



HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD

Thursday, April 4, 2024

MINUTES

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board held a regular public meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Brooksville City Council Chambers, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was publicly noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Kinnard, Vice Chair, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Brian Hawkins, Alternate, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Ruthie Schlabach, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Blake Bell, Mayor, City of Brooksville
Cabot McBride, City of Inverness Council Member
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Allocco, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Steve Champion, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Joe Meek, Mayor, City of Crystal River

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Katina Kavouklis, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
William Roll, Kimley-Horn, General Planning Consultant
Melissa Tartaglia, Assistant Attorney, Hernando County

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation.
- A quorum was declared, and the affirmation of public notice was read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman McBride to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlabach and the motion passed 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Kinnard to approve the February 1, 2024, meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Bell and the motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn, on the Status of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

William Roll with Kimley-Horn, General Planning Consultant for the MPO, presented the status of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), focusing on the preliminary revenue forecast and goals, objectives, and performance measures. Commissioner Schlabach asked for the definition of "quality places" listed in Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures. Mr. Roll explained that the character of the roadways should be consistent with the community (i.e., complete streets, no six-lane highways through neighborhoods). With the C:\Users\jturner\Desktop\Work files from USB\1-MPO\4-4-24 MPO Mtg Minutes-Draft mre re.docx

widening of CR491 to CR486, Commissioner Kinnard inquired if alternate funds are available to improve the designated evacuation route, N. Forest Ridge Boulevard. Mr. Roll affirmed the importance of prioritizing projects in the 2050 LRTP and collaborating with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the state legislature to fund projects with the available monies.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Hernando/Citrus MPO Annual Certification Summary and Joint Certification Statement

[It is noted for the record that MPO Board member, Mayor Bell, left the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to approve the Certification Summary, authorize the MPO Chair to execute the MPO Joint Certification Statement, and authorize staff to submit the documents to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for processing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kinnard and the motion passed 5-0.

2. Hernando/Citrus MPO Lease Agreement with Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (Building Division) - Request to Renew Office Space Lease

A copy of the proposed lease was distributed at the meeting.

[It is noted for the record that MPO Board member, Mayor Bell, returned to the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the Lease for MPO office space with the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (Building Division) at 789 Providence Boulevard, Brooksville, Florida, for a minimum of one year (from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) and authorize the Chair to execute an updated lease provided by the Building Division. The motion was seconded by Councilman McBride and the motion passed 6-0.

3. Hernando/Citrus MPO Travel Policy Rate Update

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to adopt Resolution 2024-2 updating the Hernando/Citrus MPO travel policy rates commensurate with the Hernando County Travel Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kinnard and the motion passed 6-0.

4. Reappointment of Members to the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) and to the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

Chair Campbell expressed thanks to the citizens who take the time to volunteer for these important boards.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Kinnard to reappoint Mr. Bud Osborn to serve as a member of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) in the position of Person Representing Veteran Services and to reappoint Ms. Gretchen Samter to serve as a member of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) in the position of Person with a Disability. The period of membership is April 4, 2024, through April 3, 2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and the motion passed 6-0.

5. Appointment of Member to the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Bell to appoint Ms. Melissa Arceneaux to serve as a member of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) in the position of Citizen Advocate. The period of membership is April 4, 2024, through April 3, 2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlabach and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Review and Approval of the Update to the Bylaws of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to approve the update to the Bylaws of the Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kinnard and the motion passed 6-0.

At the request of Chair Campbell, Mr. Esposito recognized and introduced Katina Kavouklis and Siao Si Fine from Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) and Suzanne Ziegler from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Chair Campbell recognized the County and City representatives that were present and thanked them for their engagement in the process and thanked FTE and FDOT for their partnership and taking the time to attend the board meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito provided the following updates:

- The May meeting will be vital as adoption of the UPWP for FY25-FY26 will need to occur in order to meet the May 15, 2024, submittal deadline.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) on May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in Tom Varn Park.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently scheduling meetings with the MPO Staff and County Engineering staff of Hernando and Pasco Counties to discuss design and funding concepts to "help accelerate the development process for County Line Road."
- Mr. Esposito will attend the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meeting in Orlando on April 25, 2024, and the Transportation Planning Exchange (TransEx) conference in St. Petersburg on May 7-8, 2024. Inverness City Councilman, Gene Davis, will attend the MPOAC Weekend Institute training in St. Petersburg, May 17-18, 2024.
- Mr. Esposito thanked Deputy Thomas from the Hernando County Sheriff's office for attending the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Schlabach cannot attend the May 2, 2024, meeting. Mr. Esposito affirmed he will contact alternate member, Commissioner Bays.
- Councilman McBride reported that the City of Inverness updated committee assignments and Mr. Gene Davis has been designated as an alternate to the MPO Board.
- Commissioner Kinnard shared that at the last Citrus Board of County Commissions (BOCC) meeting, Citrus County citizen, Karen Etsy, advocated for a sidewalk on N. Independence Highway. Although the BOCC did not conduct a vote on the matter, Commissioner Kinnard asked what next steps are needed to move the process forward. It was affirmed that the City of Inverness has the right-of-way for N. Independence Highway but the City has not submitted an application for this project. The application must come from the City of Inverness and be listed as a high priority on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP).

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024, beginning at 1:30 pm, in the Brooksville City Council Chambers, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida. The May meeting is vital, so attendance is appreciated.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Bell.

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.