

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 14, 2011, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman **Bob Solari, Gary Wheeler, Wesley Davis, Peter O'Bryan** and **Joe Flescher**, Commissioners, IRC; **Richard Gillmor**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere (arrived 10:17 a.m.); **Craig Fletcher, Pilar Turner** and **Tracy Carroll** (arrived 10:05 a.m.), Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach; **Bob McPartland**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Richard Jefferson** and **Dick Haverland**, Councilmen, Town of Indian River Shores; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilmember, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid and **Marjorie Hilaire**, Non-voting member, FDOT District 4 Representative.

Absent were: **Jeff Pegler** and **Matt McCain**, IRC School Board (both unexcused).

Also present were IRC staff: **Phil Matson**, IRC MPO Director; **Chris Mora**, Public Works Director; **Bob Keating**, Community Development Director; **Stan Boling**, Planning Director; **Brian Freeman** and **Andy Sobczak**, MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Planners; **Sharon Schalm**, MPO Staff Assistant III; and **Misty L. Pursel**, Commissioner Assistant, District 1.

Others present: **Herb Whittall**, Member of MPO Citizens Advisory Committee.

Call to Order

Chairman Solari called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of the October 12, 2011 MPO Meeting – *Action Required*

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Fletcher, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2011 Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting as presented.

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

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director referred to his memorandum dated December 7, 2011, included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

Council Member Gillmor and Councilmember Carroll arrived at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Matson mentioned that, at the last CAC meeting, the CAC recommended that the County consider alternative fuels for its transit fleet, citing the School District's use of propane on school buses. Commissioner O'Bryan mentioned letting the School Board know of the discussions about natural gas.

A brief discussion regarding the efficiency of converting buses to propane ensued. Councilmember Fletcher requested contact information for the conversion process. He said the City of Vero Beach would be very interested in converting to natural gas.

Councilmember Carroll suggested Mr. Matson contact Helen Caseltine with the Vero Beach Chamber of Commerce regarding the Enterprise Zone Development Agency's presentation about the possibility of bringing gas lines into the area.

Review of Progress and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2011/12 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant– *Action Required*

Mr. Matson described this request from the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged to reimburse the MPO for costs administering the door-to-door Transportation Disadvantaged program.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Invoice #1, directing

staff to forward the report and invoice to the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantage.

Mayor Susan Adams arrived at 10:17 a.m.

Request to Approve Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Annual Evaluation Report for 2010 - 2011 – Action Required

Mr. Matson advised on an annual bases, the MPO was obligated as the designated official planning agency by the State of Florida to supervise our Community Transportation Coordinator activities, which were basically dispatch and managing the door-to-door Transportation Disadvantage system; hence the evaluation of the CTC.

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner summarized his memorandum dated December 7, 2011, and referred to the attached Memorandum from Mr. Harry Hurst, Subcommittee Chairperson, entitled “Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation (FY 2010-2011); both included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Evaluation Report, retain the Senior Resource Association as the county’s Community Transportation Coordinator, and direct staff to forward the report to the State Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Consideration of the Draft Scope of Services for the 2013 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update - Action Required

Mr. Matson referred to the Draft Scope of Services for the 2013 Transit Development Plan as the MPO’s guiding document for making transit improvements in the County. He said it was required in order to receive the Public Transit Block Grant funding which constituted approximately 25% of the MPO’s budget. He further said 50% of the budget matches the public transit block grant as provided by the federal government.

Mr. Matson related the Scope of Services was required every five years and in the interim years, there were minor updates wherein the MPO measured compliance with what the standards and goals were in the major update. He reviewed the elements necessary for the Scope of Services.

Mr. Matson summarized a memorandum dated December 7, 2011, with attached "Scope of Services, December 2011," through a PowerPoint presentation, which was included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

Discussion ensued regarding buses' operating revenue included donations as a source of income, as well as the conceived marketing campaign in place.

Mr. Matson spoke to concerns regarding the aging of the fleet and increased maintenance and the plans included in the five-year plan. He said the five-year plan would have a Fleet Replacement Cycle Schedule of six years.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Fletcher, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the draft scope of services for the 2013 Transit Development Plan, and authorize staff to issue a work order to the MPO's Transit, Intermodal, and Special Studies General Planning Consultant.

Consideration of the City of Vero Beach's Request for the MPO to Initiate a Corridor Study of the SR60 Twin Pairs – No Action Required

Mr. Matson provided an update on some of the activity concerning the City of Vero Beach's request for a Corridor Study of State Route 60 Twin Pairs to consider sustainability, safety and on street parking as noted in his memorandum dated December 7, 2011, along with Attachments 1 & 2, copies of which are on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson advised he met with staff from City of Vero Beach on December 1, 2011, wherein MPO staff thought the Corridor Study was best managed on a day-by-day basis by the City of Vero Beach. He anticipated the matter would be brought back to the MPO in the spring.

Discussions ensued regarding suggested concepts for safe, on-street parking and objectives for a traffic study determination on line widening, and speed limit.

Commissioner O'Bryan suggested due to 53rd Street opening, to wait on the traffic study for approximately one year to see how 53rd Street was affecting traffic on State Road 60.

Mayor Turner left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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

Mr. Matson announced the 2012 Meeting Schedule for all MPO's, as provided in the agenda backup and on file in the Commission Office. He advised there was not going to be a January 2012 MPO meeting.

Other Business

Chairman Solari announced the 53rd Street grand opening on December 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Matson mentioned the A1A resurfacing project construction was due to end on December 20, 2011.

Mr. Matson provided the FDOT Construction website address link, which indicated the hours of lane closures and in what direction. He noted this website address was posted on the County's website for future use when Interstate 95 experienced this type of lane widening.

Commissioner Davis complimented Chris Mora, Public Works Director regarding the success of County Road 512 with raising the speed limit from 45 miles per hour to 50 miles per hour and asked if there was a possibility of raising the speed limit again by at least another five mile an hour.

Mr. Mora explained the purpose of the 45 miles per hour speed limit was because the Green Book required a curb and gutter design and with said design, the 45 miles per hour speed limit was required. However, after the road was opened, if traffic study showed higher speeds; FDOT could raise the speed limit.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.