

MEETING SUMMARY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MTPO)  
FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA  
SOUTHEAST (SE) CONNECTOR SUBCOMMITTEE

Gainesville City Hall  
Room 117  
Gainesville, Florida

3:00 p.m.  
Friday  
February 16, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rodney Long, Chair  
Chuck Chestnut IV  
Robert Hutchinson  
Warren Nielsen

MEMBERS ABSENT

(None)

OTHERS PRESENT

Commissioner Mike Byerly  
Rick Drummond  
Mike Drummond  
Thomas Fay  
Ralph Hilliard  
Doug Hornbeck  
Paul Hoffheim  
Charles Justice  
Bill Lecher  
Dean Mimms  
Meg Niederhofer

OTHERS PRESENT

Ghulam Quadir  
John Sabatella  
Maria Savoia  
Teresa Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Marlie Sanderson  
Gerry Dedenbach  
Andrea Vogler

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Marlie Sanderson, MTPO Director of Transportation Planning, distributed and reviewed the draft SE Connector Subcommittee Mission Statement. He discussed the draft project summary.

The Subcommittee reviewed and recommended changes to the project summary.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt the SE Connector Subcommittee Mission Statement as follows:

**“As a result of conducting a significant public participation program, develop joint City of Gainesville and Alachua County special area, land conservation and transportation plans to revitalize the Eastern Gainesville urban area (see Exhibit1) after considering the environmental, economic, neighborhood and transportation impacts of proposed development in this area, and determine if a defined roadway corridor for the Southeast Parkway can be established that will help reduce traffic on University Avenue in the downtown area, better distribute traffic on the east side of Gainesville, and allow landowners in East Gainesville to donate right-of-way for the Southeast Parkway.”**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Gerry Dedenbach, MTPO Senior Transportation Planner, stated that, at its February 5 meeting, the Subcommittee requested that staff conduct a comprehensive analysis of the area. He said that staff has provided several maps of the areas depicting existing and future land use data, vacant land, environmentally and historically sensitive areas, roadway level of service and transit routes for the project area.

**It was a consensus of the Subcommittee to request that staff provide area maps depicting:**

- 1. existing and proposed conservation lands;**
- 2. tax increment financing districts;**
- 3. neighborhoods;**
- 4. homesteaded and non-homesteaded properties;**
- 5. schools, school zones and public buildings;**
- 6. cemeteries; and**
- 7. watershed and hydrology of the area.**

Commissioner Mike Byerly asked whether the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) could assume ownership of the proposed Southeast Parkway to include as part of the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS).

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that the SE Connector Subcommittee Chair send a letter to FDOT requesting information regarding:**

- 1. policies that are used to designate roads as part of the FIHS; and**
- 2. ways to exempt local roads from being transferred to the FDOT and made a part of the FIHS.**

**Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

The Subcommittee discussed the importance of involving the public, as early as possible, in the SE Connector project development process.

Chair Long requested that staff notify the local media of all future Subcommittee meetings.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that staff establish a SE Connector website in order to provide another means of public involvement in the project. Commissioner Nielsen seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

**It was a consensus of the Subcommittee to request that a formal staff team be established for this project and suggested that, at its next meeting, the MTPO request that the City and County Commissions direct their staffs to assign appropriate personnel to the team.**

Mr. Sanderson stated that, due to the lack of issues requiring immediate MTPO action, the March 1, 1:30 p.m. MTPO meeting may be canceled.

**It was a consensus of the Subcommittee to request that the afternoon MTPO meeting be held at 3:00 p.m. to allow for discussion of SE Connector Project issues.**

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request that staff provide a SE Connector Subcommittee team roster at the next meeting. Commissioner Chestnut seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

**It was a consensus of the Subcommittee to request that staff include a SE Connector update and timeline on all future MTPO meeting agendas.**

The Subcommittee discussed when to schedule their next meeting.

**It was a consensus of the Subcommittee to request that staff:**

- 1. schedule the next meeting at the Health Department, at 5:30 p.m. on a date to be determined;**
- 2. include all MTPO members on the mail list; and**
- 3. provide the draft Subcommittee mail list to all MTPO members for their input.**

Chairman Long asked for citizen comments.

The following citizens spoke concerning the SE Connector Project:

Thomas Fay                  Doug Hornbeck

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Date

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Rodney Long  
SE Connector Subcommittee Chair