

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman **Peter O'Bryan**; **Sandra Bowden**, **Wesley Davis**, **Joe Flescher**, and **Gary Wheeler**, Commissioners, IRC; Council Member **Al Paternoster**, City of Sebastian; **Sabin Abell**, **Ken Daige**, (arrived at 10:34 a.m.), and **Bill Fish** (Alternate), Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach; **David Becker**, Councilman (arrived at 10:33 a.m.), Town of Indian River Shores; **Susan Adams**, Councilwoman, City of Fellsmere; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting, Town of Orchid; **Hesham Ali**, FDOT, District 4; and **Debbie MacKay**, IRC School Board.

Also present were IRC staff: **Bob Keating**, Community Development Director; **Jim Davis**, Director and **Chris Mora**, Assistant Director, Public Works; **Phil Matson**, MPO Staff Director; and **Darcy Vasilas**, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

Others present were: Honey Minuse, District 5 Candidate; Joseph DeFronzo, Erdman Anthony; Jeff Olson, Alta Planning & Design; Stuart Robertson, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; and Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra.

Call to Order

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

Chairman O'Bryan announced there would be a change in the agenda, moving Agenda Item 4, Review of the Draft North Indian River County Greenways Plan, to after Item 6. There were no objections from those present.

Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2008 (10:29:41)

ON MOTION by Commissioner Bowden, SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes of March 12, 2008, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees (10:29:58)

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, related staff had been requested to move up this particular item to the beginning of the agenda so everyone would know what recommendations were made by the MPO advisory committees.

Mr. Matson then referred to his memorandum of April 2, 2008, contained in the backup on file in the Commission Office. He highlighted the following:

- The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met jointly with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) on April 1, 2008 to discuss the North Indian River County Greenways Plan. After considering the consultant's presentation and attached materials, the CAC and BAC also considered a scope of services for a pedestrian access study at Thompson Elementary School. After discussing the scope of services, the CAC and BAC recommended that the MPO approve the scope of services and authorize staff to issue a work order to the MPO's General Planning Consultant.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March 28, 2008 to discuss the North Indian River County Greenways Plan. After considering the consultant's presentation and attached materials, the TAC also provided the consultant with comments on the Greenways Plan. The TAC considered a scope of services for a pedestrian access study at Thompson Elementary School. After discussing the scope of services, the TAC recommended that the MPO approve the scope of services and authorize staff to issue a work order to the MPO's General Planning Consultant.

Consideration of Indian River County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Appointment Recommendation (10:31:06)

Mr. Matson explained every five years the IRC MPO, serving as the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantage Services in the County, has to designate a Community Transportation Coordinator.

(10:33:46)

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Commissioner Bowden, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to recommend the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in Tallahassee reappoint the sole bidder, the Senior Resource Association.

Consideration of Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Study at Thompson Elementary School (10:34:24)

Mr. Matson gave a brief history of this study stating at a March 13, 2008 joint meeting of the School Board of Indian River County and the Board of County Commissioners, MPO and School Board staff were requested to identify ways to improve walk connections to schools and, in so doing, potentially reduce student transportation costs to the School District. Specifically, it was recommended that staff study one school on a demonstration basis and identify potential access improvements at that school, rather than attempt to identify all necessary school related sidewalk improvements countywide. Based on a general review of school sites, MPO staff and School District staff determined that Thompson Elementary School should be selected for this study. Staff recommends that the MPO review the draft scope of services for the study of bicycle/pedestrian access at Thompson Elementary School, approve the presented scope of services and authorize staff to issue a work order in the amount of \$9,000 to the MPO's General Planning Consultant, Stanley Consultants, Inc.

Commissioner Bowden inquired if a survey had been done of the parents regarding whether or not they would allow their children to walk to school. Mr. Matson responded the School District had determined this would be the best school to use since several children in that area currently walked to and from school.

Commissioner O'Bryan questioned the feasibility of using a magnet school, such as Thompson Elementary, since students come from all areas of the county. Commissioner Davis opined it may be more realistic to determine where students were already walking and do not have safe conditions which could then be enhanced. Discussion ensued regarding all the points brought forward.

(10:44:19)

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Davis, SECONDED BY Councilmember Daige, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve staff's recommendation with the addition to the scope of services a pre-implementation study of potential walkers and bike riders.

Review of the Draft North Indian River County Greenways Plan UB
(10:46:25)

Mr. Matson summarized the State of Florida had been working on establishing a statewide system of greenways and trails for transportation, recreation and conservation purposes. In September, 2007, IRC MPO entered into an agreement with a Greenways Consulting firm, Alta Planning & Design, to develop a North Indian River County Greenways Plan that would enhance multi-modal transportation, connect urban and rural areas, and increase recreation and conservation opportunities in the North Indian River County area.

Mr. Matson continued as a result of feedback obtained from the MPO and its advisory committees, from the general public, and from the members of the Project Steering Committee, the consultants developed a series of maps along with a Tech Memo 2, displaying and explaining the potential greenway corridors in northern Indian River County.

Mr. Matson introduced the project team of Mr. Jeff Olson, Alta Planning & Design; Stuart Robertson, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.; and Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra and noted they were here today to request suggested changes and comments on the Draft Plan being presented.

Mr. Robertson gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He highlighted the objective of the North County Greenways Master Plan was long range in nature; it was to be a comprehensive, conceptual master plan for identifying both existing as well as new potential greenways. The goals ranged from transportation to recreation as well as conservation. He added they were promoting active transportation and supported the efforts of "No Child Left Indoors" which encouraged physical activities for children.

Mr. Morrell explained part of the work in implementing the Greenways Plan was to identify a Greenways Management Committee consisting of user groups, members of local governments, other public agencies such as water management and control districts, local conservation groups, and people who have a vested interest in supporting a piece of trail in their neighborhood. He asked the MPO if they had anyone they felt would be an asset to this committee.

Mr. Robertson reviewed some of the upcoming tasks including additional public meetings, revising the Draft Plan, and developing goals and objectives.

The ranking system was discussed and obtaining public involvement. Chairman O'Bryan felt it would be beneficial to coordinate with the Senior Resource Association where the transit stops would be in relation to the trails.

Council Member Paternoster left at 11:19 a.m.

Councilwoman Adams felt this was a great plan which complimented several things already being done in Fellsmere. She would like to clarify the Dinky Line should be changed to Fellsmere Railroad or Trans-Central Florida Railroad, stating the "Dinky" was a railcar.

Discussion of Indian River Boulevard Widening South of Royal Palm Place and 17th Street (11:20:17)

Commissioner Wheeler left at 11:21 p.m.

Mr. Matson recapped at the last MPO meeting, the MPO determined that a proposed extension of Aviation Boulevard (US 1 – Indian River Boulevard) was not feasible because of potential safety, environmental, and financial impacts. Since the purpose of the proposed extension was to provide congestion relief to Indian River Boulevard, the MPO requested that staff consider the possibility of adding the five-laning of Indian River Boulevard from north Royal Palm Place to south of 17th Street to the Long Range Transportation Plan. Therefore, staff recommended that the MPO defer action on including the widening of Indian River Boulevard in the Long Range Transportation Plan until the impact of proposed traffic flow improvements can be fully evaluated, particularly the financial and environmental impacts.

The MPO requested staff bring back a final design plan to the May 14, 2008 MPO meeting with a timeline and finance schedule. Mr. Matson agreed to do so.

Commissioner Bowden inquired about the traffic flow and patterns around Indian River Boulevard at the Oak Harbor entrance. Mr. Chris Mora, IRC Assistant Public Works Director, reported they had received questions in the past about putting in a traffic light at the 41st Street and/or 45th Street intersections with Indian River Boulevard and studies had been conducted. He continued the traffic counts did not meet the threshold, 200 vehicles per hour approaching the intersection for an average of 8 hours per day, of a signal as of yet. He noted the numbers were getting closer, at 100 vehicles, and it would continue to be monitored.

(11:31:27)

ON MOTION BY Councilman Becker, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve staff's recommendation of deferring action on including the widening of the Indian River Boulevard in the Long Range Transportation Plan until the impact of proposed traffic flow improvements could be fully evaluated.

Other Business

A request was made for an update on the design of Barber Street and Schumann Drive intersection to be brought forward at the May 14, 2008 MPO meeting as it was not on the Five Year Plan, and with other road changes taking place, there would be the possibility of an additional 7,000 trips being added. Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director, agreed to provide this information at the upcoming meeting noting the consultant had provided staff with a scope of services and price to expand the intersection.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Next Meeting

Chairman O'Bryan announced the next meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2008 would begin at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.