



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
For the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

Agenda Item 5
Approval of Minutes



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization

For the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

AUGUST 19, 2025 - MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Meeting

Group: MTPO Board

Location and Time: Grace Knight

August 19, 2025 @ 3:00PM

	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Move</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Pass/Fail</i>																				
I & II	Call to Order and Chair Announcements																							
	<p>Notes: Call to Order Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.</p> <p>Opening Remarks Chair Wheeler announced the recent passing of Mike Escalante, a respected member of the community.</p> <p>Moment of Silence Chair Wheeler requested the Board observe a moment of silence in Michale Escalante’s honor. After a moment of silence, pictures of Mike were displayed and several members and staff made comments about Mike.</p>																							
III	Roll Call and Quorum																							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheeler</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Duncan-Walker</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alford</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain (School Board)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastman</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prizzia</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hayes-Santos (Airport)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No Quorum</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ingle</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cornell</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor (Waldo)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Chestnutt</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Willits</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Chestnutt</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UF- NV</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Duncan-Walker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain (School Board)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prizzia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hayes-Santos (Airport)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Quorum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cornell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor (Waldo)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Chestnutt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Willits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Chestnutt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UF- NV				
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IV	Agenda Review and Approval																							
	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Chair Wheeler noted that the agenda required revision to move up the presentation from the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office.</p>																							



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	<p>New Business Mr. Brad (staff) introduced new business items for Board consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of logistics for appointing an Interim Executive Director. • Consideration of amendments to MTPO documents (including the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)) to reflect the designated key staff person for federal planning funds. • Proposal to engage a search firm to assist with the Executive Director hiring process. • Approval of bylaws and an amendment to the UPWP to allocate funds for staff travel and training. <p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Prizzia moved, and Commissioner Book seconded, to adjust the agenda so that the Sheriff's presentation would be taken up as the first item of business. • The motion passed unanimously. 			
V.	Approval of Minutes			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p>Notes: Commissioner Alford moved and Councilman Eastman seconded and the motion passed to approve the minutes.</p>			
VI.	Consent Agenda - None			<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
VIII.A.	Information Item: A. Presentation/Discussion on Safety with Alachua County Sheriff's Office			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Zone Citations: The School Board noted citation activity in Hawthorne, Newberry, and Archer. • Commissioner Ingle observed a disproportionate number of citations in Newberry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sheriff's Office staff explained that many officers live in Newberry, which may contribute to higher citation counts. ○ Mayor suggested the disparity may also be linked to speeding on U.S. 301. • Commissioner Alford inquired whether citations track resident versus non-resident drivers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sheriff's Office indicated that data can be captured but was not available at the meeting. • Chair Wheeler asked about enforcement in High Springs and Alachua, and the Sheriff confirmed those municipalities manage their own enforcement. 			



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- Sheriff's Office clarified that only the **top five infractions** were presented, though a longer list exists.

School Zone Enforcement

- **Commissioner Prizzia** asked how school zone enforcement is handled.
 - Sheriff's Office responded that enforcement is **complaint-driven**, with limited personnel. Officers focus on school zones during the first week of school and as resources allow.
 - Commissioner Prizzia thanked the Sheriff's Office, noting frequent parent complaints, particularly in **Hawthorne** and **Alachua**.

Requests and Comments

- **Commissioner Alford** requested a copy of the presentation. Sheriff Scott provided hard copies and an electronic copy was circulated to the Commissioners.
- **Chair Wheeler** raised safety concerns at the **Learning Center in LaCrosse**, citing speeding truck traffic.
- **Waldo representative** expressed appreciation for visibility around schools in Waldo, but noted challenges turning onto **State Road 24 and C.R. 1469 (Cul Street)**.
- **Commissioner Prizzia** clarified that currently **three deputies** conduct traffic enforcement; Sheriff Scott noted plans to add **two more deputies**.
- **Chair Wheeler** asked about safety data for vulnerable populations (e.g., visually impaired residents). Sheriff's Office stated that **dispatch communications** tracks such information.
- **Public Comment: Ms. Jodie Janesville**, a visually impaired resident, described difficulties crossing at **NW 39th Avenue and NW 51st Street**, citing safety concerns despite the presence of audible crossing signals.

Additional Notes

- Sheriff's Office is pursuing a **zero-tolerance policy** for **cell phone use while driving**, citing increasing accident rates.
- **Chair Wheeler** emphasized the importance of clarifying **road ownership** (city, county, state, or unincorporated).
 - **Mr. Thoburn** noted that a map showing ownership exists.
 - **Mr. Eastman** added that the **City of Gainesville** maintains a GIS-based ownership map.
 - **Ms. Leistner** will circulate the link.

Action Item - A. Amendment to MTPO Bylaws

Cornell

chestnut

Pass



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	<p>Motion: The MTPO Bylaws will be amended to reflect the transition to an independent leaning organization and revised membership</p>			<input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p><i>Notes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thoburn provided an overview of the proposed bylaws, noting that the final interlocal agreement has not yet been fully executed. As a result, new members are not yet eligible to vote. • Mr. Thoburn explained that the Board may choose to adopt the bylaws contingent upon execution of the interlocal agreement, at its discretion. • Commissioner Cornell moved to adopt the bylaws as presented, with the understanding that any necessary changes could be taken up at the next meeting. He emphasized that the bylaws could be amended if required. • Commissioner Chestnut seconded the motion. • Mr. Eastman expressed support, stating he felt comfortable with the proposed changes. • Mr. Thoburn then provided a summary of the key changes included in the bylaws update. 			
VII.B.	<p>Action Item - B. Amendment to County Staff Services Motion: Authorize County to provide interim Executive Director support</p>	Prizzia	ingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p><i>Notes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hays provided an overview. • Commissioner Prizzia moved to approve. • Councilman Ingle seconded. <p>-</p>			
VII.C.	<p>Action Item - Appointment of Interim Executive Director Motion: Resolution appointing an interim Executive Director and directing staff to update all plans, including the Public Participation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Unified Planning Work Program, and Long Range Transportation Plan to reflect this appointment</p>	Eastman	Cornell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p><i>Notes</i></p> <p>Mr. Thoburn provided overview.</p>			



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The designee for the position is Alison Moss. The motion was clarified to state the County Administrator was requested to appoint Alison Moss as the interim executive Director and amend the UPWP to identify her as the key staff in the UPWP and other key documents. Ms. Brown (FDOT) confirmed the proposed language was acceptable. Councilman Eastman made a motion to officially request the County Administrator appoint Alison Moss as interim Executive Director and to update all documents with her contact information. Commissioner Cornell seconded the motion. Commissioner Book raised the issue of considering additional compensation. Mr. Hays responded that policies are already in place for working out of classification, which would apply in this situation. 			
VII.D.	Action Item D – Removed			
	<i>Notes</i>			
VII.E	Action Item E. - Long Range Transportation Plan – Cost Feasible Plan (After 5:00 PM Public Hearing on the LRTP) Motion: Approval of the 2050 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan	Eastman – moved to accept the conditional amendment of the TAC	Alford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p>At 5:00 PM, Chair Wheeler opened the Public Hearing. Notes (Certain (n-v) and Ward had to leave before 5) lost chestnut and Prizzia.</p> <p>Chair Wheeler acknowledged Mr. Srin Varanasi to provide an overview of the draft LRTP Cost Feasible Plan.</p> <p>Provided overview of the overall project and reviewed federal requirements. Mr. Varanasi provided an overview of the process</p> <p>Key steps –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify vision goals and objectives Identify projects – public involvement and agency coordination Needs assessment – approved in June Financial assessment – used to develop CFP 7 goals used to evaluate projects Public Participation plan Performance measures development based on goals and objectives – identified 4 major categories 			



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- Roadway- safety multimodal and connectivity
- Projects prioritized based on scores and public agency input.
- Conducted scenario analysis
- Alford – how do you balancing VMT/Speed v safety? Srin – balance of projects is critical. Includes transit, bike-ped and safety improvements. These will not increase speed.
- Compared against base 2020, base 2050, highway focus, hybrid transit and highway and highway headway improvement.
- Revenue forecast – \$2.2B – bulk is in the SIS funding for I-75 widening.
- Provided overview of LRTP project composition and funding – 110 multimodal projects more than half of the funds used (exclusive of I-75)

Public Hearing – Chair Wheeler opened the public hearing up for comments from the public. The following comments from the public were made:

Name: Mohammad (Last Name illegible)

Mr. Mohammad raised concerns about right of way acquisition/donation. Chair Wheeler noted the comments were not specific to the Draft LRTP.

Name: Sarah Gamble

Ms. Gamble indicated she wants focus on transportation safety. Is a biker with children. Bike-ped projects on State roads that surround the university are further down the list than she would expect. Would like to make spaces more welcome and move projects up the list. Wanted to see section of University Avenue west of 13th street on the list. School was not in session during public meetings which means they may have missed students.

Chair Wheeler closed the public hearing and reopened the MTPO Board meeting to take up the Draft LRTP.

Member comments/discussion:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Commissioner Prizzia – stated she was trying to understand the focus on i-75 as priority – internal roads are priority. Mr. Varanasi this would be funded with statewide funds.○ Commissioner Prizzia raised concerned about where the UF projects show up on the list. Doesn't see #1 project as priority. Linda Dixon (UF) explained the value of the Fletcher/Buckman project.○ Mr. Varanasi noted that all multimodal projects identified as boxed fund projects and discretionary grants not considered but many of these could compete for grant funding.○ Commsioner Willitz – raised questions about the multimodal project locations. Sw 20th avenue seems it should be higher but agencies didn't score as high. Mr. Varanasi indicated cost impacts ranking.○ Ms. Dixon commented that she liked that not multimodal projects were not ranked the same way as highway and this needs to be clearer in the narrative.○ Commissioner Willits: appreciates desire to move projects up but wants to respect the process.○ Commissioner Book stated that he appreciates the expertise of the team. He also noted it would be really hard to horse trade projects.○ Ms. Moss commented that the bike ped master plan could revisit and the ranking in the multimodal is not a concern for the county. Omission of the project is of greater concern than the ranking.○ Commissioner Book noted that overlapping plans could later lead to altering plan○ Commissioner Alford commented that she appreciate models but people living in the community often know better. She also commented that often it is preferred to have a more impactful bigger project going ahead of smaller projects with less impact.○ Commissioner Eastman noted that the denominator issue helps multimodal projects because they are much less costly than highway.○ Commissioner Cornell stated there needs to be a long term focus on multimodal projects.○ After discussion about the including of the "UF Projects" Commissioner Eastman moved that the motion to adopt the LRTP Cost Feasible plan with the TAC conditional amendment to remove the UF Projects.○ Commissioner Alford seconded the motion○ The Motion was approved unanimously.			
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VII.F	<p>Action Item F. UPWP Amendment – Federal PL Funds Motion: Approval of UPWP amendment providing additional 5305D PL funds for FY25/26. In addition, move (Year 1) Data Collection 2.0 PL funds to (Year 2)</p>	Cornell	Alford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes • Mr. Thoburn provided overview. • Commissioner Cornell moved to approve. • Commissioner Alford seconded. • Motion was approved 			
VII.G	<p>Action Item G. Transportation Improvement Program Modification Motion: Approval of TIP Modification providing additional 5305D PL funds for FY25/26 and adding \$74,631 from FY24/25 to FY25/26</p>	Prizzia	Chestnut (Cynthia)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p><i>Notes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thoburn provided overview • Commissioner Prizzia moved to approve. • Commissioner Cynthia Chestnutt seconded • The motion was approved unanimously 			
VII.H	<p>Action Item H. Roll Forward Report Amendment Motion: Approval of the Roll Forward Report to be amended into the Gainesville MTPO (TIP) FY25/26-FY29/30</p>	Ingle	Chestnut (Cynthia)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<p><i>Notes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thoburn provided an overview. • Commissioner Ingle moved to approve. • Commissioner Chestnut seconded. • Motion approved unanimously 			
VII.I	<p>Action Item I. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Interlocal Agreement Motion: Authorize Chair to execute ICAR Interlocal Agreement</p>	Prizzia	Eastman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thoburn provides overview • Commissioner Prizzia moved to approve. • Councilman Eastman seconded • Motion approved unanimously 			



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VII.J.	Action Item J: Appointment to the MTPO Citizen Advisory Committee Motion: Appoint Cathy Norman to the MTPO CAC	Alford	Eastman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unanimous
<p><i>Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Thoburn provided overview. Chair Wheeler noted to those in attendance that there are additional openings if interested. Commissioner Alford moved to approve. Councilman Eastman seconded The Motion was approved unianimously 				
<p><i>New Business – Administrative Modification of the UPWP and Bylaws for training.</i></p>				
<p>Discussion:</p> <p>UPWP Amendment & Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A UPWP modification is needed to provide funding for MTPO training and to modify the bylaws. Alison recommended allocating \$10,000 for this purpose. Commissioner Prizzia moved to approve; Commissioner Ward seconded. <p>Bylaws Modification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Thoburn explained that the modification would allow up to two members for MPOAC, and that the UPWP language would be broader. Mr. Hayes Santos questioned why the bylaws were written so prescriptively. Ms. Moss responded that FDOT requested the provision be included in the bylaws. Mr. Thoburn added that the language could be revised to be less prescriptive, suggesting it could simply authorize the chair, as long as the FHWA requirements are clear. Councilman Book noted that he had attended the training, describing it as valuable and low-cost. The board expressed support for the UPWP amendment and funding allocation. There was consensus that the bylaws language could be revised to be less prescriptive while still meeting FDOT and FHWA requirements. 				
VIII.A.	Information Item A. Presentation/Discussion on Safety with Alachua County Sheriff’s Office			
<p><i>Notes: moved up.</i></p>				
VIII.B.	Information Item B. Transition Report Update - Executive Director Update			
<p><i>Notes:</i></p>				



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- Councilman Eastman provided an overview of the proposed recruitment process. He explained that a search firm would be engaged to help identify a suitable candidate.

Discussion:

- Councilman Willits recommended engaging a national search firm, noting that the desired candidate is likely employed elsewhere and would require headhunter outreach.
- Councilman Eastman agreed, stating this approach aligns with charter practices and that many professionals may be interested in the opportunity.
- Commissioner Alford emphasized that a search firm could help present Gainesville in the best possible light to prospective candidates.
- Commissioner Wheeler (Vice-Chair, Alachua County) commended Councilman Eastman for his leadership.
- Councilman Eastman added that the agenda also included providing support to Alison Moss and that HDR could be procured to assist.
- Councilman Book thanked the subcommittee for its efforts but cautioned that requiring ten years of supervisory experience may overly limit the applicant pool. He suggested adopting more flexible criteria to attract qualified candidates.
- Councilman Eastman agreed with the concern, noting the issue had become clearer in hindsight.

Conclusion:

- The group expressed broad support for utilizing a search firm, with agreement on the benefits of flexibility in candidate requirements and appreciation for the subcommittee's work.

VIII.C. Information Item C. Safe Roads Initiative

Overview:

- Mr. Thoburn shared a letter received from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which included a list of priority locations for improvements.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Prizzia asked whether a list of locations was being submitted.
- Mr. Thoburn clarified that the list was attached to the letter and reflected the department's priority locations.
- Airport Representative recommended adding U.S. 441 in the heart of the city.
- Commissioner Alford suggested including the intersection of University Avenue and U.S. 441.
- Airport Representative noted that such an addition would be considered a request.
- Mr. Thoburn explained that the identified locations were chosen because improvements are already underway or planned, with the intent to accelerate these projects.
- Councilman Willits highlighted that a project is already planned related to the slip lane.
- Councilman Book pointed out a possible typographical error in the list, noting a duplication involving two segments for Mr. Santos.



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Conclusion:

- The group discussed potential additions to the location list while recognizing that the department prioritized sites with existing or planned improvements. Staff will follow up regarding the slip lane project and the potential typographical error.

VIII.D.	Information Item D. Report from the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership and Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Meeting
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Overview:

- Alison provided an overview, noting that discussions are focused on the FY 2026 program, and anything outside that timeframe will not be included.

VIII.E.	Information Item E. Quarterly Ridership Trends and Shelter Update
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Notes:

Overview:

Mr. Gomez provided an overview of transit shelter planning and considerations for stop placement.

Discussion:

Shelter Costs & Funding

- Commissioner Prizzia asked about the cost of a shelter.
- Mr. Gomez explained that costs vary by size, typically ranging from \$4,500–\$7,500.
- Commissioner Prizzia noted the corridor near the jail and airport is heavily used and was glad to see it included on the list. She asked whether funding was available.
- Mr. Gomez clarified that the item is included on the transit list, which allows them to apply for funding, but not directly through the MTPO.

Stop Placement & Spacing

- Mr. Hayes-Santos raised a concern that minimum distances between stops could affect service speed.
- Mr. Gomez explained that the standard minimum distance is 500 feet, but in dense areas stops must sometimes be closer.
- He added that spacing decisions depend on the characteristics of each corridor.

Conclusion:

- The group discussed shelter costs, potential funding sources, and considerations for stop placement. While funding will need to be sought through transit programs, there was agreement that placement must balance accessibility with service efficiency.

VIII.F.	Item F. Calendar of Meetings
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Notes:

Mr. thoburn provided reviewed the changes to the calendar.

VIII.G.	Information Item G. Attendance Record – Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee
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Notes:

Mr. Thoburn reviewed attendance and noted there needs to be a new school board representative identified for the TAC.

XI

Member Comments

Notes:

Topic: Street Art, Safety Concerns, and Infrastructure Updates

Overview:

Mayor Ward opened a discussion on community street art, including rainbow crosswalks and BLM markings, noting their limited relationship to safety but recognizing that such art can help slow traffic.

Discussion:

Street Art and FDOT Guidance

- Mayor Ward reported that FDOT has warned communities to remove non-standard street art, with a set deadline.
- Commissioner Wheeler asked about the timeline; FDOT expects removal by the deadline.
- Councilman Willits expressed concern that FDOT's focus is on distractions outside the car rather than addressing speed and roadway design. He supported reducing speed limits and noted that the issue may affect the entire county.
- Commissioner Wheeler relayed a citizen concern about removing rainbow brick markings.
- Councilman Willits added that the city voted to remove both the bike boulevard and rainbow crosswalks, with September deadlines reported in other communities.
- Ms. Brown confirmed FDOT has conducted an inventory of non-standard markings and will follow up with details. She noted that decorative bike markings for students must also be removed.
- Councilman Willits appreciated the clarification that these requirements affect more than LGBTQ-related infrastructure.
- Councilman Eastman asked about inventories of non-Green Book standard markings. Ms. Brown confirmed these include any markings on federal-aid roads.
- Commissioner Alford asked about the next revision of the Green Book; Ms. Brown indicated she will bring back information.

Traffic Safety & Speed Concerns

- Councilman Willits reiterated the need to consider the entire right of way, not just distractions.
- Ms. Certain raised safety and congestion concerns, including:
- Speeding in school zones in Hawthorne and along US 301.
 - Congestion around Newberry schools due to development.
 - Lack of improvements at Ulatawilla Park despite two studies, describing the road as a "speedway."



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- Commissioner Cornell noted a planned traffic light at 24th and Parker, and highlighted safety issues at Archer Road and Gordon Glen, where major accidents occur. He requested state attention to improvements.
- Commissioner Alford added that a recent incident shut down the intersection for half a day.

Local Project and Infrastructure Updates

- Mr. Hayes-Santos announced that the new parking garage opening is delayed until August 27.
- Ms. Dixon (UF) reported completion of inner road improvements, converting a road to two-way with bike and pedestrian upgrades.
- Ms. Brown reminded members of the upcoming Work Program Hearing on October 21 (Project 2731) and highlighted projects in the LOPP:
 - US 441 at Stadium Road
 - Newberry Road
 - State Road 26
 - A total of seven projects included in the program.

Summary:

The discussion highlighted community concerns over FDOT’s enforcement of non-standard street art removal, broader frustrations about safety priorities, and several local updates on traffic safety and infrastructure projects. Members requested additional follow-up on FDOT deadlines, Green Book revisions, and state-level safety improvements.

XII	Public Comments
Name: Jodie Janchel	<p>The citizen has relied on paratransit for 25 years, including from 2000–2012 in Gainesville, later in South Florida, and again after moving back to Gainesville.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that paratransit service in Gainesville has significantly improved, making life more manageable by: • Increasing reliability. • Providing more comfort. • Reducing anxiety related to making reservations. • Emphasized that paratransit is critical for independence and mobility, describing it as their primary way to leave the house. <p>Challenges Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service limitations: No service on Sundays or at night. • Accessibility barriers: Experiences of being denied by Uber due to traveling with a guide dog. • Equity concerns: Budget cuts are making the ADA community’s “world smaller” by limiting mobility options.



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	<p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The citizen expressed gratitude for the improvements to Gainesville’s paratransit system but stressed that gaps in service hours, combined with broader accessibility and budget challenges, continue to restrict independence for individuals with disabilities.
<p>Name Judith Hamilton</p>	<p>A long-time community member and paratransit rider with low vision spoke as a disability advocate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They echoed Jodie’s earlier remarks, stressing that recent changes risk moving services backward. Noted past advocacy efforts to secure both paratransit and fixed-route service, and while they try to use fixed routes when possible, this depends on weather and health. Emphasized that many ADA riders cannot easily attend meetings because of transportation barriers. Expressed concern that proposed changes would further limit independence, making it difficult for riders to leave their homes given the lack of alternatives. <p>Highlighted challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot ride a bike. Walking is only possible in certain conditions. Aging combined with disability makes access harder. Requested that decision-makers consider the needs of riders with disabilities who often cannot be present to voice concerns. <p>Board Discussion:</p> <p>Funding & Program Complexity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Prizzia asked whether the MTPO funds ADA service options, noting that both the city and county contribute. Mr. Thoburn explained that MTPO does not directly fund ADA services. Instead: RTS provides ADA trips as a federal requirement. Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs fill service gaps, supported by nine different sponsor agencies. The RPC currently serves as the coordinating agency, though the MTPO could assume that role in the future. Commissioner Prizzia clarified that counties must provide a 50% match for TD programs. Mr. Thoburn emphasized the system’s complexity, with the majority of service delivered through ADA and TD trips. <p>Impact of Service Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Prizzia noted that changes in RTS operations affect ADA support. Mr. Thoburn confirmed that if the fixed-route network shrinks, the required ADA coverage area is reduced under federal rules.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Gomez added that 5311 rural trips are supported with a 50/50 funding match. Currently, about \$500,000 is available, with the county contributing \$100,000 and \$400,000 left for matching funds. <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The citizen underscored the critical role of paratransit and the risks posed by service changes, especially for vulnerable riders with limited alternatives. Board members reviewed the complexity of ADA and TD funding, with recognition that service reductions on fixed routes directly affect ADA coverage.
Name: Kristen Young	Notes – Read from comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Raised concern about FDOT safety improvements to try to slow speeds on repaving 39th Ave.Why remove barriers on NW 8thIncrease safety on University Avenue.FDOT has sold MTPO on bike lanes on Newberry
Adjournment	Chair Wheeler Adjourned the MTPO Board meeting