

**JOINT MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)
MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOCAC) AND THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOTAC)**

A joint meeting of the MPOBAC, MPOCAC and the MPOTAC was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 26, 2008, in the County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

MPOBAC members present were Chairman **Libby Harrow**, Indian River County (IRC Appointee); **Lance Glaab**, (IRC Appointee Alternate); and **Chief Scott Melanson**, City of Fellsmere Representative.

Absent was **Barbara Tilney**, Indian River Shores Appointee; **George Sipp**, Town of Orchid Appointee; **Susan Mulcahy**, City of Sebastian Appointee; and **Terry Goff**, City of Vero Beach Appointee.

MPOCAC members present were Chairman **Juliana Young**, **Robert Johnson** and **Walter Wright**, IRC Appointees; **Clarence Korker**, City of Fellsmere Appointee; **Charles Vogt** and **Herb Whittall**, City of Vero Beach Appointees; **Donald Wright**, City of Sebastian Appointee; **Michael Durwin**, School Board Appointee; and **William Lundy Parden**, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee.

Absent was **Deryl Seemayer**, City of Sebastian Appointee; **Roger Sherwood**, IRC Appointee; **John Warner**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; and **Freddie Woolfork**, Minority Appointee (all excused).

MPOTAC members present were: Chairman **Jason Nunemaker**, City Manager, City of Fellsmere; **Robert Keating**, IRC Community Development Director; **James Davis** (arrived at 10:17 a.m.), IRC Public Works Director; **Chris Mora**, IRC Assistant Public Works Director; **Ruth Bommarito**, IRC Office of Management and Budget Representative; **Sergeant James Stewart**, IRC Sheriff's Department; Councilmember **Bill Fish**, Alternate, City of Vero Beach; **Terri Wallace**, Alternate, Town of Orchid; **Sergeant Bill Ransom**, Town of Indian River Shores; **Karen Wood**, Senior Resource Association; **Patsy Herndon**, Alternate, IRC School District; **Andrew Riddle**, and **Dr. Min-Tang Li**, Alternate for Gustavo Schmidt, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4.

Absent were **Monte Falls**, Public Works and Engineering Director, **Tim McGarry**, Planning Director, and **Eric Menger**, Airport Director, City of Vero Beach; **Rebecca Grohall**, Growth Management Director; **Jason Milewski**, Airport Director, Sebastian Municipal Airport, and **Jerry Converse**, City Engineer, City of Sebastian; **Wanda Parker-Garvin**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; **Lois Bush**, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4; and **William Schauman**, Public Safety Director, Town of Indian River Shores (all excused).

Also present were IRC Staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, Sharon Schalm, Staff Assistant III, MPO; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others Present: Jim Granse, Richard and Judith Martin, Interested Citizens; Freddie Vargas, Stanley Consultants, Inc.; Mike Colucci, Corradino Group; Rob Gregg, Ann Joslin, and Bill Morris, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

Call to Order

MPOTAC Chairman Nunemaker called the joint meeting to order at 10:03 p.m., and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOTAC Meeting of August 22, 2008

MPOTAC Chairman Nunemaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOTAC minutes of August 22, 2008.

ON MOTION by Ms. Wood, SECONDED by Mr. Mora, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee of August 22, 2008, as presented.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOCAC Meeting of September 2, 2008

MPOCAC Chairman Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOCAC minutes of September 2, 2008. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Walter Wright, SECONDED by Mr. Korker, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee of September 2, 2008 as presented.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOBAC Meeting of June 26, 2008

There was not a quorum present for MPOBAC so approval of the June 26, 2008 was postponed to a future meeting when a quorum was present.

Review of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update Final Report and Presentation – *Action Required*

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, reviewed his memorandum dated September 15, 2008, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He introduced Mr. Freddie Vargas, General Planning Consultant, Stanley Associates, Inc. and noted the subconsultant was the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Rob Gregg, from CUTR to begin a PowerPoint presentation (06:58). Mr. Gregg introduced his associates Ms. Ann Joslin and Mr. Bill Morris.

Mr. Gregg explained according to state and federal regulations, the IRC MPO must prepare and adopt a Major Update of its Transit Development Plan (TDP) in October, 2008.

Mr. Gregg highlighted some of the findings of the surveys conducted regarding public transportation in IRC. They were as follows:

GoLine Bus Service

- Average age for riders was between 20-29
- Ridership consisted of 59.4% Females; 40.6% Males
- 57.2% of the total household income for riders was less than \$10,000
- 59.6% of the riders had no working vehicles in their household
- 71.4% of the riders walked 3 blocks or less to get to the bus
- 59.6% of the riders rode 4 or more days per week
- 17.2% had been using GoLine Bus Service for more than 5 years; 29.7% less than 6 months

Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director and member of MPOTAC, arrived at 10:17 a.m.

Community Coach

- 38.7% ride a few times per month
- 12.1% use a wheelchair for their travels
- 82.2% claim to always arrive to their appointments on time
- 89.1% ride Community Coach for Doctor/Dentist appointments
- 36.5% of the riders are 75 to 84 years old; 22.1% are 85 or older
- 83% of the riders are male; 17% are female
- 43.3% of the total annual income for riders is \$20,000 to \$29,999

Mr. Bill Morris continued the PowerPoint (10:32:38) by reviewing potential services and future vision for service. He highlighted the overall framework guiding the service planning process as follows:

- Identify needs for transit service and outline specific improvements
- Prioritize improvements and organize over a ten year period programmed each year
- Support the development of the capital and operating plan
- Strategic or opportunistic improvements

Mr. Morris pointed out observations were as follows:

- Span of service was insufficient.
- Customers were a stable base because they can make their lives work within your span
- Frequency improvements may help build ridership
- Improve existing system before adding new routes

The criteria for prioritizing improvements were as follows:

- Route rank in terms of performance
- Segment data – On/Off activity
- Top fifteen origins and destinations in the system
- Core network of routes
- Potential to attract new customers to transit
- Growth rates in ridership from the T-Best Model run
- Level of Service from Transit Quality of Service Report
- New route, the Northwest Regional Transit Corridor, FDOT grant funded

Mr. Morris discussed service improvements:

- A new route from Indian River State College Main Campus in Ft. Pierce to Indian River State College (Mueller Campus) via Indian River Mall, The Outlets at Vero Beach, and I-95 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with 60 minute frequency.
- Weekday operational hours span improvement from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding connectivity of the bus routes and the joint use of School Board buses and GoLine vehicles. Mr. Gregg cautioned using federal funds for general population public transportation versus the responsibilities of the School Board.

MPOTAC Chairman Nunemaker pointed out the City of Fellsmere was the sole contributing municipality and would like the consideration of extending the operating hours of service sooner than the proposed last five years of the plan. MPOBAC member Melanson suggested asking large companies such as Walmart, Publix and citrus packing houses to contribute to the cost of GoLine.

MPOTAC member Mora left the meeting at 10:55 a.m. and MPOTAC member Keating arrived at 11:00 a.m.

MPOCAC member Johnson questioned funding and if there would be an increase in local option sales tax. Mr. Gregg responded that was not a potential funding source. He clarified the categories being presented and noted this was a generalized planning stage, not the actual implementation stage, and there were existing funding sources that could be plugged into the categories.

Mr. Gregg related the purpose of today's presentation was endorsement of a strategic plan that has analyzed the system's needs; has listened to what the public and the customer needs were; and has done planning estimates on both the capital and operating sides over a ten year period, as required, with anticipated funds from federal and state agencies. He continued this plan was basically a vision of what you would want for the community based on need, and it also allowed us to request the funds from grant sources because the needs were shown on the list.

Mr. Matson interjected there were two ways to increase revenue; one was to raise taxes, and another was to re-allocate what had already been raised.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the ranking of connectivity and

frequency. MPOCAC Chairman Young expressed the members were trying to say increasing the weekly span should have priority versus increasing the frequency and it would actually cost less to increase the span.

Mr. Johnson opined if a \$27 million project was being proposed, riders should start paying to ride the bus. Mr. Matson stated grants pay for the operating deficit such as cost of the service minus what monies are collected locally. Mr. Keating added what had to be looked at was the revenue generated worth the administrative costs for collecting and reporting the money.

MPOBAC Chairman Harrow left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

(11:44:07) MPOTAC:

ON MOTION BY Mr. Keating, SECONDED BY Sergeant Ransom, the members voted (12-0) to recommend to the Metropolitan Planning Organization the Transit Development Plan as presented with the change of moving up the City of Fellsmere service extension from 2016 to 2013.

(11:44:47) MPOCAC:

ON MOTION BY Mr. Whittall, SECONDED BY Mr. Parden, the members voted unanimously (8-1) to recommend to the Metropolitan Planning Organization the Transit Development Plan as presented with the change of moving up the City of Fellsmere extension from 2016 to 2013. Mr. Johnson opposed.

MPOTAC Chairman Nunemaker suggested moving the meeting times up one hour to allow more time for conversation. Mr. Matson agreed to send out an e-mail to all MPOTAC members to ascertain if their committee should begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m.

Consideration of the Draft Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) 2035 Cost Feasible Plan – *No Action Required*

Mr. Matson reviewed the information contained in his memorandum dated September 19, 2008, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He summarized there were two sets of tables; the first governed what would happen on the SIS from 2014 to 2018; the second table showed what would happen from 2019 to 2035. He stated the plan was basically a freeway plan for the FDOT for

the 2035 period.

Mr. Matson announced our district receives more money for its interstate program (\$981 million over a 5-year period) than any other FDOT district.

Consideration of CR 609/82nd Avenue Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study Consultant Presentation (11:51:30) *Action Required*

Mr. Matson introduced Dr. Min-Tang Li, Planning Administrator for FDOT District Four. Dr. Min-Tang Li proceeded to introduce a member of the PACE Study team, Michael Colucci, Project Manager, Corradino Group.

Mr. Colucci provided a brief update via PowerPoint presentation for consideration of a regional multi-modal north to south corridor of the Treasure Coast region encompassing Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. A copy of this presentation is on file in the Commission Office.

MPOCAC Chairman Young clarified staff was asking the consultant's presentation on the CR 609/82nd Avenue PACE Study be recommended for approval to the Metropolitan Planning Organization with 82nd Avenue being the preferred alignment through Indian River County.

MPOTAC member Wallace left at 11:40 a.m.; MPOBAC member Melanson left at 11:50 a.m. and MPOCAC members Young and Whittall left at 12:10 a.m.

(12:13:58) MPOCAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Donald Wright, SECONDED BY Mr. Vogt, the members voted (6-1) to recommend the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve staff's selection of 82nd Avenue as the preferred alignment through Indian River County. Mr. Korke opposed.

(12:14:41) MPOTAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Keating, SECONDED BY Sergeant Ransom, the members voted (10-1) to recommend the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve staff's selection of 82nd Avenue as the preferred alignment through Indian River County. Chairman Nunemaker opposed.

Review of Draft Report and Presentation of Safe Walk to School Study for Thompson Elementary School (12:14:59) *Action Required*

Mr. Matson asked Mr. Vargas, Stanley & Associates, to give a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Matson announced staff was asking for a recommendation of approval by both the MPOCAC and TAC for this report.

(12:33:11) MPOCAC

ON MOTION BY Mr. Donald Wright, SECONDED BY Mr. Korker, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval to the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Draft Report of Safe Walk to School Study for Thompson Elementary School.

(12:33:24) MPOTAC

ON MOTION BY Mr. Keating, SECONDED BY Sergeant Ransom, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to recommend approval to the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Draft Report of Safe Walk to School Study for Thompson Elementary School.

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees

Mr. Matson reported the next MPO meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2008 and the recommendations made at this meeting will be going before them at that time.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments From the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.