

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director
Subject: Summary Minutes to Board of Directors Meeting of December 8, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

COUNTY	CITY
Commissioner Nick Maddox	Mayor John Dailey
Commissioner Christian Caban	Commissioner Curtis Richardson, Chair
Commissioner Carolyn Cummings	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. Ben Pingree, Director of PLACE, requested that the Board members present may make a motion and vote to allow Commissioner Williams-Cox and Mayor Dailey to participate virtually.

Commissioner Welch moved to allow Commissioner Williams-Cox and Mayor Dailey to participate virtually. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cummings. Motion passed.

Passed 9-0 (weighted: 51-0)

Commissioner Maddox 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 December 7, 2022. 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 spoke about the stormwater report and Lake Munson and requested that the IA Board extend the study further south to address a larger area.

Stanley Sims introduced himself to the new commissioners and discussed the need for improvements in Frenchtown and the potential for improvements on Tharpe Street.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

- Receipt and File:

- Blueprint Infrastructure Community Engagement Update
- Draft Citizens Advisory Committee November 16, 2022 Minutes
- Blueprint Infrastructure Q4 2022 Project Status Report

IV. CONSENT

Commissioner Proctor inquired as to the opportunity for open discussion as a part of the meeting agenda. Director Pingree explained that open discussion typically occurs under the “Director Discussion” area of the agenda. Staff agreed to relabel the section of the agenda “Directors Discussion” for clarity.

Commissioner Welch began by thanking staff for their work related to the New Hope Cemetery and community and spoke about the importance of preserving historical African American burial sites and cemeteries.

Commissioner Proctor requested that Gloria Anderson be permitted to speak on the New Hope Cemetery consent item. Gloria Anderson spoke about the New Hope community and cemetery and explained how important the preservation work is to her family and the people of the area. She spoke in favor of the consent item and thanked Blueprint staff, the IA Board, and the community for their historical preservation work.

Lonnie Mann also offered comment on the New Hope project and thanked staff for their work and spoke in favor of the project and the consent item.

Commissioner Proctor moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Minor.

Passed 11-0 (weighted 65-0)

Commissioner Williams-Cox and Mayor Dailey voted via WebEx. Commissioner Maddox was not present at the time of the vote.

1. Approval of the September 29, 2022 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board Meeting Minutes
2. Authorization to Procure a New Hope Community Historical Survey

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Authorization to Advertise and Award Construction Services for Phase 1 of the Northeast Gateway Project and Approval of a Budget Amendment to Advance State Infrastructure Bank Loan Funding

Mary Glowacki, Blueprint CAC member, then spoke about the interpretive artistic aspects of recent Blueprint projects and the New Hope project and requested that the IA Board consider including interpretation for all future projects.

Commissioner Maddox moved to accept staff recommendation, Options 1 & 2, for Phase 1 of the Northeast Gateway Project. Commissioner Proctor seconded.

Option 1: Authorize Blueprint to advertise and award construction services for Phase 1 of the Northeast Gateway Project in accordance with Blueprint Procurement Policy.

Option 2: Authorize a Budget Amendment to advance the SIB Loan allocated to FY 2024 (\$12,750,000) and FY 2025 (\$6,750,000) into the FY 2023 Budget.

Commissioner Welch spoke in favor of Phase 1 of the Northeast Gateway Project and in support of the motion.

Commissioner Cummings spoke in favor of the project and praised staff and Director Pingree for their work on moving this project along and the foresight to allow for potential road expansion in the future as the need may arise.

Commissioner Maddox also spoke in favor of the project and encourage the new commissioners to ask any questions or points of discussion related to the project before the vote was taken. Commissioners Richardson and Minor echoed Commissioner Maddox statements.

Commissioner Proctor spoke in favor of the motion and discussed the history of this project stating that this was a long-term project that has taken several years of planning and projections.

**Passed 12-0 (weighted 70 -0)
Commissioner Williams-Cox and Mayor Dailey voted via WebEx.**

VI. DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Proctor requested that a status update on the Capital Circle SW widening project currently under construction by FDOT be prepared for the next IA Board meeting. Without objection from the IA Board, the Chair requested this be provided by staff.

Commissioner Proctor also discussed expanding Highway 319/Crawfordville Highway within Leon County to meeting the construction work being done by Wakulla County coming north. Commissioner Proctor stated that the highway was a hurricane evacuation route and that traffic could potentially bottleneck coming into Leon County. Commissioner Proctor discussed researching options for funding sources and the jurisdictional body with the authority to begin work to meet the northbound construction. Mayor Dailey expressed support for this issue.

Commissioner Williams-Cox inquired as to whether the Highway 319 project was outside of the authority and scope of Blueprint and within the jurisdiction of the

CRTPA. Director Pingree responded that Highway 319 was within the jurisdiction of the CRTPA and the State of Florida that any discussion about expansion of the road is more appropriate for that body. Commissioner Richardson stated it would be appropriate for the CRTPA to provide an update since it is not a Blueprint project. Williams-Cox suggested that staff work with the CRTPA to support the update and Director Pingree confirmed collaboration would occur.

On this topic, Commissioner Maddox inquired as to where funding for the road expansion would potentially come from and expressed concern about discussing the road at a Blueprint meeting as the road is not a Blueprint project. Greg Slay, CRTPA Executive Director, was invited to respond to some of the questions presented by the commissioners. Mr. Slay explained that the CRTPA currently has \$5 million allocated for right-of-way acquisition but that construction funding is not currently allocated. Mr. Slay explained that road construction of that scale is approximately \$20 million a mile, for a total project cost of \$80-100 million. Commissioner Maddox noted that the discussion would be beneficial for all commissioners, and suggested the CRTPA provide a presentation at the respective City and County Commission meetings. Commissioner Matlow suggested having the CRTPA provide reports on the current project status and ranking to the commissioners individually for information.

On topic, Commissioner Welch asked Mr. Slay whether the road qualified for federal funding and Mr. Slay confirmed the road does qualify for federal funding. Mr. Slay noted the significant impact inflation and rising cost of materials is having on construction project budgets. Commissioner Minor agreed with Commissioner Maddox regarding presentations at the respective Commissions and that he believes that the CRTPA should take the lead on this issue and would be better positioned to drive any further conversation related to expanding the road. Director Slay agreed to address this matter via the CRTPA directly and with the Leon County Commission and City of Tallahassee Commission, respectively, at a future time.

Commissioner Richardson summarized the discussion by noting Mr. Slay would provide a presentation on the project at the respective City and County Commission meetings.

Commissioner Maddox revisited the Capital Cascades Segment 4 study and the issues related to Lake Munson. Director Pingree stated that both the Segment 4 and the Lake Munson items would be provided by the March meeting. Commissioner Maddox stated that he would like to have a joint City-County workshop to discuss the issue prior to the March meeting.

Commissioner O'Keefe suggested that the Segment 4 stormwater report be expanded to include Lake Munson. Director Pingree explained that expanding the Segment 4 report to include Lake Munson would require a substantial amendment to the Segment 4 project. And that the IA Board's discussion and direction on either a substantial amendment to the Segment 4 project or the creation of a new Lake Munson project is needed prior to the expenditure of funds on a Lake Munson study.

Commission Proctor discussed the location of Lake Munson in proximity to other water bodies and whether specific direction had been taken for the treatment or

preservation of Lake Munson in the past. He spoke about an intentional review of the direction for Lake Munson at a joint City-County workshop.

Commissioner Matlow moved to schedule a joint workshop prior to the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O’Keefe.

Attorney Dawson stated that the motion would not be proper as the IA Board cannot direct the City and County. **Commissioner Matlow withdrew the motion.**

Director Pingree stated he will work with Commissioner Richardson regarding review of a possible future joint City-County workshop on this topic.

Commissioner O’Keefe then requested to have a consultant from Jones Edmunds present at the March 2023 IA Board meeting to answer questions related to the stormwater modeling and previous stormwater analysis. Director Pingree stated that IA Board meeting attendance by project consultants was routine and that the request would be made by staff.

Commissioner Porter suggested that the Board consider maximizing walkability and public transit within project designs.

Commissioner Caban stated that he believes there are options to scale down the Northwest Connector (Tharpe Street) project and move it up in the Blueprint project list.

Commissioner Caban moved to have staff bring back a general business agenda item to address improvements to Tharpe Street as a part of the Northwest Connector Project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailey.

Passed 12–0 (weighted 70-0)

Commissioner Williams-Cox and Mayor Dailey voted via WebEx.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

*The next Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for **February 9, 2023***