



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

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 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
Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Planning Department
Anthony Cavaliere, Hernando County School District
David Peters, City of Brooksville
Zachary Daniel, City of Inverness
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
Jeanette Collins, City of Crystal River
Michelle Miller, Vice Chair, Alternate, Hernando County Planning Department
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit
Scott Herring, Hernando County Department of Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Suzanne Monk, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Carol Scott, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Eastmond called the meeting to order at 9:27 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 Mr. Peters to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 6-0.

REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and the motion passed 6-0.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS MPO APPORTIONMENT PLAN

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 Mr. Daniel to recommend the MPO Board approve the Hernando/Citrus MPO Apportionment Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and passed 6-0.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) UPDATE

An update to the Public Participation Plan (PPP) was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Esposito reviewed the major updates to the PPP.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Peters to recommend the MPO Board approve the MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cavaliere and passed 6-0.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) BYLAWS UPDATE

Mr. Esposito reviewed the major updates to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Bylaws.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to recommend the MPO Board approve the Technical Advisory Committee Bylaws Update. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels and passed 6-0.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE FY 2024-FY 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT ADDING EASTERN FEDERAL LANDS

Chair Eastmond asked what the Eastern Federal Lands include. 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.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Peters to recommend the MPO Board approve the FY 2024-FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment by adding Appendix K reflecting the projects funded by Eastern Federal Lands. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cavaliere and passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM (FY 2025-FY 2029) PRESENTATION

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. Chair Eastmond asked if plans have been prepared for the Sidewalk Gaps that were added to FY 28 and FY 29. Ms. Monk stated no plans have been developed but construction funding was added for both Hernando and Citrus counties so work could be programmed and would be on-going. 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.

2. FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM (FY 2025-FY 2029) PRESENTATION

Carol Scott 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. Mr. Esposito and the MPO Board thanked FTE for expediting the expansion of the Suncoast Parkway.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – There were no citizens present.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Chair Eastmond thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the completion of work on US 19 from the Hernando County Line north to W. Jump Court. The project looks awesome and is a very nice road to drive on, he commented. Chair Eastmond also recognized FDOT contributions to Citrus County for the continued work on US 19 (from W Jump Court to Fort Island Trail), and US 41. Chair Eastmond thanked Florida Turnpike (FTE) for the expansion of the Suncoast Parkway. Chair Eastmond shared that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the next phase of the widening of CR 491 on November 13, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Citrus County Public Information Office will be sending out information soon. The Chair thanked Florida State and FDOT for their support on this \$13.3 million dollar project.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- FDOT Project #257165-3 US 41 from SR 44 to S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge: CST started October 3, 2023 (anticipated to last 2 years) and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony November 30, 2023.
- A FDOT Safety Liaison will give a presentation at the November 2, 2023, meeting of the MPO Board. As a reminder, annual grant applications are due in February 2024.
- Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (Resilience Study) is complete and was approved by the MPO Board on October 5, 2023. The Study will be incorporated into the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- 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 their November 2, 2023, meeting.
- 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 Nov/Dec).
- 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 County MPO Board on October 12, 2023, however, further discussions will need to occur before proceeding.
- To avoid future quorum issues, MPO Staff will begin sending email calendar invites for future committee meetings as well as asking TAC members to provide the name of an alternate.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Eastmond adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.