

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman Peter O'Bryan; Sandra Bowden, Gary Wheeler, Wesley Davis and Joe Flescher, Commissioners, IRC; Vice Mayor Sabin Abell and Councilmember Ken Daige, City of Vero Beach; Council Member Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere (arrived at 10:08 a.m.); and Ann Reuter, Alternate IRC School Board Representative.

Absent were members: Vice Mayor David Becker, Town of Indian River Shores (unexcused) and Debbie MacKay, IRC School Board (excused). At this time the City of Sebastian has not designated its members to the MPO.

Also present was IRC staff: Bob Keating, Community Development Director; James W. Davis, Director; and Chris Mora, Assistant Director, Public Works; and Phil Matson, Staff Director, MPO. Others present were: Julie Young, David Wright, Charles Vogt, Clarence Korker, Walter Wright and Bob Johnson, MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC); Vicki Gatanier, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); Marlene Brunot, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; Monte Falls, Public Works Director, City of Vero Beach; Council Member Cheryl Hampton, Alternate City of Fellsmere MPO Representative and Jason Nunemaker, Fellsmere City Manager; Karen Wood, Transportation Director; Council on Aging; Kent Rice and David Wood, Turnpike Enterprise; Richard and Judith Martin, Herb Whittall, Robert Wright, Honey Minuse, Jennifer Cappelen, Dan McIntyre and Vic DeMattia, Interested Citizens; and Reta Smith, Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order, at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman O'Bryan had the members introduce themselves around the table. He noted Council Member Susan Adams was not present at this

time, but he understood she would be the City of Fellsmere's representative on the MPO. This was confirmed by Council Member Cheryl Hampton, Fellsmere's alternate MPO designee.

Chairman O'Bryan related City of Sebastian representative Brian Burkeen had been elected MPO Vice Chairman at the meeting of February 14, 2007, but since he was not reelected to office we would need a new Vice Chairman.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Bowden, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to elect Council Member Susan Adams as Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2007.

Mr. Matson introduced Julia Young and Bob Johnson, Chairman and Vice Chairman of MPOCAC, and Bob Keating and Chris Mora, MPOTAC Chairman and Vice Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2007

Chairman O'Bryan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of February 14, 2007. There were none.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Bowden, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of February 14, 2007, as presented.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS REPORT AND REIMBURSEMENT INVOICE #1 FOR THE 2006/07 TDLCB PLANNING GRANT

Mr. Matson reviewed the information contained in his memorandum dated April 3, 2007, located in the backup on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Bowden, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 and directed staff to forward them to the State Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Chairman O'Bryan announced the new MPO Vice Chairman Susan Adams had just arrived, and welcomed her to the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

STATUS REPORT ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE CORRIDORS AND HEARTLAND COAST-TO-COAST CORRIDOR

Mr. Matson recalled last year he and then-MPO Chairman Vice Mayor Abell had attended a Statewide MPO Chairman's meeting, at which time they heard a presentation by the FDOT on Florida's Future Corridors. He outlined the information contained in his memorandum dated March 30, 2007, which is on file in the Commission Office, and introduced Mr. Kent Rice and Mr. David Wood of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (TE).

Mr. Rice gave a PowerPoint presentation on the TE's Heartland Coast-to-Coast Corridor Study, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He explained the TE was part of FDOT and was the largest toll collection agency in the State, serving over two million customers per day. Mr. Rice advised the TE did not receive any revenues from taxes and all its revenues came from tolls, sales and service, with bonds being sold to fund most of its projects.

Mr. Wood related the TE had been asked to undertake a study of the Heartland Coast-to-Coast Corridor by stakeholders interested in a cross-State corridor as a possible toll-funded facility. He confirmed the study had the corridor starting at Interstate 75 (I-75) in Port Manatee on the west coast and they had looked at two possible terminus ends on the east coast, those being a 130 mile corridor ending at Fort Drum and a 150 mile corridor tying into Interstate 95 (I-95) just north of St. Lucie County.

Mr. Wood outlined the criteria used to determine the toll-funding feasibility of the Heartland Coast-to-Coast Corridor to project the gross revenue stream, subtracting the operating and maintenance costs and coming up with proposed net revenues. He reviewed the traffic profile for both corridors and pointed out the future year 2035 annual average daily

traffic numbers were very low and the model did not predict the corridor would generate much more traffic than State Road 60 or State Road 70 were carrying today.

A discussion followed about how truck traffic factored into the study.

Mr. Wood stated for the shorter corridor the construction costs would be approximately \$4.6 billion and the longer corridor would cost \$5.3. He continued the gross revenue estimate for a 30 year period showed the project would not support a bond issuance.

Mr. Wood outlined impacts to SR-60 and SR-70 traffic if the corridor was built, and concluded the Turnpike could not go forward with developing the Heartland Coast-to-Coast Corridor project as a toll road. He added that was not to say there were not still interests who could put together other funding sources, and pointed out areas around the country in which public-private partnerships had been done.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Chairman O'Bryan thanked Mr. Rice and Mr. Wood for their presentation.

STATUS REPORT OF OTHER MPO ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Mr. Matson related there had been no meetings of the CAC or TAC since the last MPO meeting. He mentioned the next MPO meeting was scheduled for May 9, 2007, and the advisory committees leading up to the meeting were going to have quite a packed agenda because they would be discussing the MPO budget for 2007/08 and what studies we planned to undertake for next year, along with the Evaluation Appraisal Report of the Transportation Element of County's Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Davis inquired if U.S. Highway 1 (U.S. 1) would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Keating advised staff had been working with developers to come up with a Developer's Agreement to widen U.S. 1 to six lanes, and hopefully he would have more information soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

Aviation Boulevard Extension Update

Mr. Matson recapped he had been given the task of following up on the Aviation Boulevard Extension study to find out what the actual cost of such an extension would be. He related he and Mr. Vic DeMattia had attended a Building Committee Meeting held by Indian River Memorial Hospital, which was one of the chief landowners in the path of the potential extension. Mr. Matson said hospital staff had not been unreceptive to the idea, but they wanted to do a study of it in-house and would be hiring their own engineer and getting back to him. He acknowledged there was some concern expressed by the hospital about noise impacts, particularly at the Hospice House.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.