

MTPO Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

Date: Monday, October 6, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Grace Knight Conference Room
Alachua County Administration Building
12 Southeast 1st Street, Gainesville, Florida

- I. Call to Order (Chair Wheeler)

Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

- II. Chair's Announcements (Chair Wheeler)

Cornell – Virtual – call-in (Alford moved to allow, 2nd Certain – approved)

Staff present:

Alison Moss (Interim ED)

Jeff Hayes (County)

Debbie Leistner (City)

Paige Diebold (FDOT/HDR)

Jesus Gomez (RTS)

Scott Koons (NCFRPC)

- III. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Chair Wheeler)

Commissioners present:

Wheeler

Ward
Book
Eastman
Ingle
Willits
Cornell (virtual)
Charles Chestnutt
Certain (School Board)
Hayes-Santos (Airport)
Taylor (Waldo)
Dixon (UF-NV)

Commissioners absent:

Cynthia Chestnutt
Duncan-Walker

Quorum was present.

IV. Agenda Review and Approval (Chair Wheeler)

None

V. Approval of Minutes (Chair Wheeler)

None

VI. Consent Agenda

No items

VII. Action Items

A. Unified Planning Work Program Amendment (Ms. Moss)

Approval of amendment to Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to transition the MTPO from receiving administrative support from the Regional Planning Council to an independent leaning MPO with its own staff

Ms. Moss provided overview of the item. Reviewed the summary of changes to the UPWP. The rollover of the budget has allowed

accumulation of funding. This will be used to hire staff, fund studies and keep some in reserve. Some funding for planning consultant and travel.

The TAC recommended adding data collection – would move from \$50k from Task 7. Will procure software for TIP (NFTPO uses). This will provide greater transparency.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan update was recently completed and budget use.

Specific recommendations include:

- **Special project planning -2 complete street corridor studies – Archer (subtask 5.1) and 13 Street SW; and additional funding for the Bike Ped study.**
 - **CM Prizzia asked about Archer Road since work is being complete. Ms. Leistner clarified the project limits**
- **Website enhancements – using NFTPO as template. Focus on Document accessibility – 508 Compliance**
- **Systems Planning – includes some flexibility for new ED.**
 - **CM Prizzia – questioned whether we need multimodal counts. Request was from City Transportation Planning. Ms. Moss clarified the need.**
 - **Hayes-Santos – sought clarification on transit governance. Holding funds for later.**

No Public Comment

CM Prizzia moved the item and Mr. Hayes-Santos Seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. 2026 MTPO Meeting Calendar (Ms. Moss)

Approval of the 2026 MTPO Meeting Calendar

Ms. Moss reviewed the proposed calendar. Prizzia asked about the June time. Alison clarified its 5 PM. CM Prizzia recommended a January meeting.

Monday Sept 7 is Labor Day (Willits) – need to move.

CM Prizzia moved the calendar with changes. Mr. Hayes-Santos seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Information Items

A. Interim Executive Director Report (Ms. Moss)

- Look Ahead

Ms. Moss provided a “Look Ahead”

- Tentative Work Program (end of October)

Cornell asked about the timing. Moss clarified. Ms. Diebold clarified presentation at 6 and it is for all D2 so it includes NFTPO.

- SU Funding Plan

MTPO Board will have chance to opine

- Election of Officers (December)

Also includes MPOAC representatives

- List of Priority Projects (January/February)

Ms. Moss provided overview of current and list of projects that have been discussed as potential priorities.

CM Prizzia – noted that Parker Road needs to be addressed with pedestrian interaction.

- Stadium Road Concept

Presented the new concepts

New bus bays added to 13th street

Potential raised crossings

Ms. Linda Dixon (UF) – thanked the FDOT for working through this project. It was vetted internally at UF. There was some discussion about scooter parking.

Raised crossings maybe be an issue for parades.

CM Alford raised question about “dog-ears” being raised. Ms. Moss responded that they are raised.

CM Willits – mentioned there will be an additional 4 buses on this corridor.

- **Both he and CM Alford had questions about stop location**
- **Is the Median raised? Will this replicate issue at Publix today. Noted we may want ped fence.**

Mr. Hayes-santos recommended protected bike lanes – removing median altogether.

- **Ms. Leistner – indicated this was evaluated as part of the PD&E and not enough space exists.**
- **Mr. Hayes-Santos said it looked like enough room.**

CM Book – indicated he had same issue about median and managing ped crossings.

Linda Dixon – sought clarity on the red area for “bus bay”

CM Cornell – asked if this was City’s new project? Ms. Leistner responded it is.

- **Safe Streets 4 All Initiative**

Website by city shared (developed with UF)

There is also live survey

- **New Roadway Jurisdiction Webmap**

Shared the roadway map webpage

CM Prizzia – asked where it was housed – Ms. Moss - City – GIS “Centerpoint” now and ultimately will be embedded.

CM Book – commended and asked would did it.

CM Eastman – noted it is really thorough with multiple layers.

- Staffing Discussion
 - ***New Executive Director search –***
 - ***County is bringing on a search firm.***
 - ***CM Eastman provided overview of the discussions so far.***
 - ***Need clear expectations.***
 - ***Provided ED profile***
 - ***Seeking feedback on what is expected in first 6 months.***
 - ***CM Alford – asked about focus on getting feet on the ground and getting to know the area.***
 - ***1 – year expectation.***
 - ***CM Prizzia – focus on engagement and public involvement***
 - ***Mr. Hayes Santos – question about timeline – 3 months from live (Friday). Need to talk about the end of the hiring process.***
 - ***CM Alford – 1 year – build regional relationships and identify best practices among other. Willits concurred.***
 - ***CM Cornell – critical to work with city and county staff***
 - ***Mr. Hayes-Santos – make sure projects align with our goals.***
 - ***CM Prizzia emphasized and highlighted consistency with city and county plans***
 - ***CM Alford – role is related to keeping track of other transportation impacts from around county and outside. Part of introducing to local stakeholders.***

B. MV/Paratransit Discussion (Ms. Moss)

Discussion related to paratransit services provided by MV Transportation shifting to being performed in-house by City of Gainesville’s Regional Transit System (RTS)

Mr. Hayes kicked off the discussion. Discussion in community – in-housing ADA paratransit service – RTS targeting March 2026. Remaining issues is CTC provided by MV through October but RTS moving ADA Paratransit in-house. Need to address gap in service? County (CTC) v City (ADA/PT). Need to coordinate interim service.

- **CM Prizzia – asked if we have we received quote to address gap – MV has done so. MV said it would triple the amount. County could not fill the gap. Just the unincorporated area. She asked if we have we looked into the medically necessary trips. Medicaid? TD defaults because its difficult to work with Medicaid.**
- **Hayes-Santos – MV transportation question for RTS/City?**
- **CM Cornell – can city delay? Mr. Gomez – delay is a city commission decision. CM Cornell – when will city commission make that decision? CM Eastman noted – March 1 is track we are on. City is open to find solutions. City taking in all the ADA PT.**
- **CM Willits – city agreed to take in March 1 – when can we change and address personnel issues. He noted there is more complexity to this issue.**
- **CM Prizzia – asked if RTS can take on the County portion? Need a solution. People in need will not get transportation.**
- **Andy Person (City – COO) – city has not taken in the county responsibility. Paying \$20 extra per ride with MV. Can't just agree to take it over. Can in October but do not have budget. City focus is on PT. Do not have direction to take over County ADA.**
- **CM Prizzia – noted this is coming from issue of UF cutting transit service. Ask that it be considered to accelerate. City cannot slow down the ADA/PT Piece. Taking steps.**
- **Mayor Ward – need to explain what taking on the county portion means. Gomez - About 15k trips per year. Need more vehicles. 5 to 7 total. There is not substantive plan for costs.**
- **Mayor Ward – Requested city and county staff to coordinate and identify potential solution. City and county members agreed to take up in respective bodies.**

- **CM Alford indicated others may be interested. Costs seems pretty high from MV.**
- **Ms. Taylor – make sure unincorporated area gets access – former MV driver. Transition needs to be smooth.**
- **Ms. Certain – where does the state funding go? Clarification provided between RTS and CTC – CM Ingle clarified that understanding is the 500k is for unincorporated. Contracts is really whoever is the CTC. Mr. Gomez noted that the RPC would have to issue RFP. 75% is ADA – how to take on 100%? Certain – people need this.**
- **CM Chestnutt provided historical aspect – used to be terrible service. Was CTS. Not just service but level of service.**
- **CM Eastman – agreed we need to discuss level of service. Alachua is not unique. If we change, there needs to be a smooth transition.**
- **Mr. Person – noted that TD and ADA PT are very different. Significant differences in logistics.**
- **Mayor Ward – City is not asking for the business. Budget forced this. RTS not trying to takeover contract.**
- **CM Prizzia – need some future coordination on issues like this in advance. Could have been head off. Be more collaborative**
- **CM Book – noted it is on agenda tomorrow. He agreed we can do better.**
- **Mr. Koons provided additional insight at request of Chair. The NCRPC – is the CTC – county-wide program. Reiterated difference between ADA and TD programs. MV is current provider (5-year cycle). Others have not responded to provide service – if MV stops – the state can designate under an emergency. Quarterly meeting of Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (December) is critical point.**
- **CM Cornell stated we need to hear from MV what the option is.**
- **CM Prizzia said she wants to better understand the costs**

- **Randy France with MV transportation stated that working to find a solution – 15k trip per year. Do not have an answer. Leverage volume is the challenge.**
- **CM Prizzia asked how would MV fill gap. France – MV working to find a solution.**
- **Ms. Moss – question about state decision – State CTD will make decision.**
- **Mr. Koons – explained position/capacity of some of the other regional providers.**
- **Alford noted Commissioner from Archer is present because of the importance**
- **CM Willits stated TD makes people independent. City costs is financial – TD v PT is very different. Increased cost 42%. City has been subsidizing the county TD trips.**
- **Ms. Taylor questioned if there is a gap can the city take MV drivers? Wheeler – should have input from Ms. Taylor**
- **Ms. Cornell – question of Willits on \$3.2m. and positions at risk 10 existing and potentially 20 more. Mr. Gomez responded it is a combination of funds. State local and federal funds. There was discussion about source and percentage of funding. The RTS funds go into the overall RTS budget.**
- **Mr. France offered a contract adjustment. Offered to make whole.**
- **CM Prizzia stated this is a bit of Monday morning quarterbacking. She question if it was really about saving jobs.**
- **Mayor Ward reminded everyone this is very complex and complicated. Needs time to work through it. Goes back to issue on large amount of funding being pulled out of the equation it has downstream impacts.**

C. RTS Ridership Trends (Mr. Gomez)

Ridership information for RTS

Mr. Gomez reported on RTS – 30k hours and 500k ridership. Pulled back service levels. Will trend even lower next year.

CM Prizzia asked if RTS heard from UF. Mr. Gomez stated service restored but still 20k+ hours.

- **Chair Wheeler – Is there any situation with operators? Can there be some partnership with schools? Ms. Certain stated school bus ridership has improved. Mr. Gomez mentioned the Under 18 program.**
- **Linda Dixon – new point person at UF has been coordinating with RTS. UF has similar funding issues. Noted overall 5% cut and inability to raise fees.**

Mayor Ward noted the inability to raise fees and tuition (statewide) is issue

Mr. Hayes-Santos asked if can we track trends.

CM Willits requested data on campus connector ridership.

CM Alford noted she has intern working on data and will share

D. TAC/CAC Attendance Record (Ms. Moss)

Attendance record for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings in 2025

Ms. Moss presented attendance. She noted we need to address airport and school board rep for TAC. Ingle asked where to send interested parties. Send to Ms. Moss.

IX. Agency Reports/ Partner Updates

- Florida Department of Transportation
- Alachua County School Board
- Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport
- University of Florida

X. Upcoming Meetings of Interest

A. MTPO Meetings –

- Tentative Work Program Hearing - TBD
- Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership/ MPOAC –
October 22, 2025, from 8am – 5pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Airport
5555 Hazeltine National Drive, Orlando, Florida 32812
Wheeler volunteered for the MPOAC when sure rolls off from chair. Ward noted conflict with the city policy committee.

XI. Member Comments

Questions on a couple sidewalks (Chair Wheeler and CM Prizzia) – Ms. Moss will follow up.

CM Prizzia – question about wildflower roadway program. Interested in expanding roads in the program.

CM Willits – SW13th is getting pretty busy, becoming a safety issue.

Mayor Ward – 16th ave. – lighted crosswalk not enough, Wilson rd./Hawthorne trail – becoming more and more of safety issue. may need traffic light.

Mr. Hayes-Santos – asked question on classification – FDOT to send link to Ms. Moss

Ms. Taylor – thanked for ped-hybrid beacons but need across the street. Suggested other safety measures.

CM Ingle –noted 441 and 22 – covered in paint.

XII. Public Comments (General)

Spencer Morgan: Relies on TD services. Does work in community for the Blind. MV has been really good. CTS was disaster. Need to consider emergency shelter transportation. Issue in hurricane season. Asked to extend to October.

Jeff Lee (Eldercare): Transportation was a train wreck before. Concern about decisions being made without the broader context. Is it an issue of budget? Need to be clear about the budget impacts and comparison.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair wheeler adjourned meeting at 5:32

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