



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

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

MINUTES

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a joint meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and Citrus Chronicle newspapers and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

BPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim McLean, Chair, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large
Dave Peters, Alternate, City of Brooksville
Brian Herrmann, City of Crystal River
Sherry Bechtel, City of Inverness
James Lipsey, Hernando County School District
Rob Talmage, Hernando County Parks and Rec
Francine Nobles, Citrus County Parks and Rec
Dennis Henize, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large
Deputy Perez, Non-Voting Hernando County Sheriff's Office

BPAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Dixon, Citrus County School District
Dennis Reiland, Citrus County Citizen-at-Large
Michael Dolan, Vice Chair, Hernando County Citizen-at-Large
Deputy Fischer, Non-Voting Citrus County Sheriff's Office

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT

John Wade, Chair, Citrus County – Unincorporated
Ron Lawson, City of Brooksville
Scarlett Sharpe, Hernando County - Unincorporated
Stephen Hohman, Hernando County – Unincorporated
Karen Esty, City of Inverness
Shannon Sokolowski, Low Income and/or Minority Representative

CAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Beverly Howard, Citrus County – Unincorporated

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- CAC Chair Wade called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and led the Moment of Silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the Committees and staff followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum for the CAC was declared.
- A quorum for the BPAC was declared.
- Affidavits of advertisement were read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

CAC Chair Wade asked if there were modifications to the agenda from the CAC. There were no modifications requested.

CAC Motion: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Hohman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharpe and the motion passed 6-0.

BPAC Chair McLean asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

BPAC Motion: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Bechtel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nobles and the motion passed 8-0.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MINUTES – MAY 24, 2023

CAC Chair Wade asked if there were any comments on the minutes. Ms. Esty asked for clarification on the Minutes noting Ms. Howard was listed as Vice Chair versus Mr. Lawson. Ms. Elwin stated that staff would review the notes and recording of the May 24, 2023, meeting to confirm if a clerical error occurred in the Minutes or in the election for CAC Vice Chair. If the Minutes are correct, a re-election for CAC Vice Chair would be conducted at the next CAC meeting.

Chair Wade asked for a response to his question from the May 24, 2023, meeting wherein Table 6.4, Agenda Packet page 58, listed school buses at 100%. Ms. Elwin explained Table 6.4 is part of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) template and the data is a statewide collation that FDOT included in the document and was not unique to Hernando or Citrus County. Chair Wade acknowledged Ms. Elwin's clarification.

Chair Wade mentioned the exclusion of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for joint meetings. Ms. Elwin shared the TAC meetings are different and have a unique skillset of engineers and expertise's that look at things differently than the public perspective, so they indicated a desire to not have joint meetings. Ms. Elwin also noted that several members from the CAC and BPAC have expressed support and the benefits of having joint meetings.

Chair Wade asked for a motion to accept the minutes, with corrections, and that staff will review the recording to confirm if the CAC Vice Chair election was a clerical error or an invalid election. Mr. Hohman asked if a motion would be necessary to notice prior to the next meeting should an election of Vice Chair be necessary. Ms. Elwin stated it would be included in the public notice for the meeting and included as an agenda item for the next meeting, if needed.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Esty to approve the Minutes with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hohman and the motion passed 6-0.

[Subsequent to this meeting, the May 24, 2023, recording and notes were reviewed, and the error is noted as clerical. The motion should have reflected Ms. Esty making a motion to elect Mr. Lawson as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wade and passed unanimously. The May 24, 2023, minutes were corrected.]

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MINUTES – MAY 24, 2023

BPAC Chair McLean asked for a motion to approve the BPAC minutes.

BPAC Motion: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Peters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henize and the motion passed 8-0.

REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator, reviewed a presentation outlining the Apportionment Planning Process for 2023 now in progress for all MPOs/TPOs in the state based on the 2020 census data. Mses. Sharpe and Esty asked if the urbanized areas are annual numbers (2,000), and what consideration is given for applications above 2,000. Ms. Elwin noted she would get clarification during an upcoming meeting with FDOT. Ms. Elwin noted the MPO has received preliminary information to suggest that no changes are necessary to the apportionment area, but a meeting is scheduled with FDOT in the next 10 days to assess the apportionment planning process. Ms. Elwin shared that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Chair Eastmond, asked if there are plans to change functional classified roads and if so, what leading indicators would be used. Ms. Elwin relayed that all information shared by FDOT will be funneled out to the committees.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT STATUS OF THE VULNERABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT (RESILIENCE STUDY) FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Elwin reviewed a PowerPoint presentation prepared by General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates, to provide a project status update of the Hernando/Citrus MPO Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study. She noted that the study will be incorporated into the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which is also in the planning process.

Mr. Hohman asked if the risk assessment and future LRTP are being evaluated at a local or state level. For example, is an I-75 evacuation route from Ocala to Jacksonville being handled by more than one MPO or does the State review. Mr. Hohman also expressed concern with potential bottlenecks due to electric cars not being fully charged and the access to sufficient charging stations during an evacuation. Ms. Elwin expressed the importance of the long-term planning process especially when there are changes to the infrastructure.

Based on the conclusion of the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment study, Ms. Esty asked if the Board of County Commissions (BOCC) would make amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Elwin acknowledged the federal requirement for the LRTP and Comprehensive Plans to be consistent with each other. Mr. Hohman asked what the protocol is to report a concern when a city road connects to a county road. Ms. Elwin emphasized the importance of entities working together to make our systems more resilient especially during these long-term planning processes. As a result of this assessment, BPAC Chair McLean asked if the List of Priority Projects (LOPP) would be adjusted, and Ms. Elwin responded that it was possible for an amendment to the LOPP to occur.

CAC Chair Wade asked if the maps provided in the presentation would be discussed. Ms. Elwin shared that the maps were preliminary and subject to change and were provided as a frame of reference prior to the final report. Ms. Elwin encouraged committee members to provide comments on the maps, as they deem. Mr. Lawson asked if undeveloped land was a fire hazard risk being considered. Ms. Sharpe, who is a member on the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Stakeholder team, mentioned that there was discussion of not having access to undeveloped areas during a fire threat. Ms. Elwin reiterated that the scope of this study was to assess transportation facilities and infrastructure that are impacted by these events.

CAC Chair Wade shared the importance of registering with the sheriff's department to obtain a re-entry pass that can be kept in your vehicle to gain entry to your residence after an evacuation.

WORK FOR SEGMENT TRAFFIC STUDIES IN CITRUS COUNTY (US 41 AND SR 200) AND HERNANDO COUNTY (COUNTY LINE ROAD AND US 41)

The information for this agenda item was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Elwin shared the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to analyze two segments of County Line Road in Hernando County (County Line Road re-routed to US 41, referred to as the Ayers Road Intersection, and existing County Line Road back to Ayers going south). CAC Chair Wade commented that, at least for Citrus County, this is very important as Marion County has plans to four-lane SR 200 and US 41 is Citrus County's top priority. Ms. Esty asked if the counts were conducted during peak or off season. Ms. Elwin confirmed the counts were conducted during peak season and the level of service analysis being requested will be based on those counts.

CAC Chair Wade asked for a motion to recommend funding a task order at an approximate cost of \$25,000.

CAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hohman to recommend the MPO Board fund a task at an approximate cost of \$25,000 to conduct a level of service study in Citrus County (US 41 and SR 200) and Hernando County (County Line Road and US 41 which would include the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation to have two segments of County Line Road analyzed). The motion was seconded by Ms. Esty and the motion passed 6-0.

BPAC Chair McLean asked for a motion to recommend funding a task order at an approximate cost of \$25,000.

BPAC Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Henize to recommend the MPO Board fund a task at an approximate cost of \$25,000 to conduct a level of service study in Citrus County (US 41 and SR 200) and Hernando County (County Line Road and US 41 which would include the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation to have two segments of County Line Road analyzed). The motion was seconded by Ms. Bechtel and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – There was one citizen present to observe but she had no comment.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

CAC Chair Wade asked for comments from the CAC members.

- As a new committee member, Ms. Sokolowski asked if a new member orientation would be offered. She suggested an outline on how business is to be conducted (i.e., Robert's Rules, if applicable) and a list of acronyms used by the committee. Ms. Elwin thanked Ms. Sokolowski and indicated the committee operates via the adopted bylaws and Government-in-the-Sunshine. Documents are being updated and a new orientation will be done at the beginning of each year.
- Ms. Sokolowski would like guidance on discussion of topics after a motion or vote is cast.
- During future meetings, Ms. Sharpe suggested that the agenda packet be displayed on the training room monitors.
- Mr. Lawson inquired on the process to advise the public when new transportation or transportation maintenance projects are approved to begin and how information can be shared with the committees. Ms. Elwin noted that historically, the newspaper was used as a source of information for the public to read about road closures and things that affect their commutes. However, most people are using their APPs and social media for information. She will converse with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about better ways to communicate.
- Mr. Lawson noted his concern for future roundabouts being used on major truck routes or at intersections that have planned developments. BPAC Chair McLean shared his earlier reluctance for roundabouts but noted 77% less serious injuries occur at a roundabout versus a lighted intersection.
- CAC Chair Wade voiced his concern that the committees were never asked to vote for a joint meeting. Mr. Wade noted that a staff member did not like his comment and walked out (CAC member, Ms. Sharpe, left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.). Mr. McLean confirmed the BPAC had an opportunity to have a formal vote at the March 22, 2023, meeting. Mr. Hohman ask if a formal vote of the CAC can be taken at the next meeting and Ms. Elwin affirmed.
- Prior to the next joint meeting, Mr. Hohman would like direction for the rules of when one committee is conversing on a topic and the joint committee has a comment or question on the same topic.

BPAC Chair McLean asked for comments from the BPAC member.

- Ms. Nobles asked that the meeting *start*, and *end* timeframes be established so that members can arrange their calendars accordingly.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Elwin noted the following:

- The Clayton Storey memorial marker is reestablished, and family and community are very happy.
- MPO staff is investigating signage that there are no amenities available for the Suncoast Trail.
- Ms. Turner shared with the committee members that updates have been made to the MPO website. The page navigation panel has been updated and she can post public notices directly on the webpage.
- For the meeting record, Ms. Elwin noted the CAC member (Scarlett Sharpe) who left the meeting before adjournment was not staff member as Mr. Wade indicated -- she was a committee member.
- BPAC Chair McLean shared that he and Ms. Nobles are participating in a task force to work with Florida Transit Enterprise (FTE) to obtain some amenities for the Sun Coast Parkway Trail.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

CAC Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The next joint meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.