



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

Thursday, May 28, 2026

MINUTES

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a public meeting on Thursday, May 28, 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

Scott Herring, Chair, County Engineer/Public Works Director, Hernando County Dept. of Public Works
Walt Eastmond, Vice Chair, County Engineer/Technical Services Director, Citrus County Public Works Dept.
Lashaundra Ellison, Hernando County Planning Department
Eric Landon, Citrus 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 (arriving later in the meeting)
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit
John Walsh, Non-Voting Member, Hernando County Airport
Holly Kowalczyk, Non-Voting Advisor, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Shoemaker, City of Inverness
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
Elisa Joyner, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Loren Hughes, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Wally Blain, AICP, Senior Project Manager, Benesch & Associates
Chris Keller, AICP, Senior Project Manager, Benesch & Associates
William Roll, AICP, Project Manager, Kimley-Horn & Associates

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

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2026

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting held on April 23, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Landon and the motion passed 9-0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and Recommendation of Revision 4 to the FY 2026-FY 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Section 5307 Capital Funds for the Hernando County Transit System (TheBus) and the Citrus County Transit System, and Reflection of Section 5339 Funds for the Hernando County Transit System (TheBus) and for the Citrus County Transit System

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. Ms. Granger expressed concern that FDOT Project ID 402628-4, in the amount of \$712,014, was being allocated for operations rather than capital expenses. Ms. Elwin stated she would confirm whether updated documentation from FDOT supports this change. *[It is noted for the record that the documentation from FDOT did indicate the use of Section 5307 funds for capital; however, additional information is forthcoming from FDOT.]*

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve Revision 4 to the FY 2026-FY 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorize MPO Staff to transmit it to the appropriate state and federal agencies, contingent upon confirmation from FDOT that the documentation received is correct and that the funds are correctly designated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dixon and the motion passed 9-0.

2. Review and Recommendation of the Congestion Management Process (CMP), as prepared by the General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation, then introduced Senior Planner Wally Blain, with the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates. Mr. Blain provided an overview of the updates made to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the strategies for addressing congestion management considerations.

Vice Chair Eastmond noted that corridor C-5 on page 20 of the report, Lecanto Highway from Norvell Bryant Highway to Fennessy Lane, is no longer a congestion issue due to the recent completion of the widening project from two to four lanes. Mr. Blain explained that this location was one of the original nine corridors screened in the initial data set. However, it did not advance to the second-tier analysis, even though it appeared in the preliminary screening results.

[It was noted for the record that TAC member, Darlene Lollie, arrived at the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board accept the update of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 10-0.

3. Review and Recommendation of the Complete Streets Update, as prepared by the General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item, staff recommendation, and introduced Senior Planner Chris Keller, with the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates. Mr. Keller delivered a presentation outlining the Complete Streets initiatives and explained that Complete Streets is not necessarily a roadway project, but rather a planning methodology and set of tools used to ensure that the appropriate street type is placed in the appropriate location. Additionally, Mr. Keller noted that the checklist in the update for evaluating projects was significantly reduced in size to help entities review projects for context-based solutions.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board accept the Complete Streets Policy and Implementation Guidance Update. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 10-0.

4. Review and Recommendation of the Annual Update of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. He noted recent updates to the Congestion Management LOPP, explaining that several high-cost widening projects on county roads were removed so that more cost-feasible projects could advance given the limited funding available for the state and federal network.

Mr. Esposito also reminded the committee that the Hernando-Citrus MPO receives only about \$510,000 annually in Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding, which increases the need to carefully evaluate TA projects to ensure that those supporting proximity to schools, transit, or supplemented with local funds are prioritized for advancement.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board approve the annual update of the List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The motion was seconded by Ms. Granger and the motion passed 10-0.

5. Review and Recommendation of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2027-FY 2031, as prepared by the General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation, then introduced Senior Planner Wally Blain with the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Benesch & Associates. Mr. Blain presented an overview of the funding included in the FY2027–FY2031 TIP, noting that the Florida Department of Transportation has included indirect costs in the five-year program. He also stated that, aside from Turnpike funding decreasing as the Suncoast Parkway segments shown in last year's program are completed, overall funding levels have remained relatively consistent with the prior program.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board adopt the FY2027-FY2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and authorize MPO Staff to transmit it as required to the applicable state and federal agencies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and the motion passed 10-0.

6. Review and Recommendation of the Traffic Counts and Level of Service Analysis for Citrus County, as prepared by the General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item, staff recommendation, and introduced William Roll, the MPO General Planning Consultant with Kimley-Horn & Associates. Mr. Roll provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Context Classification framework and the metrics used to determine Level of Service (LOS) analysis for both Hernando and Citrus counties. He explained that LOS analyses are important because they support local jurisdictions during development review and establish baseline traffic performance measures. Now that the LOS baseline has been completed, Mr. Roll suggested that a valuable future study could involve calculating how much capacity is being consumed on a year-by-year basis.

Vice Chair Eastmond recommended that LOS studies be conducted more frequently, and Chair Herring agreed. Mr. Landon expressed his appreciation for the report.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to recommend the MPO Board accept the Citrus County traffic counts and the Level of Service Analysis on the Citrus County's Road network. The motion was seconded by Mr. Landon and the motion passed 10-0.

7. Review and Recommendation of the Traffic Counts and Level of Service Analysis for Hernando County, as prepared by the General Planning Consultant, Kimley-Horn

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to recommend the MPO Board accept the Hernando County traffic counts and the Level of Service Analysis on the Citrus County's Road network. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lipsey and the motion passed 10-0.

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:

- County Line Road (Hernando and Pasco counties) has been added to the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) Regional Priorities List as the #2 and #3 priority projects for FDOT District 7. Barclay Avenue in Hernando County is ranked as the #1 regional priority. The Regional Priorities List is scheduled for adoption in June 2026. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 distributed approximately \$7 million annually in TRIP funding in the district. The Three Sisters trail in Citrus County is the SCTPA Multi-Use Trails #1 priority project for FDOT District 7
- Local municipalities should receive email notifications from FDOT as projects enter the design phase. This is the appropriate time for jurisdictions to request additional improvements, rather than waiting until the project nears completion to ask for new design elements.
- As part of a resurfacing project on US 19 in Crystal River, a pedestrian hybrid beacon will be installed by the Florida Department of Transportation at the Crosstown Trail crossing.
- SCTPA meeting in Lakeland is scheduled on Friday, June 5th to review and adopt regional priorities for member jurisdictions.
- The plan is to cancel the July 2nd MPO Board meeting, provided all of today's agenda items are adopted or approved. If so, the June 25th Committee meetings will also likely be canceled.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online approximately one week before the meeting at <http://www.hernandocitrusmpo.us>.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chair Eastmond to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 10-0.

Chair Herring noted for the record that he nor his alternate would be able to attend the June 25, 2026, TAC meeting.

Chair Herring adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.