

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman **Peter O'Bryan**, **Wesley Davis** (arrived at 10:13 a.m.), and **Gary Wheeler**, Commissioners, IRC; **Dale Simchick** and **Al Paternoster**, Council Members, City of Sebastian; **Bill Fish** (Alternate), Councilmember, City of Vero Beach; **David Becker**, Councilman, Town of Indian River Shores; **Susan Adams** (arrived at 10:08 a.m.), Councilwoman, City of Fellsmere; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilman, Non-voting, Town of Orchid; **Hesham Ali**, FDOT, District 4; and **Debbie MacKay**, IRC School Board.

Absent were **Sandra Bowden** and **Joe Flescher**, Commissioners, IRC; **Sabin Abell** and **Ken Daige**, Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach, (all excused).

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

Others present were: Honey Minuse, District 5 Candidate; Jim Granse, Interested Citizen; Drew Biddle, FDOT Liaison; Lois Bush, FDOT District 1; Dale Walker, FDOT Treasure Coast Operations; Michael Colucci, The Corradino Group; Dr. Min-Tang Li and Beth Coe, FDOT; Jim Frye, GBF Engineering; Monte Falls, Public Works Director, City of Vero Beach; Will Suero and Mike Flick, HDR Engineering; Karen Diegl, Senior Resource Association; Ann Joslin and Rob Gregg, Center of Urban Transportation and Research (CUTR); and Rodney Temple, Community Asphalt Group.

Call to Order

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was not yet present. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

Chairman O'Bryan announced there would be a change in the agenda, moving to Agenda Item 3, Status Report of the MPO Advisory Committees. Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, related at the request of the MPO members, an update on action taken by the MPO advisory committees would

now be presented at the beginning of the MPO meetings. He continued one of the items would be applicable to today's meeting, the Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Matson reported on April 25, 2008, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met jointly with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and both boards took action to approve the two year MPO budget.

Councilwoman Adams arrived at 10:08 a.m.

Chairman O'Bryan noted a quorum was now present, and he would return to Agenda Item 2, Approval of the April 29, 2008 Minutes.

Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2008 (09:56:58)

ON MOTION by Commissioner Wheeler, SECONDED by Council Member Simchick, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008, as presented.

Consideration of the 2008/09 – 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (09:57:36)

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, explained this was essentially the MPO budget and a federal requirement. The principal jobs were to do a long-range transportation plan for the County, and to prioritize annually which elements of the plan the members wanted FDOT to spend its federal and state gas tax monies on.

Mr. Matson then reviewed the Draft Unified Planning Work Program as presented and is on file in the Commission Office. He announced in lieu of the June, 2008 MPO meeting for which there were no agenda items, staff was anticipating having a three board workshop to take on Comprehensive Plan issues.

Commissioner Davis arrived at 10:13 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding funding for congestion management and studies that could be done, particularly on roads such as County Road (CR) 512, State Road (SR) 60 and US 1 from county line to county line.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated he would like to see more money allotted for congestion management. Mr. Matson responded he could do that, he would look for ways to revise the budget and move funds from projects that would not be undertaken in the next couple of years and change the budget accordingly.

ON MOTION BY Councilman Becker, SECONDED BY Commissioner Davis, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the draft Unified Planning Work Plan with the one change of allotting more money for congestion management.

Review of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update Summary Report and Consideration of Consultant Presentation (10:17:28)

Mr. Matson reported approximately 75% of the funds used to operate the bus system used in IRC were paid for by other agencies, mainly the state and federal governments. He continued what those agencies ask for in return is a Transit Development Plan major update which consists of a review of everything about the transit system.

Mr. Matson introduced consultant Rob Gregg, from the Center of Urban Transportation and Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida. Mr. Gregg gave a brief overview using a PowerPoint presentation, which is on file in the Commission Office.

Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- Median age and income levels in Indian River County exceed statewide and Treasure Coast county averages. These characteristics have varying implications for transit ridership in the county. Elderly populations often rely heavily on public transportation, while affluent populations tend to have high rates of vehicle ownership and thus do not use public transportation.
- Specific locations of transit-oriented populations indicate the highest concentration of elderly population in the county and are clustered around SR 60 west and US 1 south corridors while concentrations of low auto ownership and income households appear in the Gifford and south Indian River Boulevard areas.
- Comments received through surveys distributed at the Indian River Mall revealed that, while recognition of Indian River Transit remains low among the general public, transit is generally viewed as an important community service.

Consideration of CR 609/82nd Avenue Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study Consultant Presentation (10:32:24)

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Michael Colucci, The Corradino Group, who reviewed the maps distributed by Mr. Matson. Copies of these maps are on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Colucci explained the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was conducting a tri-county multimodal Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study. The purpose of this study was the development of an appropriate corridor concept for the construction/connection of CR 609 through Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. He pointed out other alternatives being investigated.

Discussion was held regarding the length of time the study had taken since its beginning in 1995. The members were asked for input on whether to continue what they already have or to find other routes.

Chairman O'Bryan stated he was not in favor of creating any route that would be like US 1 where there was a stop light every block.

Commissioner Davis did not feel the route from 74th Avenue would fit well. He felt the two most viable alternatives appeared to be 82nd and 90th Avenues. Chairman O'Bryan concurred.

The consensus of the MPO was to concentrate on the 82nd and 90th Avenue routes.

FDOT District IV Status Report on SR 60/Indian River Boulevard Resurfacing (11:10:08)

Mr. Matson introduced the FDOT district staff from the Ft. Pierce Construction and Maintenance Office. Mr. Mike Flick, the engineer of record for the resurfacing of SR 60, reported the project went from 21st Street to Mockingbird Drive.

Mr. Flick stated the absolute completion date for the resurfacing of Indian River Boulevard was November 12, 2008. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the various stages of the project and the request from the City of Vero Beach for flashing beacons to be installed to use as a warning for traffic congestion on the bridge.

Chairman O'Bryan asked for a list of flashing beacons that would be installed.

Commissioner Wheeler left the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding providing coordination between FDOT and MPO members to keep them informed.

Quarterly Status Report of MPO Staff Activities

No action needed.

Other Business

Chairman O'Bryan stated due to time constraints, the update on Schumann Drive will be postponed to the next MPO meeting.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Next Meeting

Chairman O'Bryan announced the next meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2008 and would begin at 10:00 a.m. but noted as Mr. Matson mentioned earlier, that meeting may be cancelled.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.