

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

Present were: Chairman **Peter O'Bryan**; Vice Chairman **Debbie MacKay**, IRC School Board; **Wesley Davis**, **Joe Flescher**, **Gary Wheeler**, and **Bob Solari**, 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** and **Dale Simchick**, Council Members, City of Sebastian; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid, **Stacy Miller** and **Jim Wolfe**, FDOT District 4 Non-voting members.

Absent was City of Vero Beach appointee (excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Bob Keating, Community Development Director; 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: Carolyn Gish, Gus Schmidt, Michael DeRosa, Gustavo Schmidt, Andrew Riddle, Antonette Adams, and Sharon Schnell, FDOT; Joe Griffin, City of Sebastian Airport; Karen Diegl, Senior Resource Association; and James Granse, Interested Citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2008

Commissioner Solari asked to be removed from the absent members list from the November 12, 2008 since he was not yet sworn in as a Commissioner at that time.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED by Mayor Adams, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the minutes of November 12, 2008, as amended.

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 December 3, 2008, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2008/09 TDLCB (Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board) Planning Grant - *Action Required*

Mr. Matson explained as part of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant contract between the IRC MPO as the Designated Official Planning Agency and the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, it is required to provide periodic progress reports and submit invoices. This invoice submission was for the period from July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008.

Mr. Matson related the invoice and progress report represented the first quarter of the 2008/09 planning grant period showing \$3,235.53 expenses.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED BY Commissioner Solari, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the Progress Report and Invoice #1 for the 2008/09 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Planning Grant as presented.

Request to Approve Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Evaluation Report for FY 2007-2008 – *Action Required*

Mr. Matson reported this item was related to the previous item in that on an annual basis, the County's Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) and the MPO must evaluate the performance of the County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). Recently, the TDLCB completed its performance evaluation of the Senior Resource Association, the county's CTC, and direct staff to forward the report to the State Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Chairman O'Bryan commended Ms. Diegl and the Senior Resource Association on their efforts, adding he had personally received many positive comments on their transportation services.

**ON MOTION BY Commissioner Wheeler,
SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the
members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the
Community Transportation Coordinator Annual
Evaluation Report for FY 2007-2008.**

Consideration of the CR 609/82nd Avenue Alignment Efforts – *No Action
Required*

Mr. Matson presented at the October 8, 2008 MPO meeting when this issue was discussed, a vote was taken what the members felt the alignments should be moving forward. He continued CR 609 was a new roadway linking Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties along a westerly manner. While 82nd Avenue was under design, it was felt 82nd and possibly 90th Avenues would be good future alignments.

A PowerPoint presentation was made by Mr. Matson, and contained in the agenda packet, showing the alignments in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. He also pointed out a new Joint Planning Agreement, labeled "Exhibit A" between the City of Palm Bay and the City of Fellsmere, which called for a roadway that would be something of a logical continuation of the western alignment.

Commissioner Wheeler stated he was under the impression from talking with the Martin and St. Lucie County Commissioners at Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the 82nd Avenue alignment being discussed between Martin and St. Lucie Counties had been nixed. He thought the road west of I-95 looked good for future growth.

Mr. Gus Schmidt, FDOT, replied this study was initiated at the request of the Martin and St. Lucie Counties MPO's, with some participation from the IRC MPO, for the creation of a joint Long Range Plan. He continued unlike traditional plans, which simply looked at adopted land uses and then trying to create a needs and a cost feasibility plan based on those adopted Comprehensive Plans, this group looked at some alternative land use scenarios that would be more favorable for transportation. One of those land use scenarios yielded a transportation plan that had some western development along a corridor.

Mr. Schmidt continued with the series of events of the study, and noted there had been some questions raised which indicated the study would not move much past the planning stages right now.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of widening CR 512 enough to accommodate the increase in traffic and other potential alignments.

Mrs. MacKay asked if part of the objective for the MPO was to improve transportation for our own community which would be population driven. She felt the improvement of 82nd Avenue would benefit the County whether or not Martin and St. Lucie Counties were in favor of the improvements.

Review of FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2009/10 through 2013/14 – Action Required

Mr. Matson related FDOT staff would be presenting FDOT's FY 2009/10 through 2013/14 Draft Tentative Five Year Work Program. The work program, which is FDOT's project programming and financing schedule for transportation projects within the MPO area, must be developed with consideration of the MPO's 2008 highway, enhancement, congestion management system, transit and aviation priorities. The list of adopted priorities were listed in "Attachment 3" in the agenda packet.

Mr. Matson continued the MPO must approve the work program prior to FDOT transmitting it to the state legislature for ultimate approval early next year.

Mr. Jim Wolfe, District Secretary, District 4, FDOT, commended the MPO on their forethought to prepare for projects. He related as with everyone else, FDOT had financial issues due to the downturn in revenue.

Ms. Wolfe reviewed the reports contained in the agenda packet, and on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Stacy Miller, District 4, FDOT, reviewed the 2008 Priority Project Report contained in the agenda packet, and on file in the Commission Office. She also explained the District 4 budget cuts and their impacts.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to accept staff's recommendation of approving the tentative work program as presented.

Discussion took place regarding at which point the public was approached for acquisition of property for road improvements.

Mr. Matson introduced Ms. Carolyn Gish, Operations Engineer, FDOT, and Mr. Mike DeRosa, noting he had been doing the MPO budget for the past 34 years and this would be his last one. He also introduced Antonette Adams, explaining she would be the new FDOT Work Program Manager.

MPO Prioritization of Indian River County Capital Improvement Element Transportation Projects – *No Action Required*

Chairman O'Bryan related this item was for information only and would require no action.

Discussion of Indian River County Traffic Signalization – *No Action Required*

Mr. Chris Mora, IRC Assistant Public Works Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the IRC Traffic Signal System. A copy of this presentation is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Mora pointed out IRC was responsible for 172 signals, with 16 new ones under construction. He continued there were 31 traffic surveillance cameras plus 2 more under design or construction, and explained the cameras were for traffic control only at this time and no recording was being done.

Commission Chairman Davis left the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

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

Chairman O'Bryan stated this item was also for information only and no action was required to be taken.

MPO and MPO Advisory Committees 2009 Meeting Schedule

A copy of this meeting schedule was reviewed and a copy is provided in the agenda packet.

Other Business

Councilmember Fish asked about why there was no sidewalk crossing the railroad tracks at the intersection of US 1 and 23rd Street. Mr. Matson replied he had a conversation with FDOT regarding that matter and was told there was

something in the works for that issue. They had also explained their money stopped at the FDOT right-of-way line. He offered to report on the status at a future meeting.

Mr. Mora interjected 23rd Street was actually a City of Vero Beach Street and anything west of the US 1 right-of-way would be a City problem to address. He added anything done on the railroad tracks would need to be coordinated with the Florida East Coast Railroad.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Next Meeting

The next MPO meeting will be held January 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room B1-501.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.