

MEETING SUMMARY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA
PLAN EAST GAINESVILLE SUBCOMMITTEE

Grace Knight Auditorium
Alachua County Administration Building
Gainesville, Florida

3:00 p.m.
Wednesday
May 30, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rodney Long, Chair
Robert Hutchinson
Warren Nielsen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Chestnut IV

OTHERS PRESENT

Len Buffington
Bruce Delaney
Linda Dixon
Thomas Fay
Ralph Hilliard
Doug Hornbeck
Paul Hoffhein
Steve Lachnicht

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Norton
Kenrick Pierre
Dan Rudez

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson
Gerry Dedenbach
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rodney Long called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, requested the addition of Item V.3., Staff Comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of Item V.3., Staff Comments. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Long stated that the Alachua County Commission has been discussing whether to appropriate funds for the Plan East Gainesville project. He said that the Committee needs to solicit private partnerships to help fund the project.

Commissioner Nielsen stated that the Gainesville City Commission has also discussed whether to appropriate funds for the project. He asked Mr. Dedenbach to elaborate on the possibility of using Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study funds from the Florida Department of Transportation for this project.

Mr. Dedenbach stated that the MTPO has prioritized this project in the Liveable Community Reinvestment Plan (LCRP). He said that \$300,000 exists which may be used for a portion of this project provided that the scopes of services meet their PD&E and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements.

Chairman Long discussed the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan update. He noted that the draft plan makes several references to the LCRP. Therefore, he said, the County Commission has discussed adopting the vision of the LCRP. He encouraged the City Commission to adopt the LCRP vision as well.

IV. EASTERN GAINESVILLE URBAN AREA PROJECT- SCOPES OF WORK

1. SPECIAL AREA PLAN ELEMENT

Mr. Dedenbach stated that the Committee, at their May 2 meeting, directed staff to prepare estimates of the ratio of staff versus consultant tasks in each plan element and identify the necessary funding to complete each task. He said that City and County staffs are present to discuss their respective scopes of work.

Mr. Ralph Hillard, Gainesville Department of Community Development Planner, discussed the Special Area Plan Element scope of services and answered questions.

The Subcommittee discussed the scope of services and the timeline for completion of the project.

It was a consensus of the Committee to recommend that the scope of services include the charrette option.

2. LAND CONSERVATION PLAN ELEMENT

Mr. Robert Norton, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) Natural Resources Supervisor, discussed the Land Conservation element scope of work and answered questions. He stated that most of the work for this element could be completed by ACEPD staff, provided that the department's request for staff budget enhancements are granted.

The Subcommittee discussed funding sources for this project. They discussed the possibility of establishing partnerships with public and private entities to fund the study.

Mr. Dedenbach elaborated further on the possibility of acquiring PD&E funds from FDOT. He stated that FDOT funds may not be available to study the entire project area because, originally, the corridor study was designated with a roadway alignment connecting SW 16th Avenue to Hawthorne Road. He added that FDOT may provide PD&E funds for this study for the first phase of this project which is below University Avenue.

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, stated that staff will schedule a meeting with FDOT staff, to discuss funding issues, prior to the June 7 MTPO meeting.

The Subcommittee further discussed funding issues concerning the Plan East Gainesville project.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to recommend that the MTPO:

- 1. approve the Special Area Plan Element and Land Conservation Element scopes of work;**
- 2. authorize the Subcommittee members to solicit funds for this project from public and private entities; and**
- 3. request that staff draft a request for proposals for tasks specified in the scopes of work.**

Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMENTS

1. MEMBERS

A member of the Subcommittee suggested that staff begin to document, perhaps on video, the planning process for this project. He said that when the draft plans are presented to the public, it can be helpful to show the amount of hard work, both from staff and the public, that went into the project.

A member of the Subcommittee suggested that staff contact the University of Florida School of Journalism to inquire whether any students would be interested in documenting this planning process.

Mr. Norton discussed the possibility of requesting assistance from Eastside high School students as well as UF.

2. CITIZENS

The following individuals provided citizen comment:

Len Buffington

Thomas Fay

Doug Hornbeck

3. STAFF

Mr. Dedenbach provided a status report concerning the East Gainesville redevelopment efforts of the Gainesville Department of Economic Development and the Gainesville Enterprise Zone Development Agency (GEZDA).

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no discussion of the information items.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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