



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

Thursday, February 26, 2026

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a public meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the Hernando County Building Division Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was publicly noticed on the Hernando County, Citrus County, and Hernando-Citrus MPO websites.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Walt Eastmond, County Engineer/Technical Services Director, Citrus County Public Works Dept.
Scott Herring, County Engineer/Public Works Director, Hernando County Dept. of Public Works
Lashaundra Ellison, Hernando County Planning Department
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
David Peters, City of Brooksville
Carly Hanson, City of Crystal River
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit
Elisa Joyner, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness
John Walsh, 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
Audra Curts, City of Crystal River City Manager
Loren Hughes, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for the Center for Urban Transportation (CUTR)
Rob Cursey, AICP, Transit and Transportation Group Manager, Benesch & Associates
Chris Keller, AICP, Senior Project Manager, Benesch & Associates
William Roll, AICP, Project Manager, Kimley-Horn & Associates

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Mr. 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. Eastmond to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 9-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2026

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to approve Scott Herring as Chair for 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 9-0.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve Walt Eastmond as Vice Chair for 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dixon and the motion passed 9-0.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regular Public Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2025
2. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Jurisdictional Representatives Stakeholder Public Workshop on the Congestion Management Process Update and the Complete Streets Update – November 20, 2025

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Granger to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2025, meeting and the November 20, 2025, workshop. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dixon and the motion passed 9-0.

PRESENTATION:

Presentation by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the Annual Update for the Hernando County FY2025-FY2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate at CUTR, presented the Annual Update for the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY2025-FY2034, highlighting progress made since the plan's adoption. He noted that the County has maintained existing service levels and expanded its network by adding four fixed routes along with the required ¾-mile ADA paratransit service. Over the past year, Hernando County also purchased new vehicles to support these routes, modernized its scheduling system for both ADA paratransit and fixed-route services, and prepared to install real-time information screens on its larger buses.

Looking ahead to FY2026-FY2027, the County plans to introduce two additional fixed routes. Route 10 will operate along Anderson Snow Boulevard, Barclay Avenue, and Sunshine Grove Road, while Route 11 will run along US 19 to the Citrus County line, where it will connect with Citrus County Transit's Orange Line. In FY2029 or later, the County anticipates adding another zonal route similar to the downtown Brooksville service, though the specific location has not yet been identified.

Several major capital priorities will continue into FY2026 and beyond, including ongoing bus stop improvements and development of a new maintenance and operations facility. The County will also procure design and engineering services for bus stop upgrades, construct additional shelters, and continue purchasing new and replacement vehicles.

Another key initiative over the next few years is a comprehensive marketing update. This effort will include refreshed route schedules, improved route information, a redesigned website, and expanded outreach. The County also plans to secure additional support for planning, design, and engineering activities associated with its capital program.

Within the next five years, a new transfer facility could significantly reshape system operations. If constructed, the facility would likely require a redesign of the overall route network to optimize connections and improve efficiency.

The TDP is updated every five years, with annual progress reports completed in the interim. It guides decisions about project selection and prioritization within the Hernando-Citrus MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and must remain consistent with local government comprehensive plans and the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

ACTION ITEM

Review and Recommendation of the Draft 2026 List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. The MPO is proposing to maintain the current project list without expanding it, while identifying cost-feasible, smaller improvements that can move forward more quickly. The goal is to focus on modest projects, such as intersection upgrades, particularly where county or city roads connect to state roads.

Mr. Esposito provided several examples:

- US 41/Broad Street Resurfacing: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is planning a resurfacing project on US 41/Broad Street. Hernando County requested a dedicated right-turn lane from westbound Ayers Road to northbound US 41, and FDOT has agreed to include the improvement at its own expense.
- CR 491 and US 41 Intersection: This intersection previously lacked dedicated signals. After conducting a study, FDOT determined that signals were warranted in two directions, and the installation has already produced significant improvements.

Mr. Esposito also reminded municipalities that FDOT regularly sends emails regarding upcoming resurfacing or capacity projects. Those notifications are the ideal time to contact the MPO to explore whether additional improvements can be incorporated. For those not receiving updates, FDOT provides a sign-up option at <https://www.fdotampabay.com>, and he encouraged everyone to register.

Mr. Esposito noted that the LOPP currently includes several very expensive projects that consume many years of available funding. As a result, progress has been slow because so many of the listed projects are large and costly. Additionally, Mr. Esposito suggested moving some of the very large road projects, such as Rock Crusher, Venable, and CR 490 in Citrus County, to an alternative page. This would ensure they remain documented without occupying space on the LOPP.

Mr. Esposito then reviewed projects listed on the Congestion Management LOPP and provided updates on their status. He solicited that the MPO staff will gather and review input from counties and cities regarding their top two (counties) and top one (cities) small congestion-management projects.

Vice Chair Eastmond asked how difficult it would be to move projects from the alternative page back to the LOPP. Mr. Esposito explained the LOPP would just have to be updated and approved during an MPO Board meeting.

Mr. Esposito reviewed the Transportation Alternatives (TA) List of Priority Projects (LOPP) and explained that new category columns have been added, including Miles in Proximity to Schools, Commercial Areas, Public Transit, and Other. He explained that Hernando County receives approximately \$350,000 per year in TA funds, while Citrus County receives approximately \$170,000 per year. He also highlighted that Hernando County does not provide school bus service within a two-mile radius of a school, and some of the county commissioners have expressed interest in prioritizing sidewalk projects that improve connections to schools. Finally, he stated that any projects determined to be ineligible for TA funding will be removed from the TA LOPP.

Vice Chair Eastmond recommended removing TA Project Item 30 (30a & 30b), the Sugarmill Woods subdivision Bicycle Lane. He noted that despite repeated efforts to move the project forward with the community, there has not been sufficient public support.

Chair Herring indicated that he would follow up with his staff regarding TA Project Item 33, Kass Circle Improvements, to obtain more information about the "Under Review" comment.

Ms. Elwin referenced a list of transportation modalities by school, provided by James Lipsey, AICP-C, Hernando County School Planner, stating that it is a valuable resource when evaluating or proposing sidewalk projects near schools. She asked committee members to carefully review the TA LOPP to ensure that no completed projects remain on the list and that there is no duplication with other county initiatives.

She noted the importance of providing detailed information on current projects to strengthen transparency in how projects are ranked and why they advance through the process.

Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation Liaison for District 7, emphasized the importance of submitting comments during scoping meetings, noting that this stage is critical for gathering input that informs the design process. She encouraged committee members to contact her if they are not receiving scoping notifications.

Staff will coordinate with the committees for additional feedback during the March and/or April committee meetings prior to presenting the LOPP to the MPO Board for approval in May.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no further committee member comments.

MPO STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Pasco County attorneys are currently reviewing FDOT's draft Letter of Understanding (LOU) for County Line Road. Mr. Esposito will provide an update once the reviews by the attorneys are complete.
- Work has begun on the new two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will outline MPO projects and activities for FY2027-FY2028.
- Traffic counts and level-of-service analysis for both Citrus and Hernando are in progress.
- Mr. Esposito attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meeting on Wednesday, January 28, in Orlando.
- Ms. Elwin and Mr. Esposito participated in the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting on Thursday, January 29, in Orlando, which was well attended by Florida MPOs.
- The Centralia Road Interchange Study on the Suncoast Parkway, being conducted by the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, is expected to be available at the end of April.
- On January 5, 2026, the City of Brooksville adopted Resolution 2026-01, authorizing a Roadway Transfer Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation. This action enables the transfer of the downtown "One-Way Pairs" from the State Highway System to city jurisdiction.
- In addition to the MPO staff's standard committee recruitment efforts, Hernando and Citrus County Transit have agreed to share and post the recruitment flyer included in your handouts. WWJB Radio has also begun airing a Public Service Announcement (PSA) at no cost, using the script printed on the back of the flyer.
- Ms. Elwin informed attendees that they had been provided with a copy of the thoughts and comments on the List of Priority Projects (LOPP) submitted by Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) member Karen Esty.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The TAC Stakeholder Public Workshop will begin immediately following this regular meeting.

Chair Herring informed the committee that he will not be able to attend the March 26, 2026, meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peters and the motion passed 9-0.

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.