



**Joint Meeting of the  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) and  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)  
OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

**MINUTES**

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a joint meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and Citrus Chronicle newspapers and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

**BPAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim McLean, Chair, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large  
Dave Peters, Alternate, City of Brooksville  
Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness  
Bailey Forbes, Hernando County Parks and Rec  
Francine Nobles, Citrus County Parks and Rec  
Dennis Henize, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large  
Michael Dolan, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large  
Sgt Lillibridge, Non-Voting Hernando County Sheriff's Office

**BPAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brian Herrmann, City of Crystal River  
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Dennis Reiland, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large  
Deputy Fischer, Non-Voting Citrus County Sheriff's Office

**CAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ron Lawson, Chair, City of Brooksville  
Beverly Howard, Vice Chair, Citrus County – Unincorporated  
John Wade, Citrus County – Unincorporated  
Scarlett Sharpe, Hernando County - Unincorporated  
Stephen Hohman, Hernando County – Unincorporated  
Karen Esty, City of Inverness  
Shannon Sokolowski, Low Income and/or Minority Representative

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director  
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator  
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III  
William Roll, Kimley-Horn, General Planning Consultant  
Suzanne Monk, Non-Voting Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, Government Liaison

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

- BPAC Chair McLean called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. and led the Moment of Silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the Committees and staff followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum for the CAC was declared.
- A quorum for the BPAC was declared and the affidavit of advertisement read into the record.

### **APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

MPO staff requested an agenda modification to move agenda Item I, Presentation on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope A Socioeconomic Forecast, to the beginning of the agenda, as new letter C. A second agenda modification was noted to add election of the 2023 BPAC Vice Chair, as Ms. Minnie, recently resigned from the BPAC and no longer works for Hernando County Parks and Recreation.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion by Mr. Dolan was made to approve the modified agenda and was seconded by Mr. Henize. The motion passed 7-0.

**CAC Motion:** A motion by Ms. Sokolowski was made to approve the modified agenda and was seconded by Ms. Sharpe. The motion passed 7-0.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE 2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) SCOPE A SOCIOECONOMIC FORECAST**

William Roll of Kimley-Horn, General Planning Consultant, is in the process of preparing the Socioeconomic Forecast study for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the status of data being analyzed to-date. Mr. Hohman shared there are data sets that indicate a possible population decline due to changes in attitudes in raising families and asked how familiar Mr. Roll is with the data sets. Mr. Roll affirmed he was very familiar with the data sets.

### **ELECTION OF THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) 2023 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**CAC Motion:** A motion to elect Mr. Wade as Chair for 2023 was made by Ms. Esty and seconded by Ms. Howard. The motion passed 7-0.

**CAC Motion:** A motion to elect Mr. Lawson as Vice Chair for 2023 was made by Ms. Esty and seconded by Mr. Wade. The motion passed 7-0.

### **ELECTION OF THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) 2023 VICE CHAIR**

**BPAC Motion:** A motion to elect Mr. Dolan as Vice Chair for 2023 was made by Ms. Bechtel and seconded by Mr. Henize. The motion passed 7-0.

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MINUTES - DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**CAC Motion:** A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Mr. Hohman and seconded by Mr. Lawson. The motion passed 7-0.

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2023**

**BPAC Motion:** A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Ms. Bechtel and seconded by Mr. Dolan. The motion passed 7-0.

### **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2024-FY 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Chair Wade asked why electric vehicle charging stations were listed in Section 3.4, Safety Investments in the TIP, and where the charging stations would be located (Agenda Packet Page 47). Mr. Esposito mentioned the need for charging stations during an evacuation and they would likely be located at rest areas or at businesses but there is a need to add more charging stations. Chair Wade would like clarification on why school buses are listed at 100% in Table 6.4, Agenda Packet page 58. MPO staff will review and report back to the committee.

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Howard to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board adopt the draft FY 2024-FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hohman. The motion passed 7-0.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Henize to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board adopt the draft FY 2024-FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bechtel. The motion passed 7-0.

## **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ANNUAL DRAFT UPDATE OF THE LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS (LOPP)**

Mr. Esposito reviewed the staff's recommendations to the List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Congestion Management draft update sharing from the adopted 2022 LOPP:

- Item 10 was moved to Item 3, SR 200 (N Carl G Rose Hwy) from US 441 to the Marion County Line.
- Item 4 was moved to Item 5 instead of Croft Avenue.
- US 41 remains Citrus County's number one project.
- Item 6, a roundabout at US 41 at Lake Lindsey, was added per Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recommendation due to the number of serious accidents at that location.
- Ms. Elwin shared that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), during their earlier 9:00 a.m. meeting, recommended Item 8 be switched with Item 10.
- Item 13, a roundabout at US 41 and North Citrus Springs Boulevard, was added which will move Items 13-16 down one position and we would have a total of 17 items on the LOPP.

Ms. Esty asked for clarification whether the proposed Item 7 (previously Item 13), Cardinal Street, had not been funded. Mr. Esposito affirmed it was not funded and Citrus County's number one project is US 41. Ms. Esty addressed her concern on the need to escalate the priority for Item 10 on the Transportation Alternative (TA) LOPP, N. Independence Highway sidewalks. At present, all TA LOPP funds are being directed to Item 1, Withlacoochee State Trail, said Mr. Esposito. Ms. Monk, FDOT District 7, noted that an application for N. Independence Highway sidewalks had not been submitted. Mr. Hohman asked who files for the application and it was affirmed Citrus County files the application. Ms. Monk shared that once an application is funded, there still is a potential two-year design period, two-year right-of-way review period, and a two-year construction period; potentially a five-year wait even if the item moved up on the TA LOPP and funds became available. Chair Wade noted the Independence Highway area was growing rapidly and there are several houses being built. The committees also affirmed that if the current Item 2, Rock Crusher Road, was a Safe-Routes-to-School (SRTS) need, they would not want to postpone that Item 2 by moving Independence Highway up on the TA LOPP. An application for Rock Crusher Road has not been submitted and it was suggested to apply for SRTS funding which would remove this item from the TA funded LOPP thus allowing Independence Highway to move to a higher priority item on the TA LOPP.

There was committee discussion on if an alignment between TA LOPP Item 2 (with a recommendation to move to Item 10) and the CM LOPP Item 14 (with recommendation to move to Item 15) was feasible and could be done at the same time. Chair Wade asked if it was a standard practice to build a sidewalk at the same time a road is built, and it was affirmed that it was not unless it is a State Road per Mr. Esposito

Chair McLean asked that two shelter/restroom amenities be added for the Sun Coast Parkway Trail; one at Cardinal Boulevard (36a) and one at SR44 (36b). Chair McLean also mentioned there were plans to establish a Park and Ride creating a greater need for facilities at SR44. Ms. Nobles agreed and shared there were 28 miles of trail that had no storm shelter, water, or shade. The committees discussed their concerns and possible solutions to not having signage or information available on tourism/trail web sites advising visitors of no amenities. MPO staff will also investigate solutions for signage and posting on appropriate web sites and report back to the committees.

Chair McLean commented on his concern that a Bicycle/Pedestrian overpass was not being built over SR 44. Mr. Hohman agreed and indicated it would be less expensive to build an overpass during the Sun Coast Parkway construction phase versus having to retrofit at a point in the future due to the potential of serious injury/fatality incidents.

**CAC Motion:** A motion from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the annual draft update of the List of Priority Projects (LOPP), with noted changes, was made by Ms. Howard and seconded by Mr. Hohman. The motion passed 7-0.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the annual draft update of the List of Priority Projects (LOPP), with noted changes, was made by Ms. Bechtel and seconded by Messrs. Dolan and Henize. The motion passed 7-0.

## **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE FY 2024 DRAFT ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

Chair Wade voiced his concern on locating information on the Hernando/Citrus MPO web site. Mr. Esposito reassured that the MPO is public driven and public notice is important to the MPO and that he would schedule a meeting with the Hernando County IT team next Tuesday, May 30, 2023, to investigate options to improve the web site and ensure

information is current. Chair Wade indicated the agenda packet red-lined version of the UPWP was not reflecting table updates correctly and Ms. Elwin assured him the data contained in the original UPWP document is correct and the Adobe software skewed the tables when the document converted it to Adobe format in the agenda packet. Ms. Elwin offered to print corrected copies of the UPWP, and the committees passed. Chair Wade asked for clarification on why Personal Salary decreased. Mr. Esposito indicated the MPO will have a staff reduction.

**CAC Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sokolowski and seconded by Ms. Sharpe to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the FY 2024 draft annual update of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with table values shown correctly. The motion passed 7-0.

**BPAC Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Henize and seconded by Ms. Forbes to recommend the Hernando/Citrus MPO Board approve the FY 2024 draft annual update of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with table values shown correctly. The motion passed 7-0.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – There were no citizens present.

#### **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

- Chair McLean shared a Bicycle/Pedestrian pamphlet that was provided by the Hernando/Citrus MPO's Master Plan and asked that it be reviewed and updated during the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process.
- Ms. Nobles shared that the Withlacoochee State Trail had 479,000 visitors in 2022 and is the most used state park in the district.
- Ms. Howard mentioned the sidewalk barriers were taken down and the sidewalk now provides a safe route, especially for many of the lesser served citizens that needed a safe bicycle/pedestrian alternative to US 19. Chair Wade commended Ms. Howard on her efforts of getting projects through fruition.
- Chair McLean complimented the new rumble strip design which is more comfortable for the bicycle rider (less bumpy) and smoother on the tires.
- Ms. Howard mentioned the memorial marker that was provided by FDOT for Clayton Storey was removed during road improvements. She will forward pictures to MPO staff to investigate if this can be resurrected.

#### **HERNANDO/CITRUS MPO STAFF COMMENTS**

- Mr. Esposito expressed thanks to FDOT for the additional \$2.3 million dollars for US 41 in Citrus County and for adding in a traffic signal at Gospel Island and SR 44 during their resurfacing project. Additionally, Mr. Esposito thanked FDOT for paying for the study (approx. \$100,000) for the rectangular rapid flashing beacons for the Withlacoochee State Trail in Inverness and the new roundabout at US 41 and Lake Lindsey Road. Towards the end of June, a solution on the Brooksville one-way pairs may come to fruition.

#### **ADJORNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m. The next joint meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.

*[Subsequent to this meeting, the June 21, 2023, meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023.]*