

## 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 Monday, August 31, 2009, in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building "B", 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the meeting agenda, backup material and the minutes on Indian River County website <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CAC/2009>.

Present were members: Chairman **Juliana Young**, Vice Chairman **Robert Johnson**, **Walter Wright**, and **Chuck Mechling**, BCC Appointees; **Charles Vogt** and **Herb Whittall**, City of Vero Beach Appointees; **Donald Wright** and **Deryl Seemayer**, City of Sebastian Appointees; **William Lundy Parden**, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee; and **Michael Durwin**, School Board Appointee.

Absent were: **Clarence Korker**, City of Fellsmere Appointee; **John Warner**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; and **Freddie Wolfork**, Minority Appointee.

Note: there is a vacancy for a BCC appointee.

Also present was IRC staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director; Brian Freeman, MPO Planner; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

### **Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2009**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Mechling, SECONDED BY Mr. Whittall, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes of June 2, 2009 as submitted.**

## **Consideration of the MPO's 2009 Priority Projects Report – Action Required**

Mr. Matson announced a grant was received from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$250,000 to develop a trail in the north county from previous Greenway Plans.

Mr. Matson summarized the MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan included an adopted cost feasible list of improvements that would meet the projected needs of the county through the year 2030. To implement these improvements, the MPO each year must rank and place improvements in an annual Priority Projects Report and submit this report to FDOT. FDOT then uses the MPO's lists of unfunded priorities in developing the next five year work program. MPO staff recommends that the CAC review the information being presented, make any necessary changes, and recommend the MPO approve the 2009 Priority Projects Report.

The MPO's top Unfunded Highway Priorities are as follows:

### *2009 Priority Highway Projects - SIS*

#### **1. Oslo Road Interchange at Interstate 95.**

### *2009 List of Candidate TRIP Grand Priority Highway Projects – Regional (MPO only)*

#### **1. 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue from CR 510 to SR 60.**

#### **2. CR 510 from CR 512 to US 1.**

### *2009 List of Priority Highway Projects – Other*

#### **1. US 1 six laning from Highlands Drive to south of Oslo Road.**

#### **2. US 1 six laning from the St. Lucie County Line to Highlands Drive.**

#### **3. 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue two laning from 26<sup>th</sup> Street to CR 510.**

## *Priority Enhancement/Greenways Projects*

Mr. Matson related the federal Enhancements Program is an important component of SAFETEA-LU, the federal highway act. Funded with 10% of Surface Transportation Program allocations, the enhancement program focuses on improvements that complement the transportation system. In the last two years, the MPO has opted to suspend the Enhancement prioritization cycle in order to accumulate Enhancement funds. As a result of this action, FDOT District Four has allocated approximately \$1,096,450, including \$820,450 in 2011/12 and \$276,000 in 2012/13, to the Indian River County MPO for enhancement projects in its FY 2008/09-2012/13 Five Year Work Program. In addition, the MPO has indicated that Enhancements are the preferred funding source to implement the Greenways Master Plan. The 2008 Enhancement priorities are as follows:

- 1. Trans-Florida Central Railroad Corridor** – The Trans-Florida Central Railroad Corridor begins at the western end of the City of Sebastian near the St. Sebastian River and ends at the Blue Cypress Conservation Area. The corridor lies almost entirely on publicly owned abandoned right-of-way of the Trans-Florida Central Railroad. The proposed corridor is 12 miles in length and has an estimated construction cost of \$4,800,000. The MPO is currently requesting funds for design and construction of the paved surface trail between North County Park and 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue at an estimated cost of approximately \$500,000.
- 2. South Sebastian Greenway Corridor** - The South Sebastian Greenway corridor is a north-south connector, traversing between Barber Street and CR 512. Most of the right-of-way of this trail is under City of Sebastian or Indian River County ownership. The corridor is 4 miles long, with an estimated construction cost of \$1,840,000. The MPO is requesting funds for construction of 1.75 miles of paved surface trail along the corridor, from Barber Street to Kildare Drive, for an estimated cost of \$805,000.
- 3. Airport Loop Greenway Trail** - The Vero Beach Airport Greenway trail runs along 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 41<sup>st</sup> Street, the FEC Railroad corridor parallel to US 1, and Aviation Boulevard/26<sup>th</sup> Street. It is planned as a 10' wide shared-use path, approximately 6.6 miles in length. The MPO is currently requesting funds for the construction of the trail that runs along

Aviation Boulevard. This segment is 1.5 miles long and has an estimated cost of \$1,000,000.

*Priority Congestion Management Process Projects*

Mr. Matson reported staff identified the most congested corridors in the county based on existing and vested trips; eliminated those corridors which are programmed for widening; and eliminated those corridors which have already been evaluated through the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The remaining corridors were then subject to a screening process to identify appropriate CMP strategies and projects. The resulting CMP priorities are as follows:

CORRIDOR	STRATEGY
<b>27th Avenue (4<sup>th</sup> Street – 12<sup>th</sup> Street</b>	Add turn lanes at 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12 <sup>th</sup> Street  Analyze computerized signal system  Implement intersection improvements at 1 <sup>st</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Streets SW
<b>Indian River Boulevard/37<sup>th</sup> Street</b>	Add turn lanes on Indian River Boulevard at 37 <sup>th</sup> Street Connect 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Miracle Mile Shopping Center Provide a new transit route on 17 <sup>th</sup> Street/South Indian River Boulevard

Mr. Matson continued the Priority Transit Projects were developed based on the MPO's 2008 Transit Development Plan (TDP) major Update and input from Senior Resource Association transportation staff and are as follows:

1. **New Service: West SR 60 Corridor/Indian River State College**
2. **Expand Operating Hours on Routes 6 and 9 (8:00 AM - 7:00 PM)**
3. **New Service: 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Indian River Boulevard Corridor**
4. **Vero Beach Intermodal Hub Improvements**
5. **Shelters and Benches Program**
6. **Expand Saturday Service Hours**

The Priority Airport Projects were reviewed as follows:

An airport project priority list was developed and is included in the 2009 Priority Projects report. The basis for developing the airport list was the adopted Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program (JACIP) and input from the airport staff. The top priority for the Vero Beach Municipal Airport is to rehabilitate a runway, and Sebastian Municipal Airport's is to construct an access road.

Discussions were held on the following:

Mr. Whittall stated when road improvements were made along Indian River Boulevard between 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Royal Palm Boulevard, the swales were not done well. He added there was standing water in several places and wondered if there could be any improvements made to the swales.

Mr. Matson explained the reason the swale was between the sidewalk and the road was to allow the water to filter somewhat since it is so close to the lagoon. He offered to check with Public Works to determine if there was anything that could be done to improve the drainage.

The new route between West SR 60 Corridor/Indian River State College was discussed at length and Mr. Matson offered to have a representative from the Senior Resource Center at the next meeting to give an overview of the service.

Mr. Wright questioned the hours of operation of the buses. Mr. Matson informed the members the hours were changing from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Mechling, SECONDED BY Mr. Durwin, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to recommend approval of the 2009 Priority Projects Report to the Metropolitan Planning Organization as presented.**

**Consideration of the 2009 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Minor Update – Action Item**

Mr. Matson reported to receive funding through the Florida Public Transit Block Grant program, applicants must prepare and adopt a Transit

Development Plan (TDP). Florida regulations require the TDP to be annually revised and updated as necessary. Consistent with state requirements that major TDP updates must be done every five years and minor updates be done in interim years, the MPO prepared and adopted a major TDP update in 2008. FDOT has developed streamlined reporting requirements for interim years between TDP major updates. He added Indian River County had complied with all recommended service improvements as listed in the 2008 TDP major update.

A copy of the Transit Development Plan 2009 Minor Update was reviewed and is included in the agenda packet on file in the Commission Office. Mr. Matson reviewed some of the highlights as follows:

- Another market year of increased fixed route ridership, 508,977 in FY2008-09 versus 326,000 for FY2007-08 = 55% increase
- Stimulus money in the amount of over \$2 million for a new transit building which will be located next to the property for the Supervisor of Elections Office on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
- Advertising, donations and local government contributions had increased this year which allowed expansion of service in Fellsmere and Sebastian
- Currently in the process of increasing the fleet to go along with the new service and routes
- New route grant funding was secured thanks to the Department of Transportation for the "Graduate" route going from the Vero Mueller Center College campus of Indian River State College to the main campus in St. Lucie County and serves the Vero Fashion Outlets mall.

Mr. Matson related the Transit Goals and Objectives were as follows:

- Increase transit ridership and enhance system performance
- Improve cost efficiency

- Improve safety
- Increase transit funding and revenue
- Increase accessibility
- Improve service quality

Mr. Durwin left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Mr. Wright requested on page 2-3, under Route 5, the last sentence be changed to read “Major activity centers served by this route include Sebastian Medical Center, Riverwalk, Publix and Walmart.”

Mr. Wright wanted to clarify the hours of operation would be increased to 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. Matson responded there was not an objective in this particular report specifically addressing the hours of operation but the CAC could recommend to the MPO that request.

Mr. Wright asked how the voluntary contributions from the ridership were doing. Mr. Matson replied \$200 was received for the last quarter. Discussion was held regarding promoting contributions to help with the funding of the bus line.

Chairman Young summarized the two objectives the CAC wished to add to this report were to increase the hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and to not only track volunteer donations, but also promote the desirability for potential funding in the future.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Whittall, SECONDED BY Mr. Johnson, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to recommend approval of the 2009 Transit Development Plan (TDP) as presented with the recommendation to add the two objectives as described by Chairman Young.**

**Consideration of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Public Involvement Component – *No Action Required***

Mr. Matson summarized one of the most important tasks undertaken by the MPO was the development and adoption of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Under Florida law, the Indian River County

MPO must adopt its 2035 LRTP Update by December of 2010. One of the first tasks in the development of the LRTP is the creation of a Public Participation Component Plan (PPCP) for the project. The plan, which must meet a number of requirements contained in the national transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU), identifies the major public involvement techniques to be used during the development of the Long Range Plan.

Mr. Matson went on to review the public participation requirements and public outreach techniques which include notice of public meetings and opportunities to provide public comment through newspaper public notices; cable television and public radio; the MPO website will post up-to-date information about public meetings; as well as the status of the project; local Chambers of Commerce; Indian River County School Board; and the Senior Resource Association.

Mr. Wright suggested all municipalities having a link to MPO transit information.

### **Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees**

Mr. Matson reviewed the status report dated August 18, 2009 included in the agenda packet, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were none.

### **Next Meeting**

Mr. Matson announced there would not be a meeting needed on October 6, 2009 so the next meeting would be held November 3, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.