

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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** (arrived at 10:15 a.m.), and **Gary Wheeler**, Commissioners, IRC; **David Becker** and **Frannie Atchison**, Councilmembers, Town of Indian River Shores; **Sabin Abell** and **Bill Fish**, Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach; **Richard Gillmor**, City of Sebastian; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid; and **Andrew Riddle**, Non-voting member, FDOT, District 4.

Absent was **Bob Solari**, Commissioner, IRC; **Dale Simchick** and **Jim Hill**, Council Members, City of Sebastian; and **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere, (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Mike Zito, Assistant County Administrator; Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Chris Mora, Assistant Public Works Director; 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: Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra; Joseph DeFronzo, Erdman Anthony; Claudia Dewitt, Transfield Services; Greg Kyle, Kimley-Horn; Patsy Herndon, Indian River County School District; Ed Bierschenk, Press Journal; Eric Menger, Vero Beach Municipal Airport; Don Dexter, Public Works, City of Vero Beach; Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization; Jim Granse, Ruth Stanbridge, and Joseph Paladin, Interested Citizens.

### **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.

### **Recording Secretary's Note:**

Commissioner Bob Solari asked to have his letter, dated February 9, 2009, attached to the minutes explaining he served on two boards, the MPO and the

Indian River Lagoon Advisory Board, both meeting at the same time. He stated he would make the determination of which of the two boards to attend based on monthly agenda items and for which board he could provide the greatest benefit to the County. A copy of this letter is on file in the Commission Office and will be an attachment to the minutes.

### **Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2009**

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of January 14, 2009, 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 26, 2009, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

### **Consideration of Proposed MPO Priorities for Federal Stimulus Funding**

Mr. Matson summarized:

Although it was expected that the details of the stimulus bill would be announced in the near future, the specific program guidelines have yet to be finalized. Preliminary indications are that the funds will be administered by the Federal Highway Administration and will be subject to most or all of the existing federal restrictions and provisions. In addition, most of the funds are anticipated to be allocated to state Department of Transportation's (DOT's) for large-scale, major construction projects like interstate highways and bridges. It is also anticipated that some funding will be allocated directly to metropolitan areas.

To prepare for any local allocation that might occur, FDOT has requested that MPO's adopt priority lists of production-ready local projects. Production-ready projects are those which are designed, permitted, and ready to bid. To develop a draft priority list, MPO staff met with IRC Engineering and Road and Bridge staff to provide a list of candidate projects for MPO funding.

The result was the stimulus bill, which contains approximately \$30 Billion for transportation improvements nationwide, may have a small portion of the funding allocated directly to Metropolitan areas based on population. FDOT estimates IRC's metropolitan allocation would be approximately \$2-7 million.

While specific program details have yet to be announced, FDOT and the MPO Advisory Council have identified a number of provisions that would likely apply to the local allocation. Since the purpose of the proposed legislation was to provide immediate economic assistance across the country, funding would be made available only for the construction phases of projects that could be let 150 days of enactment of the bill. Therefore, candidate projects must already be designed and must have all necessary right-of-way acquisition and environmental permitting completed. These provisions will likely eliminate most roadway widening projects from consideration in IRC.

Other projects could be funded should the local allocation occur. These projects include paving dirt roads; resurfacing existing roads, undertaking ITS projects, such as adding new signalization at intersections; and constructing enhancements, such as bike paths and sidewalks. Since IRC had previously programmed all of these activities in its Capital Improvement Program there should be a number of candidates that were stimulus-fund eligible.

Mr. Matson reviewed the constraints on the stimulus money. He stated staff recommended the MPO consider the staff presentation and list of proposed stimulus allocation priorities, make any changes to the list, and approve the list. Staff also recommended that the MPO authorize the Chairman to execute a Joint Participating Agreement for stimulus funding and also authorize staff to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as necessary to obtain stimulus funding.

Mr. Matson reviewed the Potential Stimulus Projects Chart which is found on the next page:

Rank	Category	Project	Cost	Status	Priority
1	Resurfacing	20 <sup>th</sup> Ave (Oslo-SR60)	1,500,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	High
2	Resurfacing	Old Dixie Hwy- CR510-US1	3,000,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	High
3	Resurfacing	CR507-Fellsmere to Brevard county lines	1,000,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	High
4	Resurfacing	Old Dixie Hwy/12 <sup>th</sup> St - SR60	250,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	High
5	ITS/Signals	CR512 at Sebastian River Middle School	300,000	Needs Design	High
6	ITS/Signals	21 <sup>st</sup> St at 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	250,000	Needs Design	High
7	ITS/Signals	SR60 @ 53 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	300,000	Needs design & FDOT permitting	High
8	LRTP Paving	13 <sup>th</sup> St SW-31 <sup>st</sup> St to 35 <sup>th</sup> St	500,000	May need minor design/permitting	High
9	Resurface/Drain	Barber Street (Schumann Drive – CR 512	2,000,000	May need stormwater permitting	High/Medium
10	Resurfacing	27 <sup>th</sup> Ave – Oslo Rd to SR60	1,500,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	Medium
11	Bridge Project	13 <sup>th</sup> St SW @ 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave	750,000	Needs design and minor permitting	Medium
12	LRTP Paving	53 <sup>rd</sup> St – Old Dixie Hwy to 51 <sup>st</sup> Ct	2,000,000	May have NEPA, ROW impacts	Medium
13	Other	Blue Cypress Lake Road	230,000	Needs design and minor permitting	Medium
14	Bridge Project	43 <sup>rd</sup> Ave @ Main Relief Canal	855,000	May not qualify	Medium
<b>Total</b>			<b>12,435,000</b>		

Commissioner Flescher arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding using the stimulus money for the creation of jobs. Mr. Matson pointed out the work must be able to be completed within 90 days.

Mrs. MacKay and Commissioner Wheeler both felt the stimulus package was a sham and it would do nothing to help education. Chairman O'Bryan replied the funds were earmarked for transportation and it was advantageous for the County to have a priority list ready if and when the money became available.

After a lengthy discussion, the members re-prioritized the priority list as follows:

Rank	Category	Project	Cost	Status	Priority
1	Resurface/Drain	Barber Street (Schumann Drive – CR 512	2,000,000	May need stormwater permitting	High/Medium
2	LRTP Paving	13 <sup>th</sup> St SW-31 <sup>st</sup> St to 35 <sup>th</sup> St	500,000	May need minor design/permitting	High
3	Resurfacing	20 <sup>th</sup> Ave (Oslo-SR60)	1,500,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	High
4	Resurfacing	CR507-Fellsmere to Brevard county lines	1,000,000	No design, permitting, ROW needed	High
5	Resurfacing	Old Dixie Hwy/12 <sup>th</sup> St - SR60	250,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	High
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<b>Total</b>			<b>12,435,000</b>		

**ON MOTION by Councilman Becker, SECONDED by Council Member Gillmor, the members voted (8-1) to approve the resolution and the re-ranking as discussed. Mrs. MacKay opposed.**

Mr. Matson then reviewed Attachment #2, the Potential Stimulus Enhancement Projects:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1	Landscaping	SR60 (66 <sup>th</sup> Ave – I95)	300,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	Medium
2	Landscaping	Indian River Blvd (SR 60 – 17 <sup>th</sup> St)	100,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	Medium
3	Landscaping	58 <sup>th</sup> Ave (SR 60 – Oslo Rd)	300,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	Medium
4	Sidewalks	Royal Palm Blvd/Place (US 1- IR Blvd)	500,000	No design, permitting, or ROW needed	Medium
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,200,000</b>		

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Councilman Becker, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the enhancements priority list as presented.**

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to send a resolution to our state representatives and senators expressing the Metropolitan Planning Organization's frustration and displeasure in how the stimulus package was being handled, and suggesting the money should be given out in a way communities could actually use it, without so many restrictions attached.**

### **Status Report of MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Matson related on November 12, 2008 staff began initiating the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. He summarized the LRTP was a federally required document that included formal processes for public input, future transportation demand estimation, and roadway analysis. It was the source of all federal and state-funded transportation projects in Indian River County and perhaps the most important activity undertaken by the MPO.

Mr. Matson related the estimated \$220,000 cost of the 2035 LRTP was not realistic, and it would cost approximately \$300,000 if some of the process could be done in-house. He reviewed the costs of other MPO's in Florida and provided the board with two options for consideration and discussion:

1. Keep the general planning consultant team for \$300,000; or
2. Put the work out to bid

A lengthy discussion took place on the two alternatives.

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve Option 1, keep the general planning consultant team for \$300,000.**

**Other Business**

There was none.

**Comments from the Public**

There was none.

**Adjournment**

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

## Attachment to Minutes

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Wesley S. Davis*  
Chairman  
District 1

*Joseph E. Flescher*  
Vice-Chairman  
District 2



*Gary C. Wheeler*  
District 3

*Peter D. O'Bryan*  
District 4

*Bob Solari*  
District 5

February 9, 2009

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Indian River County  
c/o Phil Matson

Dear MPO Members:

I would like the minutes to reflect that I am on two boards, the MPO and the Indian River Lagoon Advisory Board, both of which I consider essential to the well-being of Indian River County and which meet at the same time.

Which of the two I attend will depend on the agenda of each and at which meeting I feel my presence will have the greatest benefit to the county. Because of this I will occasionally miss an MPO meeting.

However, if the MPO chairman or staff liaison feels an upcoming meeting is of particular importance please let me know as soon as possible so that I can plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Bob Solari".

Bob Solari  
Commissioner  
Indian River County

*Building A*  
1801 - 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3388  
Telephone: 772-226-1490 FAX: 772-770-5334