



Hernando/Citrus

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Regular Meeting

Minutes - Final

June 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

MPO Chair, Jerry Campbell, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024, in 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, MPO Board Chair, Hernando County Commission
John Allocco, Hernando County Commission
Steve Champion, Hernando County Commission
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Commission
Ruthie Schlabach, Citrus County Commission
Rebecca Bays, MPO Board Alternate Member, Citrus County Commission
Blake Bell, Mayor, City of Brooksville
Joe Meek, Mayor, City of Crystal River
Cabot McBride, Councilman, City of Inverness
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT (ALTERNATES WERE AVAILABLE TO SERVE)

Jeff Kinnard, MPO Board Vice Chair, Citrus County Commission

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Brian Hunter, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Victoria Anderson, Assistant County Attorney, Hernando County

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

MPO Board & Staff Introductions

The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation.

Enter Proof of Publication into the Record

A quorum was declared, and Ms. Elwin noted for the record that the public notice for the meeting was posted in accordance with the adopted policies.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Board and Staff)**Motion**

A motion was made by Mayor Bell to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meek and the motion passed 9-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Blake Bell
SECONDER:	Joe Meek
AYES:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry Campbell
ABSENT:	Jeff Kinnard

CONSENT ITEMS**Motion**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bays to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlabach and the motion passed 9-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Rebecca Bays
SECONDER:	Ruthie Schlabach
AYES:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry Campbell
ABSENT:	Jeff Kinnard

Review and Approval of the May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes of the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board

[14057](#)

Review and Approval of the Scope of Work for a Major Update to the Citrus County Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY 2026-FY 2035

[13941](#)

Review and Approval of Agreement to Transfer Trail Counters to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

[14346](#)

Review and Approval of an Amendment (Revision 3) to the FY 2023-FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program

[13769](#)

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, on the Goals and Objectives for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the 2050 Preliminary Needs Assessment

[14080](#)

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 goals and objectives and preliminary needs assessment. He explained the 2050 LRTP is a continuation of the 2045 LRTP and is in alignment with federal planning guidelines and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) plan. A fifth goal, *Implementation*, has been added to the 2050 LRTP to identify the essentials needed to implement and complete projects.

Mr. Roll conveyed the 2050 LRTP will not be as robust as the 2045 LRTP as revenues are down, and costs are up dramatically. Albeit there are more vehicles using the road, fuel-tax revenue is flat due to alternative fuel and fuel-efficient vehicles. By 2035, Mr. Roll noted, fuel-tax revenue will decline and not sustain road improvement/maintenance needs. Mr. Roll also relayed that the cost of pavement has increased 55% in two years. Mr. Roll emphasized county roads are not the States responsibility; however, the State is more likely to partner with counties that are able to provide a funding source for projects.

Commissioner Allocco noted the need to add a second left-hand turn lane on the northbound lane at the SR589/Suncoast Parkway and US98/Cortez Boulevard exit. Depending on the time of day, it is not uncommon to have vehicles waiting through three or four cycles of lights to turn left (west) onto Cortez (SR 50). Commissioner Champion expressed his support for an interchange at SR589 and Centralia Road. Siaso Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, conveyed the cost of an interchange is approximately \$150 million dollars. To begin the request process, the local jurisdiction would need to submit an Interchange Access Request (IAR) form. Mr. Fine noted Commissioner Bays inquiry for a report on historical toll revenues and air quality ratings for SR589 and will report back to the MPO Board.

Councilman McBride expressed that the MPO Board should stay up to date on the technology surrounding automated/self-driving vehicles. Mr. Roll affirmed there will be an element in the 2050 LRTP addressing autonomous vehicles and encouraged MPO Board members to attend the Florida Autonomous Vehicle Summit, September 4-6, 2024, in Tampa (www.favsummit.com <<http://www.favsummit.com>>).

Presentation by the General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates, on the Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County (US 41 and SR 200) and Hernando County (US 41 and County Line Road) [14081](#)

Steve Infanti, Project Manager with the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates, made a presentation on the results of the Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus and Hernando County requested by the MPO Board. The study objectives were to assess the existing traffic conditions for each of the corridors by determining the general level of service, the severity of congestion, and identifying growth trends and travel characteristics.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to accept the Traffic Segment Study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Champion and the motion passed 9-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Ruthie Schlabach
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Blake Bell, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry Campbell
ABSENT:	Jeff Kinnard

Presentation by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the Hernando County FY 2025-FY 2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP)

[14082](#)

Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for CUTR, made a presentation on the status of the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (Hernando TDP) for FY 2025-FY 2034. Commissioner Allocco asked if data was available on individuals that have no intention of driving for whatever reason. Mr. Roberson stated that data of this type is more difficult to obtain; however, it is a question that will be included on a future public outreach survey. Mr. Roberson informed the MPO Board that public outreach events will continue during the development of the Hernando TDP and encouraged Board members to recommend additional public events at which CUTR could make presentations. Commissioner Schlabach asked Mr. Roberson to email her with any findings that could be used to encourage bus usage. Mr. Roberson advised that updates on the TDP will be provided at the August and October MPO Board and County Commission meetings in preparation for TDP adoption in November and submittal to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by December 1, 2024.

[It is noted for the record, Mayor Blake Bell, MPO Board Member, City of Brooksville, left the meeting.]

ACTION ITEMS

Review and Approval of the FY 2025-FY 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)-Draft

[13787](#)

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item for the Hernando/Citrus FY 2025-FY 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for adoption. He noted that this is a Public Hearing and that a Roll-Call vote was required.

Chair Campbell asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to speak on this matter. No one from the audience came forward.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Champion to adopt the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for FY 2025-FY 2029 per the MPO staff 's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Narverud, and a Roll-Call vote carried the motion 8-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Elizabeth Narverud
AYES:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry Campbell
ABSENT:	Jeff Kinnard, and Blake Bell

Approval of Resolutions 2024-5 and 2024-6, and Authorization for MPO Executive Director to Execute Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Award Agreements for Citrus and Hernando Counties from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

[14083](#)

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Narverud to approve Resolutions 2024-5 and 2024-6, and Authorization for the MPO Executive Director to execute Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Award Agreements from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for Citrus and Hernando Counties. A copy of the agreements will be provided to the MPO Board once received, reviewed by the County Attorney, and executed. The motion was seconded by Councilman McBride and the motion passed 8-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Elizabeth Narverud
SECONDER:	Cabot McBride
AYES:	Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot McBride, Steve Champion, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry Campbell
ABSENT:	Jeff Kinnard, and Blake Bell

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Esposito summarized the Annual Evaluations of the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) for Citrus and Hernando counties noting that both CTCs appear to be operating consistent with the Florida Statutes Chapter 427, and Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code. The MPO Quarterly Financial Report was provided as informational, and no action was required by the MPO Board. There were no comments from the Board.

1. Annual Evaluations of the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) for Citrus and Hernando Counties.
2. MPO Quarterly Financial Report for the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024.

Items for the Information of the MPO Board

[14084](#)

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito provided the following updates:

- The Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) will be conducting a statewide virtual seminar on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Esposito will email details to the MPO Board members.
- The July 11, 2024, meeting is canceled as the Hernando County Commission is scheduling a workshop that day. Necessary agenda items will be presented at the August meeting.
- The Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) ribbon cutting ceremony that was held on May 22, 2024, in Tom Varn Park in Brooksville and was well attended.
- The SCTPA's semi-annual meeting is June 14, 2024, in Bartow, Florida (FDOT District 1). Commissioner Narverud was not able to attend. Councilman McBride, Alternate Liaison to the SCTPA for the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board agreed to attend.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Commissioner Allocco asked if there were any updates on the concern raised during the May 2, 2024, MPO Board meeting on the lack of sidewalk access to Moton Elementary School. Mr. Scott Herring, Hernando County Public Works Director/County Engineer, informed the Board the matter is being researched and that Moton is a charter school and there are different transportation issues associated with that.
- Councilman McBride invited everyone to come enjoy Patriotic Evening, a free event including live music and fireworks, on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Liberty Park, 286 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida.
- Chair Campbell thanked the City of Brooksville for hosting the 2024 MPO Board meetings and for the support and presence of Hernando County officials and law enforcement at the meeting today. Chair Campbell encouraged everybody to honor the 80th anniversary of D-day and remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to show appreciation to those that continue to serve.

Items Distributed/Presented During the Meeting

14165

Presentations:

1. Goals and Objectives for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the 2050 Preliminary Needs Assessment
2. Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County (US41 & SR200) and Hernando County (US41 & County Line Rd.)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlabach to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman McBride and carried unanimously.

RESULT: **ADOPTED**
MOVER: Ruthie Schlabach
SECONDER: Cabot McBride
AYES: Elizabeth Narverud, Ruthie Schlabach, John Allocco, Cabot
 McBride, Steve Champion, Rebecca Bays, Joe Meek, and Jerry
 Campbell
ABSENT: Jeff Kinnard, and Blake Bell

The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2024, beginning at 1:30 pm, in the Brooksville City Council Chambers, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida. The July 11, 2024, MPO Board meeting has been cancelled.