

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (MPOTAC) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 22, 2008, in Conference Room "B1-501" in Building "B" of the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: **Chairman Jason Nunemaker**, City Manager, City of Fellsmere; **Robert Keating**, IRC Community Development Director; **James Davis**, IRC Public Works Director; **Chris Mora**, IRC Assistant Public Works Director; **Sergeant James Stewart**, IRC Sheriff's Department; **Rebecca Grohall**, Growth Management Director City of Sebastian; **Eric Menger**, Airport Director, City of Vero Beach; **Karen Wood**, Senior Resource Association; **Tim McGarry**, Planning Director and **Monte Falls**, Public Works and Engineering Director, City of Vero Beach; **George Millar**, Transportation Director, IRC School Board; **Andrew Riddle**, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); and **Sergeant Bill Ransom**, Town of Indian River Shores.

Absent were: **Joseph Griffin**, Sebastian Airport Director; **Deb Branwell**, Town Manager, Town of Orchid; **Jason Brown**, IRC Office of Management and Budget Director; **Lois Bush**, FDOT; **Wanda Parker-Garvin**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDOEP); and **Jerry Converse**, Engineer, City of Sebastian.

Also present was IRC staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director; Sutapa Chatterjee, MPO Planner; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others Present: Herb Whittall, MPO Citizen Advisory Committee City of Vero Beach Appointee; Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn & Associates; and Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra.

Call to Order

Chairman Nunemaker called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from the June 27, 2008 MPOTAC meeting

ON MOTION by Mr. Menger, SECONDED by Mr. Keating, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2008 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical

Advisory Committee as presented. (09:55:58)

Mr. Mora arrived at 10:05 a.m.

Consideration of the MPO's 2008 Priority Projects Report

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Director, reviewed the 2008 Priority Projects Report found in the agenda packet, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He then asked Ms. Sutapa Chatterjee, IRC MPO Planner to review the process.

Ms. Chatterjee explained every year the MPO must rank and place improvements in an annual Priority Projects Report and submit this report to FDOT. FDOT then uses the MPO's lists of unfunded priorities in developing its next Five Year Work Program. When developing its work program, FDOT considers projects in the first three years of its work program as committed. Most new projects are added to the new fifth year of the five year work program.

Ms. Chatterjee then listed the 2008 list of top priorities for each category as follows:

Highway Projects:

1. Oslo Road Interchange at Interstate 95

Candidate TRIP Grant Highway Projects

1. 66th Avenue from CR 510 to SR 60
2. CR 510 from CR 512 to US 1

Highway Projects – Other

1. US 1 six-laning from Highlands Drive to south of Oslo Road
2. US 1 six-laning from the St. Lucie County Line to Highlands Drive
3. 82nd Avenue two-laning from 26th Street to CR510

Enhancement/Greenways Projects

1. Trans-Florida Central Railroad Corridor
2. South Sebastian Greenway Corridor
3. Airport Loop Greenway Trail

Congestion Management Process Projects

1. Improvements to the intersection of Barber Street & Schumann Drive

Transit Projects

1. Expanding weekday hours of service (8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
2. Providing service between South Beach Park, Humiston Park and Sexton Plaza
3. Providing new service on 17th Street in Vero Beach
4. Adopting 30-minute headways on Routes 1 and 2
5. Constructing a facility for operations, administration, and secured vehicle storage

Ms. Chatterjee asked the members to recommend approval to the MPO, if warranted.

Mr. George Millar, new Transportation Director for IRC School Board, stated he was new to the community and wondered if the new highway projects had sidewalks associated with them. Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director, responded anytime a widening or road improvement was done, sidewalks and paved shoulders were included on both sides unless there was a canal on one side.

Mr. Herb Whittall, member of the MPO Citizens Advisory Committee, stated the strip of road at Indian River Boulevard between 20th Avenue and the Merrill Barber Bridge was beautiful but between 20th Avenue and the 17th Street Bridge nothing had been done as far as enhancements along the median. He asked who would be responsible for that. Mr. Matson responded the City of Vero Beach took care of that area and they could apply for an enhancement grant that could be considered with the greenways. He continued staff may not support that action from a standpoint of whether or not beautification compared to safety and mobility.

Discussion ensued regarding landscaping options, prioritizing projects, and greenways.

Mr. Menger pointed out on the 2008 Aviation Priorities it should be indicated the items were under a five-year plan from 2009 to 2013.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Keating, SECONDED BY Mr. Menger, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to recommend approval of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2008 Priority Projects Report with the one change requested by Mr. Menger of indicating the Airport Priorities were under a five-year plan of 2009 to 2013. (10:32:12)

Consideration of the Draft Evaluation Appraisal Report of the County's Comprehensive Plan – Transportation Element - *No Action Required*

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

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of combining services of the IRC School Board Transportation Department and the Go Line. Ms. Wood pointed out at the current time, the Go Line has an agreement that their buses would transport children over 12 years old without an adult, but would not exclusively use their buses for school children since they were not rated for that type of use.

The members also discussed other transportation improvements such as cameras placed at non-state intersections and recommending the MPO to forward to the state the importance of having the cameras installed at all high-crash intersections.

Mr. Matson suggested setting up a subcommittee of city engineers and Mr. Mora to handle traffic operational issues. He asked the MPOTAC to provide their suggestions and input for improving safety issues.

Mr. McGarry opined the Level-of-Service (LOS) should be rated as "F" instead of "D". Mr. Mora agreed and Mr. Matson stated the LOS would be corrected to "F".

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees (11:40:15)

Mr. Matson reported the MPOCAC and MPO both met in July, 2008 and considered the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2008/09 to 2012/13 and approved the TIP.

He continued the North Indian River County Greenways Plan was considered by both boards and approved by the MPO.

Mr. Matson announced the next meeting would be a joint MPOTAC and CAC meeting September 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.