



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

Thursday, May 23, 2024

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Herring, Chair, Hernando County Department of Public Works
Walt Eastmond, Vice Chair, County Engineer, Citrus County Public Works Department
Joe Hochadel, Citrus County Planning Department
Kay Griffith, Hernando County Planning Department
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit
Steve Gouldman, City of Brooksville
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness
Jeanette Collins, Growth Management Director, City of Crystal River
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Carly Hanson, Assistant Growth Management Director, City of Crystal River
Rob Cursey, Principal Associate, MPO General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates
Steve Infanti, Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates
Marc Ispass, Deputy Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Jonathan Roberson, Research Associate, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Herring called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Public Participation Plan.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 10-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2024

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 10-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Esposito announced the need to change the order of the presentations by moving the Kimley-Horn & Associates presentation from agenda item D1 to agenda item D3.

1. Presentation by the General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates, on the Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County (US 41 and SR 200) and Hernando County (US 41 and County Line Road)
Steve Infanti, Project Manager with the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates, made a presentation on the results of the Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County and Hernando County. The study objectives were to assess the existing traffic conditions for each of the corridors by determining the general level of service, the severity of congestion, identifying growth trends and travel characteristics.
2. Presentation by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the Hernando County FY 2025-FY 2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP)
Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for CUTR, made a presentation on the major update of the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY 2025- FY 2034. Mr. Esposito questioned Mr. Roberson on the average age of riders on TheBus. That information is being reviewed and will be presented to the committees at their next meeting, explained Mr. Roberson; however, it appears there is not as much high school or after school users as observed in other counties. Mr. Lipsey, Hernando County School District, offered to exchange contact information and to have a discussion with the school district before the next committee meeting. Ms. Elwin relayed that the Hernando/Citrus MPO is in the development stage of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, may want to contact CUTR to obtain transit data. Mr. Roberson acknowledged Mr. Lipsey's and Ms. Elwin's comments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and Recommendation on the Scope of Work for the Citrus County 10-Year Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY 2026-FY 2035
Chair Herring affirmed that Ms. Granger indicated she was satisfied with the Scope of Work.
Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to recommend the MPO Board approve the Scope of Work for Benesch and Associates to complete the Citrus County Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY 2026-FY 2035 in the amount of \$106,825. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eastmond and the motion passed 10-0.
2. Review and Recommendation of the Draft FY 2025-FY 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Ms. Elwin affirmed to Vice Chair Eastmond that the Citrus County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was incorporated in the draft TIP. Ms. Elwin offered to provide a summary of the changes in the proposed TIP from the current adopted TIP FY2024-FY2028. It was a consensus that a summary comparison was not needed at this time. Chair Herring invited the public to comment on the draft TIP. There were no comments.
Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve the draft FY 2025-FY 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and incorporate and/or address any comments made by the federal and state agencies. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 10-0.

3. Review and Recommendation on Revision 3 of the FY 2023-FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Elwin explained the transfer of trail counters to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is not reflected in the redlined documentation provided to the committee as staff is awaiting confirmation from the FDOT on how best to reflect the insurance proceeds received from the stolen trail counter.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to recommend the MPO Board approve Revision 3 of the FY 2023-FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and the motion passed 10-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- Chair Herring confirmed there would be a 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Workshop May 23, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, at 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. Chair Herring also noted that a schedule of public engagement opportunities for the 2050 LRTP has been provided to the committee.
- Ms. Collins asked that Carly Hanson, Assistant Growth Management Director, be added as an alternate TAC member representing the City of Crystal River.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) member, Karen Esty, has been advocating for a sidewalk on Independence Boulevard in Citrus County. In March 2024, Ms. Esty asked Citrus County Commissioners to file an application with the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to build the sidewalk on Independence Boulevard from State Road 44 to US 41. Commissioners Jeff Kinnard and Ruthie Schlabach, the county's liaisons on the Hernando/Citrus MPO board, supported Ms. Esty's request.
- The FY2025-FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was adopted by the MPO Board on May 2, 2024.
- As a reminder, the July 11, 2024, MPO Board meeting is canceled as the Hernando County Commission is scheduling a workshop that day. Necessary agenda items will be presented at the June or August meetings.
- The Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) ribbon cutting ceremony was May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Tom Varn Park in Brooksville, Florida and was well-attended.
- Mr. Esposito attended the Transportation Planning Exchange (TransEx), May 7-8, 2024, in Saint Petersburg, Florida.
- Councilman Gene Davis, City of Inverness, attended the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Committee (MPOAC) Weekend Institute training May 17-18, 2024. Mr. Davis serves as an alternate MPO Board member.
- Mr. Esposito reviewed vacant committee positions and provided the CAC and BPAC members a handout listing the positions on the boards/committees administered by the Hernando/Citrus MPO.
- A list of the public engagement meetings associated with the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) adoption was provided to the TAC as Chair Herring mentioned earlier.

A brief recess occurred. The meeting was called back to order at 9:45 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, on the Goals and Objectives for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the 2050 Preliminary Needs Assessment

Mr. Esposito introduced Marc Ispass, Deputy Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant with Kimley-Horn & Associates. Mr. Ispass made a presentation on the status of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Ms. Elwin affirmed that Kimley-Horn & Associates is cognizant on the status of the updates being conducted for the Hernando County and Citrus County Transit Development Plans

(TDP) which will be incorporated into the 2050 LRTP. Mr. Ispass explained that due to increased labor and material costs, the 2050 LRTP may not be as robust as the 2045 LRTP. Comments from the TAC included:

- Reflect more road/trail names/labels on the map and the utilization of varied or contrasting colors for two-lane and four-lane segments.
- Ensure priority projects contained in the Transportation Improvement Plan are reflected on the maps.
- Reflect current projects on the Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Needs map including such projects in Crystal River as the Jim LeGrone Memorial Park to Copeland Community Park along 8th Avenue, a Multi-Use Trail (MUT) along W. Halls River Road from Riverhaven to US 19, and a connector trail from Three Sisters Springs to Jim LeGrone Memorial Park in Crystal River.
- Additional emphasis be reflected on CR491 (an evacuation route) in Citrus County.
- Include transit route updates for Citrus County including the re-establishment of the Homosassa Line route, and the proposed routes in Hernando County for TheBus.
- Reflection of an interchange desired by Hernando County at the Suncoast Parkway at Centralia Road.
- Next drafts of the maps be accompanied by a list comparing the changes from the 2045 LRTP to the 2050 LRTP.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

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

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 10-0.

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.