



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

Thursday, March 28, 2024

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was publicly noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Walt Eastmond, Chair, County Engineer, Citrus County Public Works Department
Scott Herring, Hernando County Department of Public Works
Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Planning Department
Omar Depablo, Hernando County Planning Department
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit
Steve Gouldman, City of Brooksville
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
Jeanette Collins, City of Crystal River
Anthony Cavaliere, Hernando County School District
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Suzanne Ziegler, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Victoria Anderson, Assistant County Attorney, Hernando County
William Roll, General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Eastmond called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Ms. Turner noted for the record that the public notice for the meeting was posted in accordance with the adopted policies.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

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

ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2024

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to elect Scott Herring as the TAC Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.

[TAC Chair for 2024, Scott Herring, administrated the balance of the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to elect Walt Eastmond as the TAC Vice Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Status of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Presentation by General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates**
William Roll, General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, made a presentation on the status of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Suzanne Ziegler, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7 liaison, relayed the Cost Feasible Plan will be available after the FDOT Executive Committee review on April 15, 2024.
2. **Government-in-the Sunshine Presentation by the Hernando County Attorney's Office**
Victoria Anderson, Assistant County Attorney for Hernando County, made a presentation on the Sunshine Law, Public Records and Voting Conflicts.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2023

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Eastmond to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and Recommendation on the FY2025-FY2026 Adoption of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Mr. Esposito reviewed the proposed FY2025-FY2026 UPWP. Ms. Elwin shared that the MPO was notified by FDOT that the MPO will be receiving additional PL funding and those funds will be incorporated into the UPWP prior to adoption.
Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Depablo to recommend the MPO Board approve the FY2025-FY2026 UPWP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gouldman and the motion passed 7-0.
2. Review and Recommendation of Agreement and Transfer of Bicycle Trail Counters to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to recommend the MPO Board approve the Agreement and Transfer of Bicycle Trail Counters to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.
3. Review and Recommendation on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Amendment to Add Intersection Improvements for US41 (Broad Street) and CR576 (Ayers Road) in Hernando County and US41 (Florida Avenue) and CR491 (N Lecanto Highway) in Citrus County

Chair Herring invited the public to comment on the amendment. William Roll, General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, relayed that with the current constraints on revenue and the increase in costs, it will be necessary to look at cost effective, system-level improvements versus large scale projects and that intersection improvements are consistent with that methodology. Chair Herring affirmed Mr. Roll's comments and shared that a large portion of their budget is being used for system preservation.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve the Amendment to add two intersection improvements for US 41/SR 45 (Broad Street) and CR 576 (Ayers Road) in Hernando County and US 41/SR 45 (Florida Avenue) and CR 491 (N. Lecanto Highway) in Citrus County and renumber subsequent projects on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no further citizen comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee Member comments.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) on May 22, 2024. The time and location of the ceremony will be forthcoming but likely the ceremony will commence mid-morning.
- FDOT is currently scheduling meetings with the MPO Staff and the County Engineering staff of Hernando and Pasco Counties to discuss design and funding concepts to “help accelerate the development process for County Line Road.” MPO Staff will keep the Board advised as this important project moves forward.
- David Gwynn and Justin Hall from FDOT conducted site visits in Citrus and Hernando counties on February 1, 2024, and addressed the MPO Board on the limited funding due to increased costs of labor and materials.
- The MPO conducts quarterly staff meetings with Ocala Marion TPO and Lake-Sumter MPO. The entities share boundaries and similar demographics.
- The MPO also conducts regular conversations with Pasco County regarding County Line Road.
- The July 11, 2024, meeting is being canceled as the Hernando County Commission is scheduling a workshop that day. Necessary agenda items will be presented at the June or August meetings.
- Mr. Esposito will attend the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meeting in Orlando on April 25, 2024, and the Transportation Planning Exchange (TransEx) conference in St. Petersburg on May 7-8, 2024.
- Inverness City Councilman, Gene Davis, will attend the MPOAC Weekend Institute training in St. Petersburg, May 17-18, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto. *[Subsequent to this meeting, the April 25, 2024, meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2024.]*
