

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (MPOCAC) was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2008, in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building "B", 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: Vice Chairman Robert Johnson, and Roger Sherwood, IRC Appointees; Charles Vogt and Herb Whittall, City of Vero Beach Appointees; Clarence Korcker, City of Fellsmere Appointee; Deryl Seemayer, City of Sebastian Appointee; William Lundy Parden, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee; Michael Durwin, School Board Appointee; and John Warner, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee.

Absent was Chairman Juliana Young, Richard Woodard, Walter Wright, IRC Appointees; Donald Wright, City of Sebastian Appointee; and Freddie Woolfork, Minority Appointee (all excused).

Also present was IRC staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others present: Mr. Jim Granse, Interested Citizen; Mr. Freddie A. Vargas, Senior Project Manager, and Mr. Mark Weber from Stanley Engineering Consultants, Inc., 1601 Belvedere Road, Suite 400 East, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

Annual Election of Officers

Postponed.

Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2007

ON MOTION BY Mr. Whittall, SECONDED BY Mr. Seemayer, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of December 11, 2007 as presented.

Appointment of Member to the Treasure Coast Transportation Council Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Mr. Durwin clarified that Ms. Juliana Young currently served as the member of the Treasure Coast Transportation Council RAC but an alternate was needed. Mr. Vogt asked if Vice Chairman Johnson currently served as the alternate and Vice Chairman Johnson answered in the affirmative.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Sherwood, SECONDED BY Mr. Parden, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to continue with Ms. Juliana Young as the representative, and Mr. Robert Johnson as the alternate, of the Treasure Coast Transportation Council Regional Advisory Committee.

Consideration of Aviation Boulevard Extension (US 1 – Indian River Boulevard)

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office, of the work conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates and reviewed their findings.

Mr. Matson reported the Phase I Conclusions were as follows:

- Each new alignment presented environmental conflicts and community impacts
- Conceptual costs for the new alignments ranged from \$29 to \$69 million representing a substantial portion of entire funding expected for road improvements in the County
- New alignments are not feasible to serve as a reliever to Indian River Boulevard due to costs (environmental, social, and fiscal)
- Long Range Transportation Plan will need to be revisited for this area of the County

Post Study of Aviation Boulevard Extension – “Citizens’ Report”

- Proposed alternative alignment and typical section resulting in significantly lower cost estimate
- Recommended advancing alignment along 35th Lane

Mr. Matson explained the objective of the Phase II Study was to evaluate the alternative proposed in the “Citizens’ Report” to determine its feasibility, constructability and costs. He continued with the Phase II Conclusions as:

- Feasible alignment does not exist for the Aviation Boulevard Extension
 - Alignment 1 – requires taking of 19 residential properties in Country Club Estates
 - Alignment 2 and 3 – safety concerns with insufficient design speed for vehicles from Merrill Barber Bridge
- Encourage local connector roads as development occurs in area to reduce congestion on adjacent roadways

In summary, Mr. Matson reported staff’s recommendation was not to engage in any further investment in the alignment, but to recommend the developers work to ultimately provide connectivity between their interior parcels.

Vice Chairman Johnson did not feel there was sufficient information to make a decision to use the local connector roadway proposal. He felt more information, such as cost estimates, should be obtained.

Mr. Matson responded there was more information on the first three options under the Phase I study and explained why those options were not feasible from a safety standpoint.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of moving the issue to one of the Scope Elements of the Long Range Plan update for 2030 which would begin in a couple of months rather than keeping the current study in its present form with the present consultant.

Mr. Whittall suggested approving staff's recommendation and looking at finding other feeder roads that could be used. Mr. Matson offered to look at other connections on the west side such as widening US Highway 1; renovating some of the development currently on US Highway 1; and possibly looking to see if Old Dixie Highway could be extended somewhere in the Vero Beach Municipal Airport area.

Mr. Matson asked the consultants in attendance, Mr. Freddie A. Vargas, Senior Project Manager and Mr. Mark Weber of Stanley Engineering Consultants, Inc., their opinion about another intersection similar to what was being discussed at this meeting, which was the five-point intersection currently in place at Dixie Highway and Wilton Manors (near Fort Lauderdale), Florida. Mr. Vargas felt the intersection was overused and the intersection was operating poorly. He continued a four-way intersection was planned for the intersection within the next year with a projected 28% improvement in intersection operation.

Mr. Matson suggested waiting for approximately one year until the intersection was changed to four-way and seeing if that made a difference.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Whittall to not invest in Phase 2, and to encourage developers to work on interconnectivity.

A lengthy discussion ensued wherein all three options were again reviewed. Mr. Matson reiterated the question before the committee today was whether or not to continue studying this alignment by spending an additional \$70,000 to do the exploratory well and wetland exploration in the area necessary to get the actual cost of the alignment.

Vice Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Matson to come back to the committee with something in writing that would be given to developers as guidance in building a road through the area being discussed to meet requirements. Mr. Matson responded he would do so.

Vice Chairman Johnson gave kudos to the Citizens' Advisory group that had worked on this plan.

THE MOTION WAS AMENDED BY Mr. Whittall, SECONDED BY Mr. Sherwood to direct staff to negotiate with the property owners between Indian River Boulevard and U.S. Highway 1 consistent with the alignment contained in the current report; to not invest in any further analysis of the original alignment, and staff would communicate with the Indian River Hospital District where the limits of the road would occur.

THE MOTION WAS CALLED and passed with a vote of (8-1). Mr. Vogt opposed.

Mr. Vogt opposed the motion because he felt any circuitous alignment defeated the purpose of connectivity.

Mr. Matson reviewed staff would be providing the committee with approximately how much right-of-way would be needed on a long range basis and what sort of road was wanted with the beginning and ending points.

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees

Mr. Matson gave the following updates:

MPOTAC – Met on February 22, 2008 to discuss the Aviation Boulevard Extension (Indian River Boulevard – U.S. Highway 1) consultant study. After reviewing the study, the TAC unanimously recommended that the MPO approve the study. As stated in the study, the proposed four-lane alignments were not feasible and, therefore, no further study was warranted. The TAC also recommended that staff continue to coordinate with developers and local stakeholders on future connectivity.

MPO – Met on December 12, 2007 to discuss the 2008/09 – 2012/13 FDOT Five Year Tentative Work Program. At that meeting, a presentation was made by FDOT staff, including District Secretary James Wolfe, regarding the work program and future funding in the District. After considering the comments of FDOT and the recommendations of the CAC and TAC, the MPO unanimously approved the work program.

BAC – Met on November 8, 2007 to discuss the Central and North County Greenways Plans. After considering the Greenways Plans, the

BAC provided the consultants with a number of recommendations on the plans.

Other Business

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Freddie A. Vargas and Mr. Mark Weber, stating they were the new consultant team being used, Stanley Engineering Consultants, Inc.

Vice Chairman Johnson requested a status report at a future meeting of roads to prepare for the 2035 Long Range Plan. Mr. Matson replied staff would provide that information.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of State Road 60.

Mr. Matson announced IRC had received, as the top recipient in the state, over \$2 million of sidewalk funding from Safe Routes to School Program. He reviewed a list of sidewalks that the money would be used for.

Mr. Whittall announced he would be absent for the April and May meetings.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Next Meeting

Vice Chairman Johnson announced the next meeting would be held April 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.