

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) AND THE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

A joint meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, conducted and hosted in County Administration Building “B”, Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at

<http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CAC/2022.htm>

<https://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BAC/2022.htm>

CAC Members in Attendance:

Chair, Juliana Young
Bruce Hoffman
Clarence Korker
Amber Cerda
Francine McElhenny
Jeff Luther
Nancy Auwaerter

Vice-Chair, Chuck Mechling
William Lundy Parden
Mike Grim
Joan Edwards
Freddie Woolfork
Erica Ogilvie
Herb Whittall

BAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Chris McCarthy, Sebastian Representative
Frank Blaisdell, Indian River Shores Representative
William Kennedy, Town of Orchid Representative
Solana Morris, BCC Appointee

BAC Members Absent:

Terry Goff, Vice Chair, City of Vero Beach Representative
Robert Loring, City of Fellsmere Representative

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III & Recording Secretary

Others in Attendance:

Joseph Harrison, (alternate), City of Sebastian
Paul & Alora Morris, IRC Students
Bob Auwaerter, Indian River Shores

Call to Order

CAC Chair Young, along with BAC Chairman McCarthy called the joint meeting to order at 2:07 PM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present for both committees.

Approval of Minutes of the CAC-TAC Joint Meeting of April 5, 2022.

Action Required

CAC Chair Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the CAC-TAC Joint meeting minutes of April 5, 2022. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Ms. Cerda, the members voted (14-0) to approve the April 5, 2022 Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee-Technical Advisory Committee, (CAC-TAC) meeting minutes, as presented.

Approval of Minutes of BAC April 26, 2022 Meeting.

Action Required

BAC Chair McCarthy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the BAC minutes of April 26, 2022.

Mr. Freeman noted on the BAC minutes, Chris McCarthy should be listed as the City of Sebastian Representative.

ON MOTION by Mr. Blaisdell and SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy, the members voted (4-0) to approve the April 26, 2022 Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting minutes, with the necessary correction.

Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann who conducted this presentation. Mr. Mann explained the steps involved in this process and highlighted the various categories. Mr. Mann noted that last year's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had a budget of over \$300 million dollars, but this year's amount has surpassed that and is over \$400 million dollars. A contributing factor in this amount is that FDOT was able to release funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) allowing projects to move into the construction phase. The major projects that are ready for construction include, the Oslo Road Interchange (\$72 million), the Oslo Road Widening (\$51 million), CR 510 (\$30 million), and A1A (Sebastian Inlet Bridge (\$78 million). A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

During the presentation, there was a question and answer session regarding 66th Avenue, Oslo Road Interchange, the Roundabout, CR 510 and US 1 at Aviation. Updates were provided on those particular projects.

The floor was opened for comments. There being none the item was open for motion.

CAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Mr. Luther, the members voted (14-0) to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Recommending approval by the MPO.

BAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Blaisdell and SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy, the members voted (4-0) to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, recommending approval by the MPO.

Consideration of the 2022 Priority Projects Report.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman conducted this presentation noting each year, all Florida MPO's are required to submit to FDOT a priority projects report that lists the MPO's highway, transportation alternates, congestion management process, transit and airport priority projects. The annual priority projects report is the process in which transportation improvement projects are added to the new fifth year of FDOT's work program each year. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. For 2022, the MPO's priority projects list is essentially unchanged from the current priorities list that was adopted last year.

Mr. Freeman highlighted some of the upcoming projects and the floor was opened for questions and comments.

Discussions ensued concerning the Indian River Boulevard/Barber Bridge intersection improvement project. One of the members stated they do not want to have an additional lane, but Mr. Freeman interjected this intersection will be re-configured which also address some of the bike/pedestrian safety issues. Mr. Freeman stated FDOT is currently working on the design for this and he would see if they would do a presentation on this project.

Ms. Edwards was concerned with some of project rankings. Mr. Freeman referred to Page 12, which shows the rankings over the past several years. Chair Young feels that some of these projects need to be re-evaluated with their rankings and take into consideration the inconveniences of the citizens. Mr. Freeman explained the differences between state, county and city road funding which plays a part in this process.

There being no further comments the item was open for motion.

CAC:

ON MOTION by Ms. McElhenny and SECONDED by Ms. Ogilvie, the members voted (14-0) to approve the 2022 Priority Projects as presented, recommending approval by the MPO.

Chair McCarthy stated he would like to have a bike lane along Roseland Road from US 1 to CR 512 it would tie in alot of nice areas in Sebastian. Mr. Freeman added this year the MPO would be kicking off an update to the Bike/Ped Master Plan. That will allow us to look at the entire community and note where the needs are the highest.

BAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Blaisdell and SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy, the members voted (4-0) to approve the Priority Projects Report, as presented, recommending approval by the MPO.

Review of General Planning Consultants (GPC) Proposed Scope of Services.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman presented the item noting that in 2004 the MPO began using General Planning Consultants (GPCs) to improve the efficiency of the consultant selection process and that the GPCs were divided into a Highway Systems GPC, an Intermodal Inspection and Special Studies GPC. Mr. Freeman noted the Scope of Services for General Planning Consultant services describes a wide range of planning activities that a GPC might be expected to perform. The contract runs for three years with the ability to extend it for a total of four years. The current contracts are in the fourth year and will expire in the fall. The next step will be to send out a RFQ (Request for Qualifications).

The floor was open for questions and comments.

Mr. Whittall asked why are GPC's needed. Mr. Freeman replied they are able to handle the technical items with more expertise than what we have available on staff. Some of the projects like the LRTP is a very big endeavor and there is not staff available to dedicate to a big project like that and handle the items that come up. Chair Young asked have there been any changes/additions since the last time this went out for bid. Mr. Freeman replied no, but we have re-organized the list instead of having two different lists with categories, the tasks are in one single list. Mr. Kennedy asked if there is a cost for retaining them and being charged an hourly rate, and the answer was no. Basically, they would be on contract and paid through work orders. The MPO has to approve the work orders, with a "not to exceed" price.

There being no further comments the items was open for motion.

CAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Mr. Woolfork, the members voted (14-0) to approve the General Planning Consultants (GPC) Scope of Services as presented, recommending approval by the MPO.

BAC:

ON MOTION by Ms. Morris and SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy, the members voted (4-0) to approve the General Planning Consultants (GPC) Proposed Scope of Services as presented, recommending by the approval MPO.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated May 31, 2022, included in the agenda packet and on file in the MPO Office. He also noted the next meeting dates for the MPO and its advisory committees.

Other Business

CAC:

Mr. Hoffman asked about maintenance on 66th Avenue stating there are several potholes that need repairing. Mr. Freeman stated he would check with the Public Works Department regarding this issue and follow up with the CAC.

Chair Young has two items she would like to bring to Mr. Freeman's attention. Chair Young stated she has made numerous calls to the contractor working at the intersection of 43rd Avenue and SR 60 regarding the striping and has not received any response. It is very confusing and puts the cars in the wrong place. Mr. Freeman replied he would check with the project manager and see what is going on. Next question will the merge be permanent, southbound on 43rd Avenue by 19th Street. Mr. Whittall brought up the issue of the striping northbound on 43rd Avenue heading to 26th Street it is a mess also. There is enough space for there to be four lanes, but they just didn't do it.

Chair Young also mentioned, the intersection of 58th Avenue southbound east on SR 60 should be looked as it is very difficult with the two turn lanes to navigate a u-turn, as it is a dangerous situation.

BAC:

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Bob Auwaerter, Indian River Shores appointee on the MPO, commented on the impact of inflation and rising construction costs on funding the transportation program. Mr. Auwaerter presented figures from the National Highway Construction Cost Index on the Federal Highway Association website.

Mr. Auwaerter remarked the County did a nice job on the greenways plan they did in 2007. Mr. Auwaerter would like to have an agenda item put on one of the committee meetings, later in the year, asking the Mosquito Control District their views on installing bike paths along various canal banks. Chair Young encouraged everyone to get involved and show support, even commenting a run for their board would help bring attention to this cause. Chair Young also thanked Mr. Auwaerter for providing the information.

Mr. Woolfork commented on the drainage issues that are happening on SR 60 and 58th Avenue, because of the all the rain we are receiving. One solution is to make sure the drains are being cleared regularly. Chair Young stated this has been an on-going issue for many years.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.