



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

Thursday, July 25, 2024

MINUTES

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a joint meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2024, 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

Michael Dolan, Chair, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large
Sherry Bechtel, Vice Chair, City of Inverness
David Peters, City of Brooksville
Manuel Coimbre, Citrus County Parks and Recreation
Bailey Forbes, Hernando County Parks and Recreation
Dennis Reiland, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large
Dennis Henize, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large

BPAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim McLean, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large
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
Sergeant Matt Lillibridge, Non-Voting Hernando County Sheriff's Office

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Marc Ispass, Deputy Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Presiding Chair Dolan (BPAC) called the meeting to order at 10:30 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

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sharpe to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hohman, and the motion passed 5-0.

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) AND BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MINUTES – MAY 23, 2024

The minutes of the May 23, 2024, joint meeting of the CAC and BPAC were provided for review and approval.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hohman to approve the Minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting of the CAC. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Esty and the motion passed 5-0.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by BPAC Vice Chair Bechtel to approve the Minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting of the BPAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henize and the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, of the Needs Assessment for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Review of the 2050 LRTP Draft Cost Feasible Plan

Mr. Esposito introduced Marc Ispass, Deputy Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant with Kimley-Horn & Associates. Mr. Ispass made a presentation on the Needs Assessment for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and provided priority ranking sheets to the committee members for projects in Hernando County and Citrus County. Mr. Ispass invited the committee members to rank their top three projects and return the sheets to him. Comments from the committees included:

- Ms. Esty requested adding a connector to the West Trail from Whispering Pines City Park to US 41 to the Citrus County Major Bike/Ped/Trail Needs map.
- Mr. Hohman questioned the completion and safety of the paved shoulder bike lane on Spring Lake Highway in Hernando County. Ms. Elwin noted she would confirm that the paved shoulder bike lane is complete on the southern portion of Spring Lake Highway.
- The committee asked for clarification on the priority to add two lanes to Hospital Road from SR 50/Cortez Boulevard to Fort Dade Avenue. Mr. Ispass affirmed this project would be reviewed.
- Mr. Esposito emphasized that the state's priority is to build-out state roads. County roads are not the state's responsibility; however, the state is more likely to partner with counties that can partially fund projects.

ACTION ITEM

Review and Recommendation on the 2025 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Esposito reviewed the schedule noting that Ms. Turner had suggested that the rotation of meetings be reflected as to how they are likely to occur given a review of the past two years of meetings. The proposed schedule was more equitable to all the members for traveling purposes between the counties. CAC Vice Chair Esty suggested meetings alternate between Hernando and Citrus County on an annual basis. Members felt the rotating of the meetings between the counties as reflected in the schedule was more equitable.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hohman to recommend the MPO Board approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lawson and the motion passed 5-0.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Henize to recommend the MPO Board approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and the motion passed 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Ms. Sokolowski stated that the Hernando County Facebook page is using a 2023 versus 2024 graphic image when posting CAC vacancies. Ms. Elwin affirmed the MPO will notify the Hernando County Public Information Office to have updated.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Mr. Reiland shared that the Friends of the Withlacoochee State Trail annual bike ride fund raising event will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Workshops on August 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Brooksville and at 5:00 p.m. in Inverness. The workshops can be attended in person or virtually.
- The Florida Department of Transportation Mobility week is October 25 through November 4, 2024. Please contact the MPO office if there is interest in hosting an event.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Presiding BPAC Chair Dolan adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m. The next joint meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.