

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman **Richard Gillmor**, Mayor, City of Sebastian; **Peter O'Bryan**, **Bob Solari**, **Wesley Davis** (arrived at 10:10 a.m.), **Joe Flescher**, and **Gary Wheeler** Commissioners, IRC; **Jerry Weick**, Alternate, Councilman, Town of Indian River Shores; **Debbie MacKay** (arrived at 10:33 a.m.), IRC School Board; **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid.

Absent was: **Kevin Sawnick**, Mayor, and **Sabin Abell**, Councilmember, City of Vero Beach; **Frannie Atchison**, Councilmember, Town of Indian River Shores; **Don Wright**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; and **Tykus Holloway**, FDOT District 4 Representative, (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Phil Matson, IRC MPO Director; Bob Keating, Community Development Director, Chris Mora, Public Works Director; Michael Love, Traffic Engineer; Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner; Sharon Schalm, Staff Assistant III, MPO; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

Others present: Monte Falls, Public Works and Engineering Director, City of Vero Beach; Karen Diegl, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Resource Association; John Burns, South Beach Property Owners Association; Fernando Morales, FDOT Project Manager for the SR A1A Resurfacing Project; John Williams, Interested Beachside Citizen; and James Henry Davey, Future Interested Citizen.

### Call to Order

Chairman Gillmor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2010 MPO meeting

**ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher,  
SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, the members  
voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of  
April 14, 2010 as presented.**

### **Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees** – *No Action Required*

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Director, reviewed his memorandum dated May 5, 2010, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

### **Status Report on MPO Title VI Policy** – *No Action Required*

Mr. Matson explained according to federal regulations, local agencies receiving federal transportation funds must ensure that their planning processes were in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In the past, the IRC MPO had renewed its Title VI program with the United State Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) every three years. Approval of that program ensured that the county's federal transit funds were utilized in a manner consistent with Title VI. The County received its federal certification renewal on April 9, 2010. The approved Title VI program will remain in effect until April 9, 2014.

Mr. Matson continued effective this year, the Florida Department of Transportation had requested that a signed Title VI and Related Statues Nondiscrimination Agreement be filed and procedures developed to ensure that the county's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning funds were utilized in a manner consistent with Title VI. The IRC MPO had complied with this request and developed a formal discrimination complaint procedure in accordance with State regulations. As this was an informational item, no action was required.

Commissioner Davis arrived at 10:10 a.m.

### **Consideration of the 2010/11 – 2011/12 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** – *Action Required*

Mr. Matson presented the UPWP was the planning budget for the County. It was required by state and federal regulations (called SAFETEA-LU) and identifies all proposed transportation planning activities and projects (July 1 – June 30 fiscal year). It also identifies funding amounts and sources by task; summarizes planning for all modes of transportation; and addresses eight specific SAFETEA-LU planning factors.

Tasks of the UPWP consisted of Program Administration; Data Collection and Surveillance; Systems Planning, and Project Planning. The Program Administration Tasks include administrative, training, and miscellaneous activities. The Data Collection and Surveillance Tasks involve data collection

and analysis activities. Systems Planning Tasks are comprised of planning support activities. Project Planning Tasks are discretionary, special activities.

The UPWP Funding Sources is budget derived from several funding sources such as:

- Federal Funds
  - Primarily Federal Highway Planning Funds
  - Federal Transit Planning Funds (Section 5303)
  
- State Funds
  - Primarily State Match for Most Planning Funding Tasks
  - Other State Funds
  
- Local Funds
  - Transit Planning Match
  - Traffic Count Program
  - Greenways Plan

Changes from FY 2008/09:

- New Requirements & Policy Changes
  - Consideration of Climate Change/Green House Gases
  
- Funding Changes – Planning
  - \$437 K 2011/12
  - \$472 K 2010/11
  - \$506 K 2009/10
  - \$436 K 2008/09
  
- Transit Planning – No Change

Tasks Undertaken 08/08 – 09/10:

- Accomplishments
  - TDP Major and Minor Updates
  - Safe Routes to School Study
  - Comp Plan EAR and Amendments
  - Transit Shelters
  - New Bus Routes (Outlet Mall/Ft. Pierce/Brevard/Fellsmere)
  - Triennial Review of Transit program
  - SAFETEA-LU compliance

- 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Tasks:

- Same Format as 2008/09
- Major Tasks:
  - Complete 2035 LRTP
  - New Activities
    - South County Greenways
    - Bike/Ped Plan Update
    - Congestion Management Process Update
    - Corridor Studies
    - Regional LRTP Development
    - Planning Assistance for Transit Infrastructure
- Anticipated Tasks
  - Program Administration
    - Maintain and Evaluate Public Involvement Activities (CTST, Safe Routes to School Program, Safety Fair)
    - Incorporate Census, New Highway Bill and Other Directives
  - Data Collection and Surveillance Tasks
    - Multimodal Data
      - Evaluate Effectiveness of Projects
      - Possible Concurrency Applications
      - Emerging Areas of Study
  - Systems Planning Tasks
    - Congestion Management Process Implementation and Update
    - TDP Minor Update
    - Congestion Management Process
  - Transit Planning, Infrastructure, and Marketing
    - Bus Stops
    - TDP Recommendations (Routes, Schedules, etc.)

- Project Planning
  - 2035 LRTP
    - Regional LRTP
    - South County Greenways Plan
    - Bike Ped Plan
    - Corridor Studies

Unified Planning Work Program Process:

- Draft Prepared, submitted to FDOT, FHWA and FTA
- Comments Addressed
- TAC/CAC Recommendation
- MPO Action on May 12
- Transmit to FDOT/FHWA/FTA for final approval
- In effect July 1, 2010

Staff Recommendation:

- Review draft FY 2010/11 – 2011/12 UPWP
- Make any necessary changes
- Recommend MPO approval

**ON MOTION BY Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve staff's recommendation.**

**Discussion of Proposed Sidewalk on SR A1A, Coquina Lane to St. Edwards Drive – Action Required**

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

Mr. Matson explained in the year 2011, FDOT would begin resurfacing SR A1A from Coquina Lane to the St. Lucie County line. FDOT tries to incorporate multi-modal improvements in all of their projects and what they were trying to do was include pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the course of the resurfacing jobs. One of the improvements included by FDOT was a 6-foot sidewalk on the east side of SR A1A from Coquina Lane to St. Edwards Drive, terminating at the signal for St. Edwards School.

Safety issues were pointed out as Indian River being the second most dangerous county in the state for pedestrians and on the SR A1A corridor

between 2004 to 2008 there were 24 bike/pedestrian accidents and 15 injuries/fatalities.

Some landscaping may be affected by the sidewalk additions, though minimal, and the cost will be \$235,000 which is included in a State Sidewalk Box. These funds must only be used for sidewalks on State Highway Systems such as SR A1A, SR 60, and US 1, and could not be transferred to any other roadway.

Commissioner O'Bryan asked if there was currently a sidewalk on the west side of SR A1A. Mr. Matson responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner O'Bryan opined many of the residents felt the southbound left turn lane turning into the developments on the east side would get a better result from a safety standpoint with a few designated crosswalk areas for people to get from the east side to the west side sidewalk.

Mr. Fernando Morales, FDOT Project Manager for the SR A1A Resurfacing Project, explained the sidewalk funds could only be used for sidewalks, and could not be used for turn lanes or crosswalks. He continued it was a Florida Statute, 335.065, to put the sidewalk in along state roads and transportation facilities.

Ms. MacKay arrived at 10:33 a.m.

Commissioner O'Bryan related from a meeting recently held with the South Beach Property owners and two representatives from FDOT, residents felt there was a greater safety hazard caused by people waiting to make a left turn causing traffic to back up during peak hours while many people ignored the edge of the road and swerved around the stopped cars thereby creating a greater safety hazard than people on the east side just crossing over to utilize the sidewalk on the west side.

Mr. Chris Mora, IRC Public Works Director, clarified if it were a safety issue, the residents felt the lack of left turn lanes were more important than the lack of a sidewalk. He continued what FDOT was saying was that money could not be taken away from sidewalks and used for turn lanes.

Commissioner Solari stated while he understood why some people opposed the sidewalk, he felt it was prudent both safety-wise and financially.

Mayor Adams thought there were two issues being melded together. There was a sidewalk issue and a separate road safety issue and they should be dealt with separately.

Councilman Dunlop thought the bike lanes were too narrow and a smooth sidewalk was needed for biking.

Mr. John Burns, President of the South Beach Property Owners Association, stated he represented 2,600 residents from 29 separate Homeowner Associations in the South Beach Area. He related in March, 2010 there was a Homeowners Association Meeting with two representatives from FDOT. A presentation was given on the project coming up in spring 2011 along SR A1A. The residents present had a lot of opposition to the proposed sidewalk. Subsequent to that meeting an informal survey was conducted of residents along SR A1A, more specifically those residents living in those developments that would be directly affected by the proposed sidewalk. The following reasons for opposition were given:

- 1) There were already sidewalks on the west side of SR A1A from 17<sup>th</sup> Street Causeway all the way down to Round Island Park
- 2) Expensive relocation or loss of existing plantings
- 3) May cause drainage issues
- 4) Use of money that could be better used elsewhere
- 5) Require removal of some portions of irrigation systems
- 6) Recommended flashers to decrease the speed of traffic going near St. Edwards School

Mr. Burns asked if the MPO asked the FDOT to install the sidewalks along the east side SR A1A. Mr. Matson replied in the affirmative, adding the MPO tries to put sidewalks in anywhere they can. While he does not explicitly remember requesting this project, he thought staff did so he would take responsibility for the project.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of installing flashers in front of St. Edwards School. Mr. Mora explained there were warning signs approaching the signal, Traffic Signal Ahead signs and the traffic signals were timed in such a way there was enough yellow and red time to get people stopped and there was enough green time for St. Edward's traffic to come out.

Mr. John Williams, 1535 Smugglers Cove and beach resident, opined there should be enough leeway with state funds to not specifically slate it for sidewalks.

**ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Solari, the members voted (8-1) to approve staff's recommendation with the addition of a 20 miles per hour flasher near the entrance of St. Edward's School. Commissioner O'Bryan voted against the motion.**

**Announcement of 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan – Public Workshops – *No Action Required***

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner, reviewed the 2035 LRTP Public Workshop Schedule. A copy of the schedule is on file in the Commission Office and can be found on the IRC website under the Metropolitan Planning Organization link.

Commissioner Davis recommended having the information also located on the IRC Government Channel 27 as well as other municipal and School Board information channels.

**Status Report of Deobligation of Federal Highway Planning (PL) Funds – *No Action Required***

Mr. Matson reviewed his memorandum dated May 5, 2010 included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office. He explained in the past, any unexpended state and federal planning funds have automatically carried over to the new fiscal year. New FDOT regulations, however, require that the MPO formally request a carryover of the unexpended fund balance of Federal Highway Planning funds from one Fiscal Year to the upcoming Fiscal Year in order to ensure the availability of those funds. This procedure is referred to as the deobligation of funds.

On April 14, 2010, Mr. Matson requested the deobligation of its federal highway planning fund balance to ensure the availability of that balance in the new state fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2010. Under the authority of MPO Resolution 99-01, the MPO staff director may make minor revisions to plans and documents when such actions are needed to ensure the continuation of federal funds, provided that a status report to the MPO board is made at the next regularly scheduled meeting and this is that report.

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

Mr. Matson reviewed his Quarterly Report included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Davis asked how long there would be no U-turns allowed on SR 60 due to the construction project. Mr. Mora stated some of those were temporary, and he would provide information as soon as possible.

Mr. Matson distributed *Horizon 2060*, the FDOT schedules for the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan. A copy of this schedule is on file in the Commission Office.

## **Comments from the Public**

There were none.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Gillmore adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.