

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 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; **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere; **Dale Simchick** and **Jim Hill**, Council Members, City of Sebastian; **Stacy Miller** and **Jim Wolfe**, FDOT District 4 Non-voting members.

Absent was **David Becker**, Councilman, Town of Indian River Shores; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid, (excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Joseph Baird, Administrator; Mike Zito, Assistant Administrator; Bill DeBraal, Deputy County Attorney; Jason Brown, Director, Management and Budget; Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Chris Mora, Assistant Public Works Director; Bob Keating, Community Development Director; Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director; Arjuna Weragoda, Public Works Project Engineer; Michael Nixon, Roadway Production Manager; Brian Freeman MPO Senior Planner; Sharon Schalm, MPO Staff Assistant; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

Others present were: Claudia Dewitt, Transfield Services; Jim Granse, Ruth Stanbridge, John Jackson, Joseph Paladin and Wesley Davis, Jr., Interested Citizens; Antonette Adams, and Sharon Schnell, FDOT; Joe Griffin, City of Sebastian Airport; Karen Wood, Senior Resource Association; and James Granse, Interested Citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Nominees for Chairman were as follows:

Commissioner Solari nominated Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner O'Bryan
Commissioner Wheeler nominated Mrs. MacKay
Mrs. MacKay declined the nomination stating she would be willing to be the Vice Chairman and recommended Commissioner O'Bryan be re-elected as Chairman.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Solari, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to re-elect Commissioner O'Bryan as Chairman and Mrs. MacKay as Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2009.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2008

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes of December 10, 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 January 7, 2009, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Review of MPO Prioritization of County Capital Improvements Element Projects For Fiscal Years 2009/09 through 2012/13 - *Action Required*

Mr. Matson summarized according to state statutes, all local governments in the state must, on an annual basis, update the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of their Comprehensive Plans. On November 18, 2008, the county adopted its 2008 CIE update. While the Board of County Commissioners expressed concerns over whether several longstanding roadway priorities were adequately funded in the CIE and requested the assistance of the MPO in prioritizing roadway capital improvements. In response, MPO and county staff have developed a draft prioritization of the roadway projects in the County's Capital Improvements Element. The draft prioritization was based on the ranking

of projects in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); the concurrency status of the roadways; and other factors, such as funding of previous project phases, safety, and developer contributions.

Mr. Matson reviewed the MPO LRTP Projects in the CIE ranked in priority order:

Roadway	Project Limits	LRTP Year	Current Phase	Total CIE Funding \$	Fully Funded in CIE (y/n)?
CR 512	I-95 to Roseland Rd.	2010	CST	7,271,068	Y
58 th Avenue	@ SR 60	2010	ROW	26,685,194	N
43 rd Avenue*	8 th St to 26 th St	2010	ROW	23,559,055	N
Oslo Road	58 th Avenue to US 1	2010	ROW, CST	9,200,529	N
16 th /17 th Street	US 1 to 20 th Avenue	2010	CST	600,000	Y
33 rd Street	@ 66 th Avenue	2010	ROW	593,776	Y
53 rd Street	US 1 to 58 th Avenue	2010	CST	8,575,597	Y
Powerline Rd.	CR 510 to Barber St.	2010	CST	500,000	Y
8 th Street	66 th Ave to 74 th Ave	2010	N/A	2,000,000	Y
13 th St SW	West of 43 rd Ave	2010	N/A	50,000	Y
CR 510	CR 512 to US 1	2020	ROW	58,384,089	N
Aviation Blvd.	43 rd Ave to US 1	2020	CST	13,200,000	Y
66 th Avenue*	SR 60 to CR 510	2020	ROW	12,924,000	N
26 th Street	66 th Ave to 43 rd Ave	2020	ROW	1,500,000	N
43 rd Avenue*	Oslo Road to 8 th Street	2020	ROW	9,543,000	N
27 th Avenue	S. County Line to SR 60	2020	DES	13,000,000	N
26 th Street	82 nd Ave to 74 th Ave	2030	DES	750,000	N
Schumann Dr*	Barber St to CR 510	2030	ROW	17,150,000	N
Total				\$215 m	

*Programmed in CIE as follows: 43rd Avenue (12th Street – 26th Street); 66th Avenue (SR 60 – 77th Street); 43rd Avenue (Oslo Road – 12th Street); Schumann Drive (Barber Street – 77th Street)

Mr. Matson noted as shown in the above table, the adopted CIE contained number of lower-ranked or long term (post-2020) LRTP priorities. At the same time, some of the higher-ranked projects (66th Avenue, CR 510) were not fully funded. If several of the lower-ranked projects were deferred, the funding for those projects, along with the funding from deferrals identified in the following table, can be reprogrammed to higher-ranked priorities.

Deferrals/Changes to LRTP Projects:

Roadway	Project Limits	Year of Need	Justification	Current Funding	Proposed Funding	Amount to Reprogram
27 th Ave	St. Lucie County Line to SR 60	2020	Reduced need for the project. Extensive ROW acquisition needed. Part of project to be provided with Prop Share contributions	\$12.8 m	\$7.475 m	\$5,325 m
26 th Ave	82 nd Ave to 74 th Ave	2030	Extremely low volumes of traffic.	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
8 th Ave	66 th Ave to 74 th Ave	2010	Reduced demand, lack of connectivity to paved roads.	\$2,000,000	0	\$2,000,000
13 th St SW	W of 43 rd Ave	2010	Reduced demand, lack of connectivity to paved roads.	\$50,000	0	\$50,000
Schumann Drive	Barber Street to CR 510	2030	Growth exceeded anticipated need. Retain in CIE to meet concurrency. Amend to reflect \$1.5 M County Incentive Grant funding.	\$17.15 m	\$18.65 m	(\$1.5 m added from FDOT grant)
Potential	Deferrals	LRTP	Projects			\$8,175,000

Commissioner Davis asked where we would be situated in the event the proposed Stimulus Plan may come down to where they are talking about building and using infrastructure as a key component of the Stimulus package. Mr. Matson responded the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretary did not hold out optimistic prospects for us receiving Stimulus money when he was here recently. He said they were looking for big ticket, ready-to-go \$100 million items, not little items.

Mr. Matson continued the St. Lucie County MPO asked that the SR 70 project be taken off the Stimulus Plan and the money given to the neighborhoods for sidewalks, etc. He continued, the way FDOT was describing the Plan, stimulus was items that had already gone through the environmental studies, big ticket, big dollar jobs.

Commissioner Davis stated he was concerned if items were pulled off the LRTP projects list, what the stimulus package would mean to Indian River County. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding projects that may qualify for the stimulus package.

Mr. Bob Keating, IRC Community Development Director, interjected FDOT had reported at the December 19, 2008 MPO Technical Advisory Committee meeting, since it would be federal money provided through the stimulus package, all projects would have to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements or they would be ineligible.

Commissioner Davis inquired how many projects IRC had that would be considered NEPA eligible. Mr. Keating responded the Interstate 95 projects would qualify; U.S. 1 south of Oslo Road, and possibly 82nd Avenue.

Chairman O'Bryan recommended taking the money set aside for one major project and completing several smaller projects instead. Commissioner Davis agreed. Mr. Matson stated the only ramification of cutting back was IRC had a FDOT grant for approximately \$3.8 million for S.R. 60 and 58th Avenue and if it were spent on other projects the grant may be endangered.

Mr. Chris Mora, IRC Assistant Public Works Director, explained there were also concurrency implications involved because S.R. 60 and 58th Avenues as they sit today, were over capacity.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Wheeler, the members voted unanimously (11-0) not to include 26th Street (82nd Avenue to 74th Avenue) on the deferred list and reduce the proposed funding to \$500,000.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding removing 8th Street (66th Avenue to 74th Avenue) from the deferral list. Commissioner O'Bryan suggested waiting for nine months at which time Mr. Matson had mentioned the list would be re-done, to add that item back. He also pointed out many of the projects were contingent upon adding an extra 6-cents of gas tax for funding.

Commissioner Wheeler stated staff was asked to start keeping tabs on what counties around IRC were paying for gas that had the 6-cent gas tax compared to what we were paying.

Mr. Matson clarified the addition of \$1.5 million added by a FDOT grant to the funding of Schumann Drive (Barber Street to CR 510), bringing the total proposed funding to \$18.65 million.

In conclusion, Mr. Matson reported of the \$246 million in the 2008 CIE, \$215 million, or 90% of all funding, is programmed for LRTP capacity projects. This includes full funding for several of the highest priority LRTP projects which includes CR 512 from Roseland Road to I-95; 16th/17th Street west of US 1, and Aviation Boulevard. While high-priority LRTP projects should be maintained in the CIE, approximately \$9,000,000 in lower-priority LRTP projects can be deferred.

Mr. Matson related staff's final recommendation would be to follow the method FDOT used for accounting by breaking out the phasing which shows more detail than currently being used by MPO. He opined using the FDOT system would provide a better idea of how much was being spent on right-of-way for each project, how much was spent in design, and what sequence each would follow.

Chairman O'Bryan would like to see what FDOT does for the acquisition process whereas they do not go to 60% engineering until that project was funded within the next three years to avoid having bought a lot of right-of-way but not having the funding to build the road. He asked Mr. Matson if that matter could be brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Matson responded in the affirmative.

Mrs. Ruth Stanbridge appreciated the members considering making changes such as those being discussed, and along with the phasing and coinciding with what is being done by FDOT, to consider notifications in the early stages so residents would know the plans 20 years down the road.

Council Member Simchick asked if staff could make a note for the LRTP to correspond the 66th Avenue from SR 60 to CR 510 project and Schumann Drive to reflect the same dates because she felt it may affect funding if there was outside funding down the road. Mr. Matson responded that was a good suggestion since there was a ten year difference (2020 and 2030) listed.

Chairman O'Bryan summarized the only change the MPO had added to the priority lists staff had presented was to not defer the section of 26th Street

from 74th Avenue to 82nd Avenue and change it from \$750,000 to \$500,000 proposed funding.

Discussion was held regarding finding a source for representing the County's interests for the stimulus package.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Council Member Hill, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to recommend approval of the presented priority lists with the one change of removing the section of 26th Street from 74th Avenue to 82nd Avenue from the deferred list and changing the proposed funding from \$750,000 to \$500,000.

Consideration of the FY2007/08 Evaluation of the MPO Public Involvement Plan – Action Required

Mr. Matson recapped on an annual basis the MPO public evaluation practices needed to be evaluated. He noted generally the more controversial the issue, the more public involvement you got. He asked Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner, to give a brief report.

Mr. Freeman explained during FY 2007/08, staff's analysis indicated that existing practices were successful in engaging public participation for MPO projects, such as the North County Greenways Plan and the Transit Development Plan Major Update, but were not successful in engaging public participation at MPO Committee meetings. In addition, MPO communication techniques, such as the quarterly newsletter and the internet site, have been successful in increasing public awareness of MPO activities.

Mr. Freeman reported after reviewing all committee meeting minutes for the fiscal year from the MPO and Advisory Committees; Bicycle Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee, the following information was obtained:

MPO AND ITS COMMITTEES

Objective 1.1: For FY 2007/08, attendance at MPO and Advisory Committee meetings by non-staff and non-committee members will increase annually by 10% from 2001/02 attendance levels, which at that time were projected to be 100 people.

- 92 attendees who were members of the public

Attainment: While attendance had actually increased since FY 2005/06, attendance at public meetings during FY 2007/08 was less than the objective's target. Therefore Objective 1.1 was not attained.

Disposition: While this objective is important, its target is not realistic. Objective 1.1 should be retained; however, the objective's target should be revised to reflect actual conditions.

Objective 1.2: For FY 2007/08, the number of comments received at MPO and Advisory Committee meetings will increase annually by 10% from 2001/02 levels, which at that time were projected to be 20 comments.

- 8 public comments recorded in the minutes

Attainment: Objective 1.2 was not attained.

Disposition: While this objective is important, its target is not realistic. Objective 1.2 should be retained; however, the objective's target should be revised to reflect actual conditions.

MPO PROJECTS

Objective 2.1: For FY 2007/08, the number of participants at public workshops from traditionally underserved communities (which includes minorities, low income persons, the elderly, disabled persons, geographically dispersed/transient persons, women, children, and under-educated persons) will increase annually by 15% from the 2001/02 level which at that time was projected to be 20.

- One participant from traditionally underserved communities in IRC attended MPO public workshops
- 234 transit riders from traditionally underserved communities were surveyed in conjunction with the TDP Major Update

Attainment: Objective 2.1 was attained.

Disposition: Retain objective. While this objective was achieved, the target's 15% annual growth rate is not realistic and should be revised to reflect actual conditions.

Objective 2.2: For FY 2007/08, the number of comments received from all sources relating to MPO projects or activities will annually increase by 10% from 2001/02 levels, which are projected to be 200 comments.

- 366 comments were received on MPO projects

Attainment: Objective 2.2 was attained.

Disposition: Retain objective. While this objective was achieved, the target's 10% annual growth rate is not realistic and should be revised to reflect actual conditions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Objective 3.1: For FY 2007/08, at least 20% of the County's overall population will recognize the MPO or one of its projects or activities.

Attainment: Objective 3.1 was attained.

Disposition: Retain objective.

Objective 3.2: For FY 2007/08, at least 5% of the County's overall population will have been made aware of or actually participated in one of the MPO's public involvement activities.

- Based on the past workshop participation and quarterly mailings of the MPO newsletter to 791 households and over 200 copies distributed at public locations.
- Over 11,000 visitors to the MPO website, averaging 31 visits per day.

Attainment: Objective 3.2 was attained.

Disposition: Retain objective.

Objective 3.3: For FY 2007/08, at least 30% of the County's traditionally underserved, which includes transportation disadvantaged and minority populations, will recognize the MPO or one of its projects or activities.

- Through survey responses and participation at workshops, the MPO staff determined the recognition rate of the MPO by the traditionally underserved populations is less than 30%.

Attainment: Objective 3.3 was not attained.

Disposition: Retain objective.

Mr. Freeman summarized the staff recommendation was the MPO review the Evaluation Report and approve the Public Involvement Plan evaluation. Staff would bring back at a future meeting amendments to the Public Involvement Plan revising some of the objectives discussed.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the Public Involvement Plan Evaluation as presented.

Other Business

Mr. Matson announced FDOT would be installing sidewalks at the railroad crossing on 23rd Street Councilmember Fish had asked about at the December 10, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Matson referred to a debris pile on SR 60 that was also discussed at the December 10, 2008 meeting was found to be on St. Johns River Water Management District property. They were slowly crushing parts of it to use as fill in other projects and would eventually all be removed.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.