

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA

John R. “Jack” Durrance Auditorium  
Gainesville, Florida

5:00 p.m.  
December 2, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT  
IN PERSON

Mary Alford  
Ed Book  
Achaia Brown/Greg Evans  
Charles Chestnut IV  
Ken Cornell  
Linda Dixon  
Desmon Duncan-Walker  
Bryan Eastman  
Anna Prizzia  
Harvey Ward  
Casey Willits, Sec./Treas.  
Marihelen Wheeler, Vice-Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair  
Reina Saco

OTHERS PRESENT

See Exhibit A

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons  
Michael Escalante

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

None

CALL TO ORDER - October 7, 2024

Vice-Chair Marihelen Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Wheeler asked for approval of the meeting agenda and consent agenda. She requested to:

- **Move Consent Agenda Item CA.2 Safety Performance Measures and Targets to the Meeting Agenda; and**
- **Add City of Gainesville State Road 26 (University Avenue) Safe Streets For All Grant Letter of Support to the Meeting Agenda.**

A member requested that Consent Agenda Item CA.8 Transportation Disadvantaged Program be moved to the Meeting Agenda

A member requested that the Item VIII Transition Subcommittee Report be advanced in the Meeting Agenda.

**MOTION: Commissioner Alford moved to approve the Meeting Agenda and the Consent Agenda as amended to:**

- **Move Consent Agenda Item CA.2 Safety Performance Measures and Targets after Meeting Agenda Item I. Approval of Meeting Agenda and Consent Agenda Items;**
- **Move Consent Agenda Items CA.8 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Status Report after Consent Agenda Items CA.2 Safety Performance Measures and Targets;**
- **Add Meeting Agenda Item I.A City of Gainesville State Road 26 (University Avenue) Safe Streets For All Grant Letter of Support to the Meeting Agenda after Consent Agenda Item CA.8 Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Status Report; and**
- **Move Meeting Agenda Item VIII. Transition Subcommittee Report- after Meeting Agenda Item I.A City of Gainesville State Road 26 (University Avenue) Safe Streets For All Grant Letter of Support.**

**Commissioner Duncan-Walker seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### CA.2 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Members discussed reductions in fatalities and serious injuries in Alachua County.

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needs to set annual safety targets.

**MOTION: Commissioner Alford moved to set Safety Performance Targets consistent with the Florida Department of Transportation Targets (see Exhibit 1). Commissioner Willits seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

#### CA.8 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM - STATUS REPORT

A member discussed the Community Transportation Coordinator, MV Transportation, Inc., positive performance as reported in the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Status Report.

#### I.A CITY OF GAINESVILLE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT

City of Gainesville Mayor Harvey Ward discussed the status of the City of Gainesville State Road 26 (University Avenue) Safe Streets for All Grant. He noted a potential for a reduction by the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of the grant. He asked for approval of a letter of support for the project.

**MOTION: Mayor Ward moved to authorize the Chair to sign a letter concerning efforts by the City of Gainesville to retain full funding for the City of Gainesville Safe Street for All Grant award by the Federal Highway Administration. Commissioner Prizzia seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. TRANSITION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-

Commissioner Bryan Eastman, Transition Subcommittee Member, with assistance from Corbin Hanson, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Attorney; Alison Moss, Alachua County Transportation Planning Manager; and Brad Thoburn, Associate Vice-President, Transportation Strategic Planning Practice Lead, HDR Inc., provided the following updates for Transition Subcommittee topics:

#	Topic	Comment
1	Transition Subcommittee Composition	Commissioner Eastman reviewed the current Subcommittee composition and suggested affirmation of the same membership for 2025.
2	Interlocal Agreement Creating the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization	Commissioner Eastman, Mr. Thoburn and Mr. Hanson discussed the status of an amended interlocal agreement creating the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Mr. Thoburn stated that a draft amended interlocal agreement has been provided to Alachua County, the City of Gainesville and the Florida Department of Transportation for legal review. He also discussed the Rural Elected Official Representative selection process. A member suggested that, following adoption of the amended interlocal agreement, a letter from the Chair of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners be sent to the outlying rural municipalities for each of them to make a nomination for the Rural Elected Official Representative to be appointed by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.
3	Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County concerning Financial Services and Human Resources Services	Commissioner Eastman and Mr. Hanson discussed the status of an interlocal agreement with Alachua County concerning the provision of financial services and human resources services.
4	Website Hosting by Alachua County	Commissioner Eastman and Ms. Moss discussed the status of the ACGNVMobility.org website.
5	Documents Transfer	Ms. Moss discussed the status of documents transfer.
6	Meeting Location	Members discussed conducting Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization meetings in the Grace Knight Conference Room, Alachua County Administration Building for 2025.
7	Year 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update	Mr. Thoburn discussed the status of the Year 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update.

**MOTION: Commissioner Prizzia moved to incorporate the Rural Elected Official Representative selection process into the Interlocal Agreement Creating the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Commissioner Willits seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Several members discussed the staffing and timing of its advisory committee meetings.

**MOTION: Commissioner Eastman moved that the 2025 Transition Subcommittee composition include the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Chair, Commissioner Bryan Eastman, Commissioner Mary Alford, Commissioner Anna Prizzia and Mayor Harvey Ward. Commissioner Book seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

II. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT -  
SW 20TH AVENUE COMPLETE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Mr. Koons stated that Alachua County is requesting that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization amend its Transportation Improvement Program to add the SW 20th Avenue Complete Corridor Project [4561091] in Fiscal Year 2024-25. He noted that this project is in Fiscal Year 2025-26 of the draft Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Program.

**MOTION: Commissioner Alford moved to amend its Fiscal Years 2024-25 to 2028-29 Transportation Improvement Program to add the SW 20th Avenue Complete Corridor Project [4561091] in Fiscal Year 2024-25: Commissioner Eastman seconded the motion. Mr. Koons conducted a roll call vote.**

City Member	Yes	No	County Member	Yes	No
			Mary ALFORD	X	
Ed BOOK	X				
			Charles CHESTNUT IV	X	
			Ken CORNELL	X	
Desmon DUNCAN-WALKER	X				
			Anna PRIZZIA	X	
Harvey WARD	X				
Casey WILLITS	X				
			Marihelen WHEELER	X	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

Commissioner Eastman was not present for the roll call vote.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

III. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD VACANT POSITION

Mr. Koons discussed the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board vacancy. He noted that there were three applicants. He conducted a roll call ballot.

Member	Boubacar	Skelly	Wu
Mary ALFORD	-	X	
Ed BOOK	-	X	
Charles CHESTNUT IV	-	X	
Ken CORNELL	-	X	
Desmon DUNCAN-WALKER	-	X	
Anna PRIZZIA	-		X
Harvey WARD	-	X	
Casey WILLITS	-		X
Marihelen WHEELER	-	X	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to appoint John Skelly to the Citizens Advisory Committee to a three-year term ending December 31, 2027. Commissioner Willits seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

IV. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM 2025-26 TO 2029-30

Mr. Koons discussed the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five-Year Work Program 2025-26 to 2029-30. Achaia Brown, Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, answered questions concerning the Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

A member asked about the State Road 24 (Archer Road) Four-Laning Design Project from SW 122nd Street (Parker Road) to SW 75th Street (Tower Road) not being included in the draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Ms. Brown stated that she would discuss this project with District 2 staff.

A member suggested that the State Road 24 (Archer Road) Four-Laning Design Project from SW 122nd Street (Parker Road) to SW 75th Street (Tower Road) project be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization review comments concerning the Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Linda Dixon, University of Florida Planning Director, asked for more information concerning funding for Compass Transit Service.

Mr. Jesus Gomez, City of Gainesville Transportation Director, discussed the Compass Transit Service Grant project and answered questions. He noted that these were route enhancement funds that would connect the Eastside Transfer Station to the Butler Plaza Transfer Station.

Ms. Dixon asked if the State Road 26 (University Avenue) from Gale Lemerand Drive to State Road 24 (Waldo Road) resurfacing project incorporated any of the Complete Street restriping.

Ms. Brown stated that she would discuss this project with the Department's Engineering Team to determine the current scope phase of the project in order to provide that information.

Ms. Dixon noted that there were several resurfacing and landscaping projects were scheduled for campus perimeter roads. She asked that the Florida Department of Transportation coordinate with the University of Florida for the implementation of these projects in order to maintain campus access impacts.

A member asked about a traffic signal light at the Loves Truck Stop on State Road 200 (U.S. Highway 301) in the City of Hawthorne.

Ms. Moss stated that County staff has reviewed a resurfacing project on State Road 200 (U.S. Highway 301) that included the traffic signal light.

**MOTION: Commissioner Alford moved to authorize its Chair to send a letter requesting that the Florida Department of Transportation consider:**

- **Involving Alachua County, City of Gainesville and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization staffs in the scoping of the State Road 26 (Newberry Road) from NW 43rd Street to NW 38 Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility Project [4410462]; and**
- **Including planning for the State Road 24 (Archer Road) four-lane project between SW 122nd Street (Parker Road) and SW 75 Street (Tower Road) [List of Priority Projects Table 1, Priority 10.**

**Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed 8 to 1, Commissioner Willits opposed.**

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Koons stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization needed to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer for the coming year. He named the current officers and noted that the Chair traditionally alternates between the City of Gainesville City Commission and Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornell moved to elect Commissioner Wheeler as Chair, Commissioner Willits as Vice-Chair and Commissioner Cornell as Secretary/Treasurer for calendar year 2025. Commissioner Alford seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

VI. AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Koons requested that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization appoint two members to an Audit Review Committee. He noted that traditionally the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Secretary/Treasurer served as chair of this committee.

**MOTION: Commissioner Wheeler moved to appoint Commissioner Cornell and Commissioner Eastman to the Audit Review Committee and to have Commissioner Cornell serve as Committee Chair for calendar year 2025. Mayor Ward seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

VII. FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Koons requested that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization appoint a voting representative and two alternate representatives to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council for 2025. He noted that currently Commissioner Wheeler serves as the voting representative and Commissioner Cornell serving as the primary alternate voting representative and Commissioner Prizzia serving as the secondary alternate voting representative.

**MOTION: Commissioner Prizzia moved to appoint Commissioner Cornell as the voting representative, Commissioner Alford as the primary alternate voting representative and Commissioner Chestnut as the secondary alternate voting representative for calendar year 2025. Commissioner Willits seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

IX. NEXT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING

Mr. Koons stated that the next scheduled meeting is January 13, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

X. COMMENTS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Ms. Brown announced that review comments on the draft Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five-Year Work Program 2025-26 to 2029-30 are due to the Florida Department of Transportation on December 17, 2024.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reverend Melissa Pisco, Celebration United Methodist Church, 9501 SW Archer Road, discussed traffic safety and visibility concerns for the church entrance from State Road 24 (Archer Road). She requested an off-site sign for the church entrance.

Vice-Chair Wheeler referred the church entrance signage issue to County staff.

C. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

A member discussed financial services to be provided by the Alachua County Clerk of the Circuit Court Office via an interlocal agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

D. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Willits, Secretary/Treasurer

**EXHIBIT A**

**Interested Citizens**

Dave Larson  
Melissa Pisco  
Jennifer Rossi

**Alachua County**

Jeffrey Hays  
Corbin Hanson  
Alison Moss  
Josh Massre

**City of Gainesville**

Jesus Gomez  
Deborah Leistner  
Andrew Persons

**Florida Department  
of Transportation**

Achaia Brown  
Brad Thoburn (HDR)

\* Via communications media technology  
# Provided written comments

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**CONSENT AGENDA  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA**

**John R. “Jack” Durrance Auditorium  
Alachua County Administration Building  
Gainesville, Florida**

**5:00 p.m.  
December 2, 2024**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Page #7 CA. 1 Minutes - October 7, 2024 APPROVE MINUTES**

This set of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization minutes is ready for review.

**Page #31 CA. 3 Citizens Advisory Committee Vacant Positions APPOINT MR. HARRAR  
REAPPOINT MS. STEINER**

Landon Harrar has applied for appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee.  
Ruth Steiner has applied for reappointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Page #37 CA. 4 Transportation Disadvantaged Program Designated Official Planning Agency APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

The Transition Subcommittee recommends that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization authorize the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to perform the functions of the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

**Page #43 CA. 5 Transportation Alternatives Program/ Safe Routes to School/ Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Applications APPROVE STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Alachua County and the City of Gainesville along with the University of Florida, are applying for discretionary federal and state grant funding for bicycle/pedestrian facilities within Alachua County.

**Page #47 CA. 6 2025 Meeting Calendar APPROVE STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has prepared the 2025 meeting schedule that is similar to the 2024 meeting dates, but also reserves monthly meeting dates.

**Page #51**

**CA. 7 Transit Ridership Status Report**

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has been monitoring ridership recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic.