

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Vice Chairman **Debbie MacKay**, IRC School Board; **Wesley Davis**, and **Joe Flescher** Commissioners, IRC; **Sabin Abell** and **Bill Fish**, Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach; **David Becker**, Councilman, Town of Indian River Shores; **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere; **Eugene Wolff**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid, and **Andrew Riddle**, FDOT District 4 Non-voting member.

Absent were Chairman **Peter O'Bryan**; **Gary Wheeler** and **Sandra Bowden**, Commissioners, IRC; **Dale Simchick**, Council Member, City of Sebastian (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Bob Keating, Community Development Director; Jim Davis, Director, Public Works; Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director; Brian Freeman MPO Senior Planner; Sharon Schalm, MPO Staff Assistant and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

Others present were: George Millar and Susan Olson, Indian River County School District; Joseph DeFronzo, Erdman Anthony; Siew Hwee Kong, Kimley-Horn; Karen Diegl, Senior Resource Association; Rohan Sadhai, AICP, Stanley Consultants; and James Granse, Interested Citizen.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman MacKay called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2008

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher,
SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, the members
voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of
October 8, 2008, as presented.**

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees - *No Action Required*

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, reported the status of MPO Advisory Committees as indicated in his memorandum dated November 4, 2008, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Request to Enter Into A Public Transportation Supplemental Joint Participation Agreement (SJPA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Barefoot Bay Service - *Action (11:11:00)*

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner. Mr. Freeman proceeded to explain the MPO receives a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) which allows the Senior Resource Association to provide transit service to Barefoot Bay, Route 11 of the GoLine.

Mr. Freeman continued the purpose of the agreement was to receive the second years' funds from that grant and the agreement was being amended to enable the MPO to receive future year funds without having to do a formal agreement.

(11:13:40)

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Mayor Adams, to approve the Supplemental Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Barefoot Bay Service as presented.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Councilman Dunlop stated the names of the persons approving the resolution needed to be updated due to the recent municipal elections.

Mr. Matson affirmed the corrections would be made before the document was signed and sent.

(11:15:05)

THE MOTION WAS CALLED, and the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the Agreement with the noted changes of correcting the names listed with the newly elected officials.

Note: MPO Resolution No. **2008-005** was executed.

**Consideration of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment –
No Action Required**

Mr. Matson explained the TIP was the Five Year Transportation Budget containing all the road projects FDOT was undertaking for the next five years. He added some of the projects were not completed in Fiscal Year 07/08, while others simply had an accounting glitch where funds allocated to FDOT for a fiscal year which began in July needed to be brought into the federal fiscal year which begins in October.

Mr. Matson summarized he had been given the authority by the MPO to move the money from one fiscal year to another to continue the projects.

**Consideration of a Proposed Scope of Services for Preparation of the
Indian River County MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) –
Action Required (11:17:06)**

Mr. Matson gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson explained this Long Range Transportation Plan was one of the most important aspects of the MPO because it was where it was determined what the MPO would like to be accomplished in 25 years and in turn put it into the FDOT budget. The criteria for the LRTP was as follows:

- Primary source of annual transportation improvement projects
- Must be updated every 5 years
- Must be cost feasible
- Must meet 8 planning factors
 - ✓ Economic Vitality
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Mobility
 - ✓ Environment/Quality of Life
 - ✓ Connectivity, Operational Consideration, System Preservation

Mr. Matson related the IRC transit system was approaching 600,000 riders a year. Updates to the sidewalk and bikeway plans were also being updated, but for the most part, the highway plan needed the most attention at this time.

Changes from the 2030 Plan were reviewed as follows:

Note: **Red is obsolete.**

- Consider (**various**) present plan and an alternative land use/growth scenario,
- Use (**our own Visioning Consultants**), TCRPC (Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council) for three counties,
- (**establish Steering Committee of all elected officials**),
- (**6-10 public meetings**), public workshops and EAR (Evaluation and Appraisal Report),
- Analyze the potential impacts of these scenarios (**using models**),
- Identify desirable land use growth scenarios for the county,
- Enhanced Regional Coordination/Regional Component
 - 5-county model (**vs. 3-county**)
 - Coordination with Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC)
 - TCRPC Land Use Workshops
 - Future Coordination Possibilities
- Actual Year-of-Expenditure Projects:
 - 2030: Three sets of projects.
 - E+C (through 2010), eg CR 512
 - 2010 – 2020, eg SR 60 w of 82nd Avenue
 - 2020 – 2030, eg Laconia Street Extension
 - 2035: Project in actual year of implementation through 2020; range of years in later years (2020 – 2025, 2025 - 2030)
- Cost of 2035 LRTP
 - \$200,000 (**vs. \$500,000 for 2030 plan**)
 - 2030 Regional Plan: \$5,000
 - (Will likely be more for 2035 Regional Coordination)

Staff was recommending the MPO approve the Scope of Services and issue a work order to its General Planning Consultants consisting of the team of Stanley Consultants, Inc., Kimley Horn, and Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

Commissioner Davis felt the synchronization of traffic lights needed work. Mr. Bob Keating, IRC Community Development Director recommended having Chris Mora, IRC Assistant Public Works Director, at the next MPO meeting to discuss the current synchronization methods.

Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director stated we have “cutting edge” equipment in place now. He pointed out whenever a link was under construction, as there was now with Indian River Boulevard, the contractor takes control over

all the signals in the system and the contractor is responsible for maintaining traffic during the construction period. He felt once some of the construction was completed traffic should move more smoothly.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding changes, road widening, and traffic signal evaluation. Mr. Matson offered to bring the subject back at a future meeting.

Mayor Abell suggested for public input meetings to be held during the "snow bird season" to allow for our wintertime residents to participate in the input process.

Councilman Dunlop recommended making sure when reviewing Comprehensive Plans they be the new ones which were being updated in 2009/2010.

Mr. Matson felt a consultant was needed to objectively maintain order regionally. Council Member Wolff opined it was cost effective to have a consultant.

(11:55:36)

ON MOTION BY Councilman Becker, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the Scope of Services for Preparation of the Indian River County Metropolitan 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented.

Review of Draft Report and Presentation of Safe Walk to School Study for Thompson Elementary School – *Action Required*

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Rohan Sadhai, AICP, from Stanley Consultants. He explained in a joint meeting, the IRC School District along with the Board of County Commissioners, determined if more people could walk to school there could be a cost reduction in the pupil transportation needs. As a result, Mr. Sadhai was contracted to conduct a Safe Walk to School Study for the Thompson Elementary School.

Mr. Sadhai proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He summarized the research conducted which included existing road conditions; existing sidewalk conditions; existing signals and stop signs; and a survey conducted by the Thompson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.

Discussion was held by the MPO regarding sidewalks, speed limits, and safe routes to school funds.

Commissioner Flescher inquired of the almost \$600,000 listed for sidewalks, how much could be secured from funding sources. Mr. Matson replied in the past staff had received \$500,000. Criteria for grant funding was also discussed.

Mr. Matson reported staff would take the recommended improvements needed, prioritize them, and include them in the study.

ON MOTION BY Mayor Abell, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, to approve the Safe Walk to School Study as presented and authorize staff to meet with Public Works to determine the feasibility of the improvements brought forward.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Commissioner Flescher commended Mr. Sadhai on the thoroughness of his study.

Council Member Wolff added there were different dynamics presently than when the members were in school and felt it was beneficial to obtain the feedback received from the current parents.

Commissioner Davis inquired how much this study cost. Mr. Matson responded the study cost \$9,000 and was paid from out of the Federal Highway Planning funds. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of asking the IRC School Board to come back with the name of another elementary school where the study could be conducted.

THE MOTION WAS CALLED, and passed unanimously (8-0).

Consideration of Presentation by Senior Resource Association (SRA) – No Action Required

Ms. Karen Diegl, CEO of Senior Resource Association and Transit Operator for IRC Community Coach and GoLine, presented a new fare box which would be installed in each bus to encourage donations. She explained their goal was to increase the donations 94% in one year.

Suggested donation amounts were discussed.

Commissioner Flescher commended Ms. Diegl for the work and marketing she had done for the donations.

Quarterly Status Report of MPO Staff Activities – *No Action Required*

Mr. Matson reviewed the information contained in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office. He noted it was for information only and no action was required.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Next Meeting

The next MPO meeting will be held December 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room B1-501.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.