FY 2024 - FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment [12945](#)

Adding Eastern Federal Lands

Ms. Monk from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) explained there were two Eastern Federal Lands grant projects: 1) Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (NRW) headquarters bypass road; and 2) Crystal River NRW to replace a dock. Commissioner Bays asked for more information on the NRW dock replacement. Councilman Holmes encouraged Ms. Monk to contact Joyce Palmer, Manager at Crystal River NRW, to obtain more information and he indicated that he will reach out to Doug Baber, Crystal River City Manager, for assistance in obtaining details on the dock replacement.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Champion to approve the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2024 – FY 2028 by adding Appendix K identifying Eastern Federal Lands projects as approved by the Federal Highway Administration and allow for MPO Staff to transmit the amended TIP to the Florida Department of Transportation for processing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allocco and a Roll-Call vote carried the motion 7-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	John Allocco
AYES:	John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Jerry Campbell, and Robert Holmes
ABSENT:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, and Jeff Kinnard

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- FDOT Project #257165-3 US 41 from SR 44 to S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge: Construction started October 3, 2023, and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on November 30, 2023. Location to be determined.
- MPOAC Meeting Thursday, January 25, 2024. Would need MPOAC Representative, Jeff Kinnard, to attend; Jerry Campbell is the MPOAC Alternate. MPO Staff will send a meeting notice on the calendar.
- Outlook meeting notices will be sent out for the 2024 Committees and Transportation Disadvantaged meetings. Would like to send meeting notices out for the 2024 MPO Board meetings after Board Liaison appointments for each county.
- There are two alternate MPO Board members for the City of Crystal River and it would be beneficial to also have two alternate members for: Citrus County, the City of Brooksville, and the City of Inverness.
- 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - Scope A was completed, and Scope B is underway. The final scopes, C and D, will need to be issued immediately after the new GPC contracts are approved by the MPO Board which is tentatively scheduled for the December 7, 2023.
- Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County (US41 and SR 200) and Hernando County

(County Line Road and US 41) will commence upon the approval of new GPC contracts (anticipated December 7, 2023).

- A multi-agency Interlocal Agreement for improvements to County Line Road was approved by the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board on October 5, 2023, and approved by the Pasco MPO Board on October 12, 2023. However, due to funding issues facing FDOT at this time, the District 7 office cannot commit to the agreement and therefore, the agreement cannot be fully executed and will need to be updated.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Commissioner Bays asked if something could be provided to bullet point the benefits/repercussions of maintaining the Strategic Intermodal Systems (SIS) designation for US 19 and the SIS designation is not for the purpose of emergency evacuation.
- Vice Chair Campbell acknowledged keeping Chair Schlabach in thoughts and prayers. He encouraged the Board to complete the annual performance evaluation form for Mr. Esposito, thanked Citrus County Sheriff's office for their continued support and attendance at the MPO Board meetings, and thanked the MPO Staff for facilitating the Board meetings in an orderly fashion.
- Commissioner Allocco wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

ITEMS PRESENTED OR DISTRIBUTED DURING THE MEETING

[13215](#)

1. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Tentative Five-Year Work Program (Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029) PowerPoint Presentation
2. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Tentative Five-Year Work Program (Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029) Highlights

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023, beginning at 1:30 pm, in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.