

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

A meeting of the MPO BAC was held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2008, in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BAC/2008.htm>.

Present were members: **Vice Chairman Terry Goff**, City of Vero Beach; **Robert Wiltison**, Alternate, Indian River County (IRC) Representative; **Susan Mulcahy**, City of Sebastian Representative; and **Chief Scott Melanson**, City of Fellsmere Representative.

Absent was **Chairman Libby Harrow**, IRC Representative; **Barbara Tilney**, Town of Indian River Shores Representative; and **George Sipp**, Town of Orchid Representative, all excused.

Also present was IRC staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, Sutapa Chatterjee, MPO Planner; Cliff Crawford, Director, Recreation Department; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others present were Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra; Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn and Associates; and Freddie Vargas, Project Manager, Stanley Construction.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Goff called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and noted a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2008 Joint MPO BAC and MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

ON MOTION BY Chief Melanson, SECONDED BY Mr. Goff, the members voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the minutes of the Joint Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee of April 1, 2008, as presented.

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, related an out-of-town guest had requested to be added to the agenda concerning the safety of Thompson Elementary Magnet School. Vice Chairman Goff agreed to make the change in the agenda.

Mr. Matson asked the two new members present to introduce themselves. Mr. Ron Wiltison related he was the Alternate for Libby Harrow, IRC BCC representative; and Mrs. Susan Mulcahy stated she was the new Sebastian appointee.

Discussion Regarding Pedestrian Safety in the Vicinity of Schools
(1:58:43)

Mr. Matson explained one of the tasks assigned to the MPO by the BCC and by the IRC School Board was to explore what could be done to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of schools. He reviewed improvements that had been done in Fellsmere such as the installation of sidewalks and other projects were being considered elsewhere in the county.

Mr. Matson noted a contract recently had been negotiated with Stanley Consultants. Mr. Freddie Vargas, Project Manager, Stanley Consultants, briefly related IRC had asked them to take a look into potential improvements for the pedestrian and bicycle users surrounding Thompson Magnet Elementary School. He continued they were in the final stages of data collection and had a great response from the parents in the school area.

Mr. Vargas listed some of the recommendations from the parents included the paving of existing dirt roads completed with sidewalks. The consultants then developed a hierarchy of which of those roads to pave. There was also a big concern about sex offenders living in the area of the school. It was felt there should be notification provided for sex offenders living within a one mile radius of the school.

Mr. Vargas continued other concerns were street lighting and speed control measures. Along with the data collected from parents and the consultant team, a preliminary report was being prepared that would incorporate the recommendations along with any others the MPO BAC may have.

Mr. Vargas reported Thompson Elementary Magnet School was compiling the number of students walking and riding their bicycles to

school. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge over the canal on 19th Avenue and forming “parent trains” to walk with the children to school.

Consideration of North Indian River County Greenways Plan (2:10:11)

Mr. Matson introduced the project team of Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., and Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra. He noted they were working in conjunction with a firm headquartered in Berkley, California called Alta Planning and Design which had identified greenways, defined as off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Mrs. Frazier reviewed the Draft North Indian River Greenways Plan through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Morrell continued the PowerPoint presentation by explaining plan development, a project list and management plans. He then asked for any comments or questions from the MPO BAC members.

Mr. Wiltison related several people had told him the park by the City of Sebastian municipal building was too sandy for bicycle riding and hiking.

ON MOTION BY Chief Melanson, SECONDED BY Mr. Wiltison, the members voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval to the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Draft North Indian River County Greenways Plan as presented.

Consideration of House Resolution Encouraging Bicycle Use (2:47:13)

Mr. Matson related this item was brought to his attention by the Florida Department of Transportation. It was a House Resolution brought before Congress on June 2, 2008 to support bicycle travel in all of its forms.

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees (2:59)

Mr. Matson reported the MPO Technical Advisory Committee met jointly with the MPO Citizens Advisory Committee on April 25, 2008 and considered the planning work program for next year in that more bicycle

pedestrian corridor studies around schools would be conducted; a greenways plan would be done in south IRC; and the MPO approved the plans as well.

Other Business (2:50:14)

Discussion was held regarding land around the Vero Beach Municipal Airport. Mr. Matson reported there were some concerns from airport staff regarding liability for people bicycling on the airport property and the Utilities Department have some well heads located on the property and were concerned about safety issues. The airport staff wanted to re-align the trail around the security fence of the airport.

Mr. Morrell asked if impact fees or gas tax could be used for funding other modes of transportation. Mr. Matson responded gas tax could be used, but he was not sure of impact fees.

Mr. Morrell recommended the level of service of trails be established and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan during the amendment period. Mr. Matson agreed this may be a good direction to take.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided the MPO BAC Chairman would request to be placed on the BCC agenda establishing the level of service for purposes of potential impact fees or other funding in the future.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Goff adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.