

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, September 6, 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>

CAC Members in Attendance:

Chair, Juliana Young, BCC Appointee
Vice-Chair, Chuck Mechling, BCC Appointee
Francine McElhenny, BCC Appointee
Erica Ogilvie, BCC Appointee
Herb Whittall, BCC Appointee
William Lundy Parden, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee
Clarence Korke, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Amber Cerda, City of Sebastian Appointee
Joan Edwards, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Freddie Woolfork, Minority Appointee
Michael Marsh, IRC School Board Appointee
Nancy Auwaerter, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee

CAC Members Absent:

Mike Grim, BCC Appointee
Bruce Hoffman, City of Sebastian Appointee

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Phil Matson, IRC Community Development Director
Andy Sobczak, IRC Asst. Community Development Director
Mark Vietze, MPO/GIS Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III & Recording Secretary

Call to Order

CAC Chair Young called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present.

Approval of CAC Minutes – Joint CAC-BAC Meeting of June 7, 2022.

Action Required

CAC Chair Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the CAC minutes of the CAC-BAC Joint meeting of June 7, 2022. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Mr. Parden, the members voted (11-0) to approve the June 7, 2022 CAC Minutes from the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee-Bicycle Advisory Committee, (CAC-BAC) meeting minutes, as presented.

Mr. Whittall entered @ 2:04pm

Consideration of the Land Use Visioning Study Final Report and Presentation.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided overview of what has taken place the past several months concerning the visioning study. Mr. William Roll from Kimley-Horn & Associates conducted this presentation via Zoom.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was an open dialog of questions and comments, which included such subjects as:

- Land Swaps – which is where land is switched from inside to outside of the urban service areas.
- Lot Splits – occurring in agricultural areas, what are the upcoming changes?
- Zoning Designations/Density – will there be any major changes in these areas.
- LDR's and Accessory Dwelling Units – what changes will occur with these.

Mr. Woolfork expressed his appreciation to the MPO for the coordination of the workshops that were held at various days and times in order to accommodate the citizens who attended these presentations.

Mr. Mechling stated he was very appreciative of Kimley-Horn and their work on this study. Furthermore, the information that the County has shared is appreciated.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Ms. Ogilvie, the members voted (12-0) to approve the Land Use Visioning Study Final Report and Presentation, as presented.

Consideration of the 2022 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a power point presentation and explained that Transit Development Plan (TDP) major updates are required every five years. The update is a component to obtain funding in the Public Transportation Block Grant. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman described the public involvement undertaken for the major update. The last time the survey was done, there were over 700 responses received. This demonstrates the level of community interest and their involvement in this service. Ms. Edwards inquired as to whether the surveys were prepared in different languages, and Mr. Freeman replied yes, they are offered in Spanish and in the future Creole may be added, if needed.

For the past 15 years consecutively there had been an increase in ridership, unfortunately COVID broke this trend. Although there was a decrease in ridership during COVID, we did not experience as much of a drop as other transit systems nationally. There has been a steady increase since then and this year is on track to have the highest ridership yet.

In Florida, Indian River County has the lowest operating expense per passenger trip – fixed route (2020) at \$2.72, with the next lowest being St. Lucie County at \$4.33. Concerning the operating expense per passenger mile – fixed route (2020) in Florida, Indian River is on top with a cost of \$0.66, and in second is Brevard County at \$0.77.

Some changes which have occurred over the past year:

- Route 11 - was discontinued, as it was a low performing route. There were other routes that we able to assist these riders.
- Route 15 - this route is for transportation to and from Indian River State College. This route was on hold during COVID as classes were held virtually. The normal ridership is back up since the re-opening of the College.
- TransLoc – this is the new transit technology system was introduced, which is available on mobile devices as well as computers. This app will allow you to track the progress of the buses, in real time, as they approach upcoming stops, and what bus stops are relative to your GPS.
- The safety protocols put in place during COVID are still in operation.

On the capital side, the program for replacing buses is on going, depending on the age of the buses and the number of miles they have. Additional infrastructure at bus stop locations all around the community include shelters and simme seats where there isn't enough space for a shelter.

There were some unfunded needs that were identified and if we are able to tap into funding sources to pay for those additional service there maybe a possibility to extend the current hours of service.

One capital improvement that will be coming in the next couple of years with the widening of CR 510, there will be a new transit hub built, a mini version of the main transit hub in Vero Beach.

Chair Young opened the floor for any additional comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Marsh and SECONDED by Ms. Cerda, the members voted (12-0) to approve the 2022 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update, as presented.

Consideration of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a synopsis of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments stating this is an administrative process and it comes up every year. At the end of each state fiscal year, FDOT typically requests a roll-forward amendment to the TIP. Approval of the roll-forward amendment to the TDP ensures that the included projects can continue from FDOT's FY 2021/22 Work Program into the new 2022/23 Work Program. The attached Roll-Forward Report, provided from FDOT, lists the projects that will carry forward into the new work program.

ON MOTION by Mr. Whittall and SECONDED by Mr. Marsh, the members voted (12-0) to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated August 29, 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.

Mr. Whittall asked what the status was on 66th Avenue. Mr. Freeman replied the current phase of construction is from 49th Street to just north of 69th Street. There will be another phase after that up to CR 510, just short of the roundabout

There were questions asked about the status of several projects, 66th Avenue, 43rd and SR 60, 26th from 58th to 43rd. Mr. Freeman answered these concerns adequately.

A question was asked concerning the markings on several roads. Mr. Freeman stated that FDOT's survey department put them in for a project they are working on.

Chair Young wanted to express her appreciation for the markings on the intersection of 43rd and SR 60 being installed.

US #1 and Aviation Blvd: a study is being performed to determine if an underpass or overpass is the better option. FDOT will be conducting meetings in the future once the studies have been completed.

Comments from the Public.

There were none.

Ms. Ogilvie departed @ 3:23 PM

Adjournment

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