



**Joint Meeting of the  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) and  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)  
OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**MINUTES**

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a joint meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024, beginning at 10:30 a.m., 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.

**BPAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim McLean, Chair, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large  
Michael Dolan, Vice Chair, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large  
Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness  
Steve Gouldman, City of Brooksville  
Francine Nobles, Citrus County Parks and Recreation  
Bailey Forbes, Hernando County Parks and Recreation  
Dennis Henize, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large  
Dennis Reiland, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large  
Deputy Perez, Non-Voting Hernando County Sheriff's Office

**BPAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jenette Collins, City of Crystal River  
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Deputy Fischer, Non-Voting Citrus County Sheriff's Office

**CAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ron Lawson, Vice Chair, City of Brooksville  
Scarlett Sharpe, Hernando County - Unincorporated  
Stephen Hohman, Hernando County – Unincorporated  
Shannon Sokolowski, Low Income and/or Minority Representative  
Beverly Howard, Citrus County – Unincorporated  
Karen Esty, 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**

- Presiding Chair McLean (BPAC) called the meeting to order at 10:31 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**

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Dolan to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henize and the motion passed 7-0.

*[It is noted for the record that CAC member, Beverly Howard, arrived at the meeting.]*

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sokolowski to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharpe and the motion passed 6-0.

## **ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2024**

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sharpe to elect Stephen Hohman as the CAC Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sokolowski and the motion passed 6-0.

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Howard to elect Karen Etsy as the CAC Vice Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharpe and the motion passed 6-0.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Bechtel to elect Mike Dolan as the BPAC Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nobles and the motion passed 7-0.

*[It is noted for the record that BPAC member, Bailey Forbes, arrived at the meeting.]*

*[It is noted for the record that non-voting BPAC member, Deputy Perez, arrived at the meeting.]*

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Henize to elect Sherry Bechtel as the BPAC Vice Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reiland and the motion passed 8-0.

*[BPAC Chair for 2024, Mike Dolan, presided over the balance of the meeting.]*

## **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). Ms. Sokolowski asked what the average cost was to pursue an \$800,000 grant. Mr. Roll shared that since the grant process is competitive and requires a skilled team to gather the necessary data and process, the cost could be approximately \$80,000. Mr. Hohman inquired on the trends for county-level funding and Mr. Roll affirmed county-level funding information will be shared at a future committee meeting. Ms. Etsy questioned how funds are allocated if Citrus County is smaller than Hernando County yet Citrus County is experiencing immense growth. Mr. Roll affirmed that by federal legislation, funds are allocated based on population. Mr. Hohman conveyed that several current development projects in Hernando County were 30-40 years ago (entitled development).

### **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 JOINT MEETING OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) AND BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2023.**

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Lawson to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting of the CAC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Etsy and the motion passed 6-0.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Henize to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting of the BPAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reiland and the motion passed 8-0.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Review and Recommendation on the FY2025-FY2026 Adoption of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)  
Mr. Esposito review 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.  
**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Howard to recommend the MPO Board approve the FY2025-FY2026 UPWP. The motion was seconded by Ms. Etsy and the motion passed 6-0.  
**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Mclean to recommend the MPO Board approve the FY2025-FY2026 UPWP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henize and the motion passed 8-0.
2. Review and Recommendation of Agreement and Transfer of Bicycle Trail Counters to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Etsy 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. Sharpe and the motion passed 6-0.  
**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Reiland 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 Mr. Henize and the motion passed 8-0.
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  
**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sokolowski 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 Mr. Lawson and the motion passed 6-0.  
**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Reiland 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 Mr. Mclean and the motion passed 8-0.
4. Review and Recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Bylaws Update  
**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Lawson to recommend the MPO Board approve the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Bylaws Update. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sokolowski and the motion passed 6-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Jennifer Sullivan, Spring Hill resident, asked if a list of upcoming sidewalk projects in the Spring Hill area could be provided (Waterfall Drive and Dunkirk Road, in particular). Since these are Hernando County roads versus US or state roads, Ms. Elwin suggested Ms. Sullivan contact the Hernando County Department of Public Works County Engineer's office for that information.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

### **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

There were no CAC Committee Member comments.

### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

- Chair Dolan emphasized the need consider moving project number 14 (Good Neighbor Trail-Rehabilitation) on the Transportation Alternatives List of Priority Projects (TA LOPP) to project number 7 and renumber subsequent projects on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP). Ms. Ziegler, from the Florida Department of Transportation, explained that in order to receive future funding, requests must be submitted on the recently updated application form versus the application that was submitted in 2016. Ms. Ziegler also relayed that the current funding cycle was closed, and the application process would reopen in December 2024. Chair Dolan acknowledged that he would contact Scott Herring, Hernando County Department of Public Works County Engineer, to apply in December.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Mclean to recommend the MPO Board approve moving project number 14 to project number 7 and renumber subsequent projects on the TA LOPP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henize and the motion passed 8-0.

- In light of Spring Hill resident Jennifer Sullivan's request, and in her preparation for contacting Mr. Herring, Mr. Mclean mentioned that counties can apply for sidewalks grants (Safe Streets), but the grants require a 20% match from the county.

## **MPO STAFF UPDATES**

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- A certificate of appreciation was given by the MPO Board to John Wade recognizing his 10 years of service as a member of the CAC.
- At the October 25, 2023, CAC/BPAC meeting, Carol Scott from Florida Turnpike Enterprises (FTE) gave a presentation and Shannon Sokolowski asked if there was signage on the Suncoast Parkway for the \*347 Call Florida Highway Patrol & Road Rangers. Update from FTE: *There seems to be no signs like that on the Suncoast Parkway. However, Turnpike staff is looking at implementing these signs on the roadway.*
- 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." The 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**

Presiding BPAC Chair Dolan adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m. The next joint meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, beginning at 10:30 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.]*