



**Regular Public Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
OF THE HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

Thursday, May 22, 2025

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a public meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025, 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 Hernando/Citrus MPO websites.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Herring, Vice Chair, County Engineer/Public Works Director, Hernando County Dept. of Public Works
Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
Steve Gouldman, City of Brooksville
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit
Elisa Joyner, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Walt Eastmond, Chair, County Engineer/Technical Services Director, Citrus County Public Works Dept.
Omar DePablo, Hernando County Planning Department
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District
Carly Hanson, City of Crystal River
Valerie Pianta, Non-Voting Member, Hernando County Airport
Todd Regan, Non-Voting Member, Citrus County Aviation Section

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Vice Chair Herring called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 Mr. Dixon to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Landon and the motion passed 7-0.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – APRIL 24, 2025, TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Dixon to approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gouldman and the motion passed 7-0.

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

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. Vice Chair Herring asked if there were any questions from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and noted for the record there were no citizens at the meeting for Public Comment. There were no questions or comments from the TAC.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens present at the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no committee member comments.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- SR 50 (Cortez Boulevard) widening from Cobb Road to west of Buck Hope Road will be completed in the summer of 2025 (<https://www.fdottampabay.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.fdottampabay.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 complete 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.fdottampabay.com/project/446/257165-3-52-01>).
- US 41 widening from S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge to N or Sportsman Point construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2026 (<https://www.fdottampabay.com/project/473/257165-4-52-01>).
- 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).
- 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.
- 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. 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. Mr. Esposito worked with the FDOT and successfully secured the approval for the median opening.

- 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.
- 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.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.

Vice Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.