

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Advisory Committee (MPOBAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 in the County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

**Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/MPO/2019.htm>**

**MPOBAC** members present were: **Chairman George Sharpe**, Town of Indian River Shores Representative; **Vice Chairman Christy Northfield**, IRC Representative; **Chris McCarthy**, City of Sebastian Representative; **Philip Young**, Town of Orchid Representative; **Hugh Aaron**, Vero Cycling, (filling in for member Terry Goff).

**MPOBAC** members absent were: **Terry Goff**, City of Vero Beach Representative (Excused), **Chief Keith Touchberry**, City of Fellsmere Representative.

IRC staff present were: **Phil Matson**, IRC MPO Director; **Brian Freeman**, MPO Senior Planner; **Jim Mann**, MPO Senior Planner; and **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant/Recording Secretary.

Also present: **Larry Wallace**, Bike/Ped Coordinator, FDOT Representative.

### **Call to Order**

MPOBAC Chairman Sharpe called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at which time it was noted that a quorum was present.

### **Annual Election of Officers**

#### *Action Required*

**ON MOTION** by Mr. Matson, **SECONDED** by Ms. Northfield, the members voted (4-0) to elect Chris McCarthy as Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Advisory Committee for 2020.

**ON MOTION** by Mr. McCarthy, **SECONDED** by Mr. Young, the members voted (4-0) to re-elect Christy Northfield as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Advisory Committee for 2020.

## **Approval of Minutes of the BAC Meeting of October 22, 2019**

### *Action Required*

Chairman McCarthy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the BAC minutes of October 22, 2019. There were none.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Young, SECONDED by Christy Northfield, the members voted (4-0) to approve the minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee October 22, 2019, as presented.**

## **Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO Regional Trail Proposal**

### *Action Required*

Mr. Matson provided a brief summary of what the Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO Regional Trail Proposal is and what is hoped for completion. Mr. Matson introduced Jim Mann who will provide a power point presentation, a copy of which is on file in the MPO office.

The Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail has seen a tremendous increase in usage since the completion of the I-95 Pedestrian Overpass in 2018. In accordance with the North Indian River County Greenways Plan, staff would like to see additional extensions of the trail beyond the current limits, including extensions to downtown Fellsmere and to the C-54 canal trail along the Brevard County/Indian River County line.

Consequently, the Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO teamed up and developed a regional trail concept that would connect some of Brevard's most popular trails with trails in Indian River County. The combined regional trail concept could then connect to the East Coast Greenway along SR A1A, making a scenic detour for long-distance and local trail users alike.

In so doing, the new regional trail concept could be included in the list of eligible priorities on the State Office of Greenways and Trails Priority's Trails Network. This could open up the Trans-Florida Central and many trails in southern Brevard County to new sources of possible funding.

Additional conversations from the committee members concerning various other projects were mentioned. Mr. Larry Wallace from FDOT will look into the road widening/resurfacing projects, specifically on US #1 between CR510 and CR512 and will report later.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Young, SECONDED by Christy Northfield, the members voted (4-0) to recommend approval of the Indian River**

**County MPO and Space Coast TPO Regional Trail Proposal, as presented.**

**FDOT Transit Planning Non-Motorized Traffic Monitoring**

*No Action Required*

Mr. Mann provided a synopsis of the non-motorized traffic monitoring and showed a few slides.

FDOT is embarking on a research-based study that evaluates and provides guidance identifying best practices in the utilization of emerging datasets and technologies to support effective transit and non-motorized planning. The focus of the study will be on non-motorized data usage, transit facility ridership and connectivity, as well as field deployment of short-term non-motorized traffic counters for data collection practices. According to FDOT; Initial national outreach indicates that these efforts will be one of the first linking this type of data collection effort with transit planning and operations.

GoLine and Indian River County MPO were chosen to be 1 of 5 candidates in the State to be represented in this Study. Deployment of the bike/ped counters will be conducted at the end of January. These will remain at the designated locations for a two-week timeframe to collect the data.

**Update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**

*No Action Required*

Mr. Matson introduced Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner, who will provide a presentation on the Bicycle and Pedestrian projects, a copy of which is on file in the MPO office.

Since the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan's adoption in 2015, a large number of bicycle and pedestrian facilities have been built or are in the current County or State Work Program. These projects will add to the safety of the Indian River County travel network and will make available many new options for the non-motorized traveler.

Mr. Mann stated from the top 25 pedestrian priority corridors, six are completed, and five are partially completed. There were six locations not previously included in this list but are also completed. The bike plan will be updated in the near future.

Mr. Matson thanked the Bike Walk of IRC and others for their assistance in reporting sidewalk issues so that Public Works is aware of problems that need correcting. Public participation is welcomed and appreciated, as it is a major tool in accomplishing projects.

More group discussion ensued and the sidewalk on US 1 from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Indian River Blvd. was mentioned. Mr. Mann informed the group that this project has been identified as a triple R project. During the resurfacing there will be a sidewalk installed on the west side.

Unfortunately, there will still be a gap on the east side. Mr. Matson asked Larry Wallace from FDOT if he could get information on two sidewalk gaps in this area. Bike lanes will be added when US 1 is widened.

A discussion ensued about the replacement bridge the Mr. Matson asked Mr. Wallace to make sure there is a presentation on the design of the bridge. Mr. Matson suggested it would be great if FDOT could come to a BAC meeting and explain the design and changes.

### **Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees**

#### *No Action Required*

The TAC met on November 22, 2019 and the CAC met on December 3, 2019. At that time, the TAC and CAC both considered a presentation by FDOT on the I-95 Multimodal Master Plan and discussed the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Schedule.

The MPO met on December 11, 2019. At this meeting, the MPO considered a presentation by FDOT on the I-95 Multimodal Master Plan and discussed the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Schedule.

Also at the meeting, the MPO approved the Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2019/20 Planning Grant.

The next BAC meeting will take place April 28, 2020.

### **Other Business**

#### *1. MPO Non-Motorized County Program Update (New Numbers)*

Mr. Mann informed the committee the TRAFX counters were placed on the trail for a 2-week period during December/January. The counts retrieved during that time were more than double the amount in the summer. The data obtained shows the community's interest and thereby will assist staff in helping to obtain funding for future enhancements on the trail and facilities.

#### *2. Indian River County MPO Scheduling Report*

A presentation by Mr. Larry Wallace from FDOT was made, a copy of which is located in the MPO office. The presentation included allocated projects, future projects showing the time frame and other details.

Vice Chair Northfield commented it would be helpful if there was a public meeting explaining the existing projects, what is involved on changing/modifying roadways, the time frame and the different stages. Mr. Matson replied there is a venue available for these types of inquiries and it is the Community Traffic Safety Team

(CTST) meeting. This meeting occurs quarterly and is open to the public and held in Building A. Mr. Matson will make sure the meeting schedule is mailed out to the committee members.

Mr. Matson asked Mr. Wallace to consider coming up with some type of spreadsheets for his next presentation showing existing program projects and what the appropriate time to put comments in. It would be beneficial if a matrix was developed and listed the various items for example; if you have overgrown weeds (maintenance issues), contact this person; if you encounter a repair (hazardous condition), contact this person, etc. Finally, if you are interested in an upcoming project, contact this person.

Mr. Matson would like to announce this is his last BAC meeting. Effective January 31, 2020 he will become the new Community Development Director. He further stated he has enjoyed his time with the BAC and would like to thank them for their support.

### **Comments from the Public**

Mr. Hugh Aaron would like to address concerns regarding the Wabasso High Bridge. If aluminum railing could be placed on the barrier wall of this bridge it would help make this bridge safer. The BAC discussed the condition of the bridge with Mr. Wallace, who indicated the BAC could request MPO staff send a letter to FDOT stating the BAC's concerns regarding the bridge.

**ON MOTION BY Ms. Northfield, SECONDED by Mr. Young, the members voted (4-0) to request MPO staff send a letter to Mark Plass in support of installing safety rails or other features on the Wabasso Bridge, high side, for safety purposes.**

Mr. Aaron would like to comment on the successful event held recently at the Majestic 11 Theatre. "The Bicycle Revolution" was shown to approximately 100 individuals. After the movie, there was a Q&A session of which MPO's Jim Mann was a panelist. Mr. Aaron thanked those who came and played a part in this event. Mr. Aaron felt it was a very informative session.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.