

# Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

## Board of Directors

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 11, 2023  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director  
**Subject:** Summary Minutes to Board of Directors Meeting of March 9, 2023

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#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>CITY</b>
Commissioner Nick Maddox	Mayor John Dailey
Commissioner Christian Caban	Commissioner Curtis Richardson, Chair
Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Vice Chair	Commissioner Jeremy Matlow
Commissioner Brian Welch	Commissioner Jacqueline Porter
Commissioner Rick Minor	Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox
Commissioner Bill Proctor	
Commissioner David O'Keefe	

#### **I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no agenda modifications.

**Commissioner Minor moved to allow Commissioner Porter to participate virtually. Motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe. Motion passed.**

**Passed 10-0 (weighted: 58-0)**

**Commissioner Proctor was not present at the time of the vote.**

#### **II. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Public comments were requested by email to Comments@BlueprintIA.org through 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2023. All emails received were provided to the IA Board. Live comments were also taken in person and via WebEx during the meeting. The following comments were presented:

Max Epstein submitted written comments that were included in the meeting materials provided to the IA Board.

#### **III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**

- Receipt and File:
  - Blueprint Infrastructure Community Engagement Update
  - Draft Citizens Advisory Committee February 23, 2023 Minutes
  - Blueprint Infrastructure Q1 2023 Project Status Report

#### IV. CONSENT

Stanley Simms provided comments on his experience with OEV under the new direction of Mr. Keith Bowers and his concerns about Tharpe Street. Mr. Simms spoke about his desire to see sidewalks along Tharpe Street to provide safer walking conditions for people in that area.

**Commissioner Minor moved to approve the Consent Items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Welch.**

**Passed 11-0 (weighted 65-0)**

**Commissioner Proctor was absent at the time of the vote. Commissioner Porter voted via WebEx.**

1. Approval of the February 9, 2023 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board Meeting Minutes
2. Authorization to Advertise and Award Construction Services for the Tallahassee-Leon County Animal Service Center Project
3. Acceptance of a Status Update on the Capital Circle Southwest Project
4. Approval of a Reappointment to the Blueprint Citizens Advisory Committee

#### V. GENERAL BUSINESS

5. *Acceptance of a Status Update on the Northwest Connector Corridor: Tharpe Street Project and Authorization to Advertise and Award a Contract for Planning and Design Services*

PLACE Director, Ben Pingree provided an historical overview of the progress on Tharpe Street and summary of the direction provided by the IA Board to identify opportunities for operational and pedestrian improvements without expanding to a four lane road. Director Pingree summarized that there were opportunities for improvements as detailed in the meeting materials and presented staff's recommendation to accept the status update and come back at the budget workshop with funding options for sidewalk and roadway improvements to advance the project.

Max Epstein spoke in favor the project. He discussed a desire to expedite this project to improve safety conditions. He discussed options for a dedicated third lane and added safety materials for pedestrians, evaluating the options for the road segment between Ocala Road and Mission Road moving westward.

Commissioner Richardson discussed his experience on Tharpe Street and stated that he was in favor of the motion and looked forward to advancing on this Project.

Commissioner Caban spoke about the need for an updated study on the Project and discussed statistical crash data that he believes supports the need for this Project. Commissioners Minor and Maddox also spoke in support of this Project.

**Commissioner Caban moved to accept the Status Update on the Northwest Connector Corridor: Tharpe Street Project and authorize staff to advertise and award a contract for Planning and Design Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maddox.**

**Motion Passed 12-0 (weighted 70-0)  
Commissioner Porter voted via WebEx.**

6. Acceptance of a Report and Cost Estimate for a Preliminary Engineering Analysis to Construct a Large-Scale Treatment Facility at Lake Munson

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder, introduced the Agenda Item and provided an historical overview of the stormwater treatment for Lake Munson. She explained that over the past 30 years hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into projects that have improved the water quality of Lake Munson. She summarized that the Board of County Commissioners approved the Lake Munson Action Plan in 2022 that will address immediate challenges for the lake and provide long-term water quality improvements. Finally, she explained that the proposed large scale treatment facility was not feasible as it would require the destruction of nearly 125 acres of Apalachicola National Forest Property and provide only minimal water quality improvement beyond the improvements already being produced by the adjacent City, County, and Blueprint projects. Director Calder, summarized by stating that staff recommends that the IA Board accept the status report and take no further action for Lake Munson.

Max Epstein clarified that his original request was in response to the Innovative Stormwater White Paper. Mr. Epstein spoke about stormwater treatment options for Lake Munson, Capital Cascades Trail Segment 4, the historical concept ,and project updates.

Commissioner Proctor spoke about the historical treatment of Lake Munson and suggested seeking options to acquire land near Lake Munson to treat the water. Commissioner Proctor also inquired as to whether the Lake was suitable for recreational use and Director Pingree informed him that it was. Next, Commissioner Maddox suggested that the City and County governments should work together to identify options for the water quality treatment of Lake Munson and Commissioner Proctor agreed. Maddox reminded the IA Board that the County Commission was meeting to discuss the lake and stated that he didn't believe this item was suitable for Blueprint. Finally, Commissioner Caban spoke about need for water quality improvements for Lake Munson but stated that he does not believe Lake Munson is with the jurisdiction of Blueprint.

**Commissioner Maddox moved to accept the report and take no further action. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams-Cox.**

**Passed 12-0 (weighted 70-0)  
Commissioner Porter voted via Webex.**

## VI. DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Caban thanked Staff for the work being done in District 2. Commissioner Minor then spoke about the North Monroe Gateway Project and explained that North Monroe is a major entry point into Tallahassee and expressed concern about the status of the area. Commissioner Minor would like to review options to prioritize the North Monroe Gateway Project in the next one or two years.

Commissioner O'Keefe asked whether there would be updates for all of the projects at the May IA Board meeting and if a motion would be needed to adjust the budget. Director Pingree explained that the May budget workshop would allow Commissioners the opportunity to review the status of all the projects, the financial projections, and budget items and priorities. Director Pingree explained that the Commissioner would have the option to thoroughly review the budget and discuss it prior to accepting any proposals.

Commissioner Proctor asked whether IA Board members were bound to the current project priority list and Blueprint Attorney Dawson stated that Staff would work at the direction of the IA Board. She explained that the project list and funding schedule is established based on IA direction.

Commissioner Minor clarified that he requested the agenda item be brought back so that the IA Board would have the opportunity to review any available options to prioritize the project. Commissioner Matlow stated that he is open to reviewing the agenda item but expressed concern about accelerating too many projects at once. Commissioner Matlow cited funding limitations and capacity issues as possible issues related to reprioritizing the project list.

Commissioner Williams-Cox stated she would support the motion in order to discuss the options for improvement to the North Monroe area. She stated that the penny sales tax was approved by voters based on transparency and also reminded the IA Board the budget limitations have already caused other Blueprint Projects, such as the Civic Center, to be reprioritized. She cautioned that reprioritizing too many projects may result in Blueprint not being able to meet all of its goals.

Commissioner Proctor expressed concern that inflation may also be a limiting factor on the projects that Blueprint will be able to complete and suggested that Staff seek supplemental funding sources.

**Commissioner Minor moved to have staff bring back an agenda item to review options to fund the North Monroe Gateway Project within the next few years with minimal or no impact to other projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter.**

**Passed 11-1 (weighted 65-5)**

**Commissioner Porter voted via Webex and Commissioner O'Keefe voted in dissent.**

Commissioner O'Keefe thanked staff for their work on the Lake Munson agenda item. He stated that he appreciated their attention to stormwater treatment across other projects.

**VII. ADJOURN**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**

*The next Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for **May 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.***