



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

**Thursday, November 21, 2024**

**MINUTES**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a public meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, 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  
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District  
David Peters, City of Brooksville  
Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness  
Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit  
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit  
Suzanne Ziegler, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Omar DePablo, Hernando County Planning Department  
Eric Landon, Citrus County Planning Department  
Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District  
Jenette Collins, Growth Management Director, 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  
Patrick Taylor, Director, Fire Department Strategic Initiatives, Hernando County Fire Rescue  
Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
Siaosi Fine, Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for the Center for Urban Transportation (CUTR)

**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 Vice Chair Eastmond to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.

## **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – AUGUST 29, 2024, TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

The minutes of the August 29, 2024, meeting of the TAC were provided for review and approval.

***Motion:*** A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve the Minutes of the August 29, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and the motion passed 7-0.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. 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 final presentation on the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (Hernando TDP) for FY 2025-FY 2034 outlining a number of priorities, short-term and longer-term needs, and overall recommendations. Chair Herring asked for a motion for endorsement of the TDP for fiscal year 2025 to fiscal year 2034.

***Motion:*** A motion was made by Ms. Granger to endorse the Hernando County FY2025-FY2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP). The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 7-0.

2. Presentation by the Florida Department of Transportation on the Tentative Five-Year Work Program (FY 2026-FY 2030)

Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, made a presentation on programming strategies and the proposed FDOT Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY 2026 - FY 2030. A flyer provided by the Florida Department of Transportation for the public hearing process was included in the packets and is posted on the MPO's website. Ms. Joyner provided the web page for public comment which will be open December 9, 2024, through December 30, 2024.

3. Presentation by the Florida Turnpike Enterprise on the Tentative Five-Year Work Program (FY 2026-FY 2030)

Siaosi Fine from Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) made a presentation on the proposed Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY 2026 – FY 2030. His presentation included how projects are prioritized and funded. Mr. Esposito asked if the Suncoast Parkway Extension timeline had been accelerated. Mr. Fine explained the timeline had not changed but calendar year versus fiscal year was used in this year's presentation (i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2025 in today's presentation may have been previously shown as 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2026). Chair Herring inquired on the status of the study to potentially add a Suncoast Parkway interchange at Centralia Avenue in Hernando County. Mr. Fine affirmed the application and supporting materials have been received and a study to determine the feasibility of adding an interchange will commence in 2025. In response to Chair Herring's question, Mr. Fine confirmed the study is separate from the work program.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### Annual Review and Update of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Bylaws

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item noting the major updates proposed to the Bylaws would be to add a Fire and Rescue member position for Hernando and Citrus counties and to update the non-voting staff advisor positions to voting positions. Vice Chair Eastmond shared that the premise of the Technical Advisory Committee is "technical" and was unsure of the benefit to add a Fire and Rescue position. Chair Herring relayed that adding member positions and moving non-voting positions to voting positions could have a negative impact on quorum requirements. Chair Herring emphasized the benefit of having Fire and Rescue participate in TAC meetings but suggested a non-voting capacity could be more appropriate. The TAC opted for the voting membership to remain unchanged, for non-voting staff advisor positions to remain non-voting, and to add Fire and Rescue positions for Hernando and Citrus Counties as non-voting staff advisor positions.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve the annual update to the TAC Bylaws, as indicated above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and the motion passed 7-0.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no further committee comments.

### **MPO STAFF UPDATES**

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- Similar to last year, MPO staff will be sending Outlook meeting notices for the 2025 meetings.
- The MPO team met with Curne Thomas and Jean Parlow from FHWA for an on-site visit on August 28<sup>th</sup>. They were pleased with what the Hernando/Citrus MPO is doing, its regional participation with the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA), along with conducting quarterly meetings with bordering Lake-Sumter MPO and Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Pasco County, and Hernando County staff members will meet at the end of January to further discuss improvement for County Line Road in Hernando County.
- County Line Road has been added to the Regional Priorities List that will be presented at the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) meeting on December 6 at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Citrus County Commissioner Jeff Kinnard will be the chairing the meeting.
- Improvements to the SR44/Turkey Oak intersection have been discussed with FDOT and will be added to the LOPP once a few of the current projects are completed.
- Mr. Esposito and Citrus County Commissioner Bays met with Ananth Prasad, President of the Florida's Transportation Builders' Association, on September 30<sup>th</sup> and State Senator Ed Hooper on October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Esposito attended the Hernando County Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Mr. Esposito was interviewed by WWJB radio on November 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss how roads are funded.

Vice Chair Eastmond mentioned FDOT had requested additional signal timing information for the intersection improvement being conducted at SR 44/CR 491 and inquired if FDOT could provide an update. Suzanne Ziegler, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7 liaison confirmed she would follow-up.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.