



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Thursday, August 29, 2024

### MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

### TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Herring, Chair, Hernando County Department of Public Works  
Walt Eastmond, Vice Chair, County Engineer, Citrus County Public Works Department  
Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department  
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit  
Jenette Collins, Growth Management Director, City of Crystal River  
David Peters, City of Brooksville  
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness  
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

### TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Omar DePablo, Hernando County Planning Department  
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District  
Valerie Pianta, Non-Voting Member, Hernando County Airport  
Todd Regan, Non-Voting Member, Citrus County Aviation Section

### OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director  
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III  
Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
William Roll, Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates  
Marc Ispass, Deputy Project Manager, MPO General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Herring called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Moment of Silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the Committee members and staff followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum was declared, and Ms. Turner noted for the record that the public notice for the meeting was posted in accordance with the adopted policies.

### APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 8-0.

### REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MINUTES – JULY 25, 2024

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Granger to approve the Minutes of the July 25, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 8-0.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Presentation of Survey Results by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the Hernando County FY2025-FY2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP)**

Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for CUTR, under contract with the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners to do the major TDP update, made a presentation on the status of the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (Hernando TDP) for FY 2025-FY 2034. The survey results identified the need for additional routes in the Airport Business Park area. Chair Herring mentioned there are two existing bus stops in the Airport Business Park. Mr. Roberson clarified that the survey responses mentioned the bus does not circulate everywhere along the main corridor, particularly where the new technology school is being built. Ms. Lollie noted that a bus stop near the technology school is forthcoming. Mr. Roberson shared that a social media survey would be conducted in September to obtain public input on the opportunities and challenges for public transportation in Hernando County.

*[It is noted for the record that TAC member, Chuck Dixon, representing the Citrus County School District, arrived at the meeting at this time.]*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Review and Recommendation of Resolution 2024-7 to Request an I-75 Truck Route Study in Citrus County, Florida**

Chair Herring asked how the driving apps could be updated for large heavy trucks to avoid routes through CR48 (Orange Avenue). Vice Chair Eastmond affirmed Citrus County GIS operators have contacted the different mapping software companies to request the routes be altered. However, map routing is determined via driving pattern algorithms versus the software firm. The software firms indicated some restrictions can be added to the app software to discourage trucks from using specific roads but to reduce truck traffic significantly, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will need to install signage and notify truckers to not exit I-75 at identified locations and avoid using CR48 (Orange Avenue).

**Motion:** A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve an updated Resolution 2024-7 indicating a regional focus supporting the I-75 Truck Route Study being conducted and funded by the Florida Department of Transportation for Citrus County, Florida. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dixon and the motion passed 9-0.

### **2. Review of the Draft 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Adoption Package**

Mr. Esposito introduced William Roll, MPO General Planning Consultant with Kimley-Horn & Associates. Mr. Roll made a presentation on the draft adoption package for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Vice Chair Eastmond requested funds allocated to Cardinal Street in Citrus County be prioritized to CR491 from Pine Ridge northward versus Cardinal Street. Chair Herring questioned Mr. Roll on whether the LRTP would be amended if Hernando County were to pass a sales tax option. Mr. Roll affirmed an amendment would occur. Vice Chair Eastmond asked for a correction to the 2050 Cost Feasible Plan handout for partially funded projects as Spring Lake Highway from Powell Road to SR50 (Cortez) is listed as Citrus County and should be corrected to Hernando County.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Dixon to recommend the MPO Board proceed with the first public hearing on September 5, 2024, for the Draft 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Adoption Package with the two modifications identified by Vice Chair Eastmond. The motion was seconded by Ms. Collins and the motion passed 9-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Dixon asked for an update on studies being conducted for a traffic light on Middle School Road and US41. Mr. Esposito confirmed that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is planning to conduct a study during peak drop-off and pick-up hours. Mr. Dixon affirmed the need for the study as school buses are crossing four lanes with a median.

### **MPO STAFF UPDATES**

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- Commissioner Bays (Citrus) and Todd Crosby, Assistant County Engineer for Hernando County, have agreed to attend the Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit Dignitary Panel on October 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Port Tampa Bay Cruise Terminal-2, 651 Channelside Drive, Tampa, Florida.
- In accordance with the adopted UPWP, the MPO Staff completed the annual review of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). This is a safety sensitive document staff utilizes as reference during weather events, health events, and other types of situations that may occur.
- Fully executed Memorandum of Agreement to transfer the trail counters to FDOT was received.
- The signed apportionment letter from Governor DeSantis was received August 18, 2024, for the 2023 Apportionment Plan adopted November 2, 2023.
- You have been provided a handout for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Regional Workshop in the west central Florida region as part of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) update. This workshop will give you the opportunity to collaborate with local agencies in your community, provide feedback on the draft FTP vision and goals, and learn more about regional objectives. The in-person workshop is Thursday, September 19, 2024, from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Lake Eva Event Center, 799 Johns Avenue, Haines City, Florida. In addition to the in-person workshops, a Virtual Open House will be held from September 16-27, 2024, on the FTP website at [www.FloridaFTP.com](http://www.FloridaFTP.com). The Virtual Open House will include presentation materials for each region and an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ideas. MPO staff will be attend the Virtual Open House.
- MPO staff will attend the quarterly meeting with Lake-Sumter MPO and Ocala Marion TPO on September 19, 2024. Lake-Sumter is hosting in Leesburg, Florida.
- Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator, and Joy Turner will attend the 2024 Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Annual Conference and Expo in West Palm Beach on September 22-24, 2024. The annual training fulfills Task 10 of the CTD grants for Hernando and Citrus County: *Planning agency staff shall attend at least one Commission sponsored training, including but not limited to, the Commission's regional meetings or annual training workshop.*

Chair Herring asked when the updated functional classification maps would be available. Ms. Ziegler, liaison for the Florida Department of Transportation, stated the updated maps should be forthcoming in the next month.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.