



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

Thursday, May 22, 2025

MINUTES

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a joint public meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was publicly noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and the Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

BPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Bailey Grzyb, Vice Chair, Hernando County Parks and Recreation
Manuel Coimbre, Citrus County Parks and Recreation, Alternate
Jim McLean, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large
Dennis Reiland, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large

BPAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Sherry Bechtel, Chair, City of Inverness
Deputy Fischer, Non-Voting Citrus County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant Matt Lillibridge, Non-Voting Hernando County Sheriff's Office

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Esty, Chair, City of Inverness
Stephen Hohman, Vice Chair, Hernando County – Unincorporated
Jim Reynold, Citrus County – Unincorporated
Ana Arias-Cáseres, Low Income and/or Minority Representative-Citrus County
Shannon Sokolowski, Low Income and/or Minority Representative-Hernando County
Scarlett Sharpe, Hernando County - Unincorporated
Ron Lawson, City of Brooksville

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Elisa Joyner, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Presiding Vice Chair Grzyb (BPAC) called the joint meeting to order at 10:31 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 for the CAC and for the BPAC.
- 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

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Lawson to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Esty, and the motion passed 7-0.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Reiland to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLean, and the motion passed 4-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CAC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2025

Ms. Sharpe nominated Karen Esty as CAC Chair for 2025.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sharpe to approve Karen Esty as CAC Chair for 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hohman, and the motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Sharpe nominated Stephen Hohman as CAC Vice Chair for 2025.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sharpe to approve Stephen Hohman as CAC Vice Chair for 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sokolowski, and the motion passed 7-0.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2024, REGULAR JOINT MEETING

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hohman to approve the November 21, 2024, Minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharpe, and the motion passed 7-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 24, 2025, JOINT MEETING OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) AND BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

The minutes of the April 24, 2025, joint meeting of the CAC and BPAC were provided for review and approval. Ms. Turner noted an administrative update regarding page 15 of the agenda packet, clarifying the second bullet point under Hernando County. Ms. Sharpe asked that the comment on agenda packet page 14 be updated to clarify that Mr. Herring was not at the April 24th joint meeting of the CAC and BPAC.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hohman to approve the April 24, 2025, Minutes, as amended by Ms. Sharpe. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lawson, and the motion passed 7-0.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Reiland to approve the April 24, 2025, Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLean, and the motion passed 4-0.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE DRAFT FY2026-FY2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE HERNANDO/CITRUS MPO

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and the staff recommendation. Mr. Hohman inquired about the reason for the \$14 million funding decrease from the FY2025-FY2029 TIP. Mr. Esposito explained that most of the decrease was attributed to completed projects being removed from the TIP. Ms. Elwin added that while completed projects were the primary reason for the reduction, fluctuations in the overall program's cost were also influenced by rising costs of labor and supplies.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sokolowski to recommend the MPO Board approve the draft FY2026-FY2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Hernando/Citrus MPO. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hohman, and the motion passed 7-0.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. McLean to recommend the MPO Board approve the draft FY2026-FY2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Hernando/Citrus MPO. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reiland, and the motion passed 4-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Mr. Lawson expressed his concerns about the lack of directional signage at the intersection of SR 50/Jefferson Street and Cobb Road. He mentioned that he had sent an email to the Florida Department of Transportation and planned to send a follow-up email. Mr. Hohman agreed with Mr. Lawson, stating that navigating through the intersection was complicated. Mr. Esposito requested to be copied on the email.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

- Mr. Coimbre suggested a small project in Citrus County to improve the intersection at CR 491 and West Marc Knighton Road. Mr. Esposito confirmed that this intersection is under the jurisdiction of Citrus County.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- Regular quarterly meetings are being held between Hernando County, Pasco County, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to discuss the widening of County Line Road. The estimated cost for right-of-way acquisition is between \$25 million and \$30 million, while the construction costs are projected to be around \$100 million. The FDOT has agreed to cover half of the costs for both the right-of-way acquisition and construction. Hernando County and Pasco County will share the responsibility for covering the remaining half of the costs.
- The FDOT has agreed to add a dedicated right-turn lane on Ayers at US 41 when the resurfacing project begins in the summer 2026 (FDOT Project #447935-1-52-01).
- The FDOT Signals Team conducted a study and added a dedicated left-turn signal for northbound traffic on CR 491 at US 41. Feedback from the community has been very positive.
- Citrus County requested a traffic signal at the intersection of Gospel Island and SR 44. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) agreed to this request and included it in their resurfacing project for SR 44. The poles for the traffic signal have been installed, and the resurfacing work is currently in progress. The estimated completion date for the project is spring 2026 (FDOT Project #448040-1-52-01 & 443981-1-52-01).
- The City of Brooksville is experiencing issues with heavy truck traffic passing through downtown. Since US 50A is a State Road, the city is unable to post "No Truck Traffic" signs. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has conducted a truck traffic study and plans to implement intersection improvements during the 2026/2027 calendar year [reverting the one-way pairs]. After the intersection work is completed, the FDOT will transfer that section of the road to the City of Brooksville. Mr. Esposito expressed gratitude to the FDOT for funding the truck traffic study, which cost approximately \$125,000—an expense that the City of Brooksville did not have to incur.
- F&H Contractors [in Crystal River] made a request to Commissioner Kinnard to add a median opening on US 19 near the Sun Coast Industrial Park, which was not part of the original plan. Bob worked with the FDOT and successfully secured the approval for the median opening.
- SR 50 (Cortez Boulevard) widening from Cobb Road to west of Buck Hope Road will be completed in the summer of 2025 (<https://www.fdotampabay.com/project/334/416733-2-52-01>).
- US 98/SR 50 repaving from south of Jasmine Drive to Mondon Hill Road is currently underway with an estimated completion of late 2025 to early 2026 (<https://www.fdotampabay.com/project/994/447948-1-52-01>). US 98/SR 50 repaving from Spring Lake Highway/Mondon Hill Road to Lockhart Road is scheduled to be completed mid-August.
- Suncoast Parkway 2 Phase 3A (from CR 486 to CR 495) construction started 1st quarter of 2025. The last phase (3B from CR 495 to US 19) begins construction in the third quarter of 2025.
- US 41 widening from SR 44 to Withlacoochee Trail Bridge is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2025 (<https://www.fdotampabay.com/project/446/257165-3-52-01>).
- US 41 widening from S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge to N of Sportsman Point construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2026 (<https://www.fdotampabay.com/project/473/257165-4-52-01>).

- Mr. Esposito will attend the Transportation Management Area (TMA) & Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) meetings on Friday, May 23, 2025, in Tampa.
- MPO staff will participate in the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting, Wednesday, July 23, 2025, in Orlando.
- Mr. Esposito will attend the MPOAC meeting, Thursday, July 24, 2025, in Orlando.
- Future planning projects include traffic counts in Hernando, an update for the Level of Service analysis for Hernando, a Congestion Management Plan Update, and a Complete Streets Update.
- The Florida Turnpike Enterprise is conducting a study of the Suncoast Parkway interchange at Spring Hill Drive and also the interchange at and SR 50/Cortez Boulevard regarding the request for additional northbound left turn lanes. The study will be completed in July.
- The Florida Turnpike Enterprise formally kicked off the Suncoast Parkway at Centralia interchange study at the beginning of April. The study will go through the end of 2025. FTE is currently collecting preliminary information.

Ms. Sharpe commended Mr. Esposito for the progress achieved by the MPO during his tenure. She noted that construction projects are underway and road congestion is improving. The committee concurred and Mr. McLean also praised the MPO staff for their outstanding efforts.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next joint meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.