

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 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; **Craig Fletcher, Tracy Carroll** Council Members, City of Vero Beach; **Bob McPartland**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Dick Haverland**, Councilman, Town of Indian River Shores; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilmember, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid and **John Palacios**, Non-voting Member, FDOT District 4 Representative.

Absent were: **Pilar Turner**, Council member, City of Vero Beach; **Jeff Pegler** and **Matt McCain**, IRC School Board (Unexcused).

Also present were IRC staff: **Phil Matson**, IRC MPO Director; **Chris Mora**, Public Works Director; **Bob Keating**, Community Development Director; **Brian Freeman** and **Andy Sobczak**, MPO Planners; **Sharon Schalm**, MPO Staff Assistant; and **Laura E. Vasquez**, Commissioner Assistant, District 2.

Others present: **Karen Deigl**, Senior Resource Association and **George C. Millar**, School District Indian River County Transportation Director;

Call to Order

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

Annual Election of Officers (Action Required)

Nominations were in order for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, Bob McPartlan was nominated Chairman. There were no other nominations. He was unanimously (11-0) elected Chairman for the year 2012.

ON MOTION by Richard Gillmor, Commissioner Flescher was nominated Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. He was unanimously (11-0) elected Vice Chairman for the year 2012.

Mr. McPartlan continued chairing the meeting.

Mr. Richard Dunlop, Mayor, Town of Orchid, requested to include the motion of the December 14, 2011 Metropolitan Planning Organization to be reflected in the minutes as follows:

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Chairman Solari, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to request the Florida Department of Transportation to increase the speed limit to 55 miles per hour on State Road 60, from west of 66th Avenue to Interstate 95; on County Road 512 from County Route 510 to Interstate 95; and on US Highway 1 outside of the Sebastian City Limits.

Approval of Minutes of the December 14, 2011 MPO Meeting (*Action Required*)

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Wheeler, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2011, Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting with changes as amended.

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

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director referred to his memorandum dated March 6, 2012, included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson mentioned that, at the last TAC meeting, the TAC recommended the MPO approve the Scope of Services for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan update and the Socio-Cultural Effects/Community Profile Report for Indian River County.

Mr. Matson mentioned that at the last CAC meeting, the CAC recommended the MPO approve the Scope of Services for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan update and the Socio-Cultural Effects/Community Profile Report for Indian River County.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #2 for the 2011/12 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant – Action Required

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director referred to his memorandum dated February 28, 2012, included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson described this request from the Commission for the 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 (11-0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Invoice #2, directing staff to forward the report and invoice to the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Consideration of Amendment to the Adopted Indian River County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Action Required

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, referred to his memorandum dated March 6, 2012, included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson stated that FDOT requested the MPO amend its adopted FY 2011/12 – 2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment was to add a new project FM #413049-2, Construction support for the widening of I-95 between SR 60 and the Brevard County Line.

He further stated the amendment was necessary to ensure sufficient funding was available to begin the I-95 widening project in Indian River County north of SR 60.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the Consideration of Amendment to the Adopted Indian River County Transportation Improvement Program.

Consideration of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update – Proposed Scope of Services- Action Required

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director referred to his memorandum dated March 6, 2012, included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office and introduced Mr. Andrew Sobczak, Senior Planner; who gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update – Proposed Scope of Services, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office

Mr. Sobczak stated the MPO was to undertake a major update to the MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. Specific activities performed during the plan update would include analyzing existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; it would also identify future bicycle and pedestrian system improvements.

Mr. Sobczak stated in 1997 the MPO adopted its first Bicycle and Pedestrian plan and was updated in 2004. According to Task 4.3 of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was to be updated in FY 2011/12.

Mr. Sobczak stated the MPO staff researched bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, reviewed the bicycle and pedestrian efforts of other MPOs and jurisdictions, consulted with the County's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BAC) and developed a draft scope of services for an update of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan for Indian River County.

Mr. Sobczak explained the 2010/11 – 2011/12 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was a very important plan because the plan was routinely used to identify facilities that could be provided during roadway widening and resurfacing projects by developers in conjunction with new development.

Mr. Sobczak stated the MPO's Scope of Services for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update contained 6 tasks:

1. Public Involvement
2. Development and evaluation methodology

3. Inventory of existing conditions / data collection
4. Analysis of existing conditions
5. Plan development and design
6. Bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan

He further stated there were two new items not included in previous plans which were:

1. Bicycle and pedestrian counts on selected links between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (12 hour count); and
2. A user-friendly bicycle and pedestrian map of the county

**ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher,
SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members
voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the
Consideration of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
Update – Proposed Scope of Services**

**Consideration of the Draft Socio-Cultural Effects/Community Profiles
Summary Report 2012 – Action Required**

Mr. Matson briefly described the Draft Socio-Cultural Effects/Development of Community Profiles Summary Report 2012, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office and introduced Mr. Brian Freeman, Senior Planner; who gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Report, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office.

Mr. Matson stated In 2004 the MPO developed its first ever Socio-Cultural Effects/Community profile for Indian River County to assist in identifying potential impacts of transportation projects.

Mr. Freeman stated the report contained a summary of socio-economic data, a boundary map, and a listing of key community features such as schools, churches, and historic sites. He further stated the information was acquired from the 2010 Census which contained information such as race and ethnic composition, commute time, and age distribution.

A conversation ensued regarding Community Profiles and transportation needs.

Ms. Carroll stated the Community Profile Report *Age Distribution* pages for Vero Lakes Estates and Fellsmere should read less than 18 (<18)

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the Consideration of the Draft Socio-Cultural Effects/Community Profiles Summary Report 2012 as amended.

Consideration of Proposed Federal Highway Bill Reauthorization
(No Action Required)

Mr. Matson stated the current federal highway bill SAFETEA-LU expired September 30, 2009 but was extended several times, the latest extension was set to expire on March 30, 2012. He further stated the House of Representatives and the Senate have drafted reauthorization legislation to replace SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Matson stated the House and Senate proposals each contain provisions affecting MPO's. He reviewed The Comparison of House and Senate Transportation Reauthorization Bills (Attachment 1) included the agenda packet, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office.

Ms. Susan Adams, Mayor, City of Fellsmere, stated the City of Fellsmere wrote a letter to the Senate and House Representative and also the representatives at the state level regarding the federal Highway Bill and its' affect in Indian River County along with their concerns and encouraged all members to do the same.

Commissioner Davis inquired if the MPO had letterhead and would also compose a letter to be sent on behalf of the MPO of Indian River County.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (11-0) for the MPO to compose and send a letter to the Senate and State Representatives regarding the federal Highway Bill.

Status Report on the Use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles in Public Transportation (No Action Required)

Mr. George Millar, Indian River County School Transportation, spoke of the school buses currently running on propane gas. At which time a Q&A ensued regarding costs and the operation of the school board pilot program.

Mr. Millar stated diesel fuel was approximately \$3.75 – liquid propane was approximately \$1.53 and he anticipated a gas rebate which would bring the cost down to approximately \$1.00. He further stated there was less maintenance for the buses was much less because it was a cleaner engine.

Mr. Millar stated new technology injects liquid propane directly in the cylinders. He stated the buses have a gasoline engine converted to liquid propane. The company that converted the buses was Clean Fuel USA. He further stated the buses produce less emissions and particulate matter, and was less costly to operate.

Mr. Millar invited the MPO to attend a Propane Powered demonstration at the Transportation hub on April 12, 2012 and promised to get the Committee further information once the Agenda was completed.

Mr. Matson introduced Anne-Louise Seabury, Electric Vehicle Program Manager, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) who gave a PowerPoint presentation on alternative fuel vehicles, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office.

Quarterly Status Report of MPO Staff Activities (No Action Required)

There was none.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.