

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in the 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/MPO/2020.htm>

MPO members present: IRC Commissioners: **Commissioner Susan Adams**, District 1; **Commissioner Joseph Flescher**, District 2; **Commissioner Tim Zorc**, District 3; **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, District 4; **Commissioner Bob Solari**, District 5; **Chairman Bob Auwaerter**, Vice Mayor, Town of Indian River Shores; **Ed Dodd**, Mayor, City of Sebastian; **Joe Graves**, Council Member, City of Vero Beach; **Rey Neville**, (alternate), City of Vero Beach; **Gerald Renick**, City of Fellsmere; **Christine Fasiska** and **Michael Hicks**, FDOT (non-voting advisors).

Absent: **Laura Moss**, Vice Mayor, City of Vero Beach; **Tiffany Justice**, IRC School Board; **Jim Hill**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Hal Ofstie**, Mayor, Town of Orchid, (non-voting member).

IRC staff present: **Brian Freeman**, MPO Staff Director; **Jim Mann**, MPO Senior Planner; **Phil Matson**, IRC Community Development Director; **Rich Szyrka**, IRC Public Works Director; **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant 3/Recording Secretary.

Also present: **William Roll**, Kimley-Horn & Associates; **Joseph Paladin**, IRNA; **Noah Powers**, Town Manager, Town of Orchid; **Tyler Fox**, Indian River County High School; **Hugh Aaron**, Bike Walk of Indian River County (BWIRC); **Josh Baker** and **Maria Marquez**, FDOT; and **Randy Fox**, Concerned Citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman Auwaerter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM; and it was noted there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting of February 12, 2020

Action Required

Chairman Auwaerter asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of February 12, 2020. There were none.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Mr. Dodd, the members voted (10-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization February 12, 2020 meeting.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 3, 2020, 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.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #2 for the 2019/20 Planning Grant

Action Required

It is required, as part of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant contract between the Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) and the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), that periodic progress reports and reimbursement invoices be submitted. To comply with the CTD's requirements, staff has prepared a progress report and invoice for the period from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

The attached invoice and progress report represent the second quarter of the 2019/20 planning grant period. This progress report and applicable finished products, such as the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting agenda items, CTC reports, etc., are required to accompany all reimbursement invoices.

On February 27, 2020, the TDLCB reviewed the quarterly progress report and recommended approval by the MPO.

Staff recommends that the MPO approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Invoice #2 and direct staff to submit the report and invoice to the state CTD for reimbursement.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #2 for the 2019/20 Planning Grant.

Consideration of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2020 Update

Action Required

Mr. Freeman, MPO Staff Director, stated engaging the public is essential in the

development of all the different plans and programs the MPO does. The MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), was adopted about three years ago. The PPP sets forth the techniques the MPO uses for some of our requirements such as how long we advertise our various plans before adoption, and the many ways we try to receive public comments concerning those projects.

Recently, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) conducted a review of the nine small MPOs in the State of Florida. During this review, the FHA looked over the public participation plans and had a few recommendations on best practices and some minor changes they would like to see in these plans. Based on these recommendations we have reviewed our PPP and made the necessary changes. Some of these changes include how we process public comments, added a definition section, and also noted on the cover page is the 45-day advertisement for public comment period.

Mr. Freeman stated, at this time we would like the MPO to review and approve the PPP 2020 Update.

Chairman Auwaerter had a few comments and suggestions. On Page 7 and 8 where it talks about newspapers, he would like to have "32963" added as an additional source. Chairman Auwaerter also inquired as to when to expect the next MPO Newsletter. Mr. Freeman replied MPO Staff is currently looking into transitioning from a paper newsletter to an electronic newsletter. By spring, we should have another newsletter published. On Page 16, it would be nice to have semi-annual reviews so that we can track progress. Mr. Freeman concurred, and will make the outlined changes.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2020 Update with the recommended amendments.

Mr. Rich Szpyrka and Mr. Noah Powers entered at 10:07AM

Consideration of the 2020 Title VI Program Update

Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained the purpose of the Title VI program is to document the methods by which the MPO ensures that its transportation services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. Federal regulations stipulate which elements must be included in the Title VI Program. For the MPO, the Title VI program includes a description of the MPO's Title VI public notifications, a complaint process, and a limited English proficiency (LEP) population analysis with a language assistance plan.

Mr. Freeman further expounded, the last Title VI plan was updated in 2017 and is good for three years. The current plan will expire April 1, 2020. In order for the MPO to continue receiving federal transportation planning funds, the Title VI program needs approval from the MPO.

Staff asks the MPO to consider the update and approve.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Mr. Dodd, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the 2020 Title VI Program Update.

Consideration of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Fiscal Resources

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman gave some background information of what the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is and how it affects the MPO. This plan must be updated every five years.

Mr. Freeman then introduced William Roll, from Kimley-Horn & Associates, one of the MPO's general planning consultants. So far, Kimley-Horn has prepared the Public Involvement Plan and Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Performance Measures. At this time, the consultant has prepared a fiscal resources forecast that summarizes the financial revenues projected to be available for transportation improvements through the year 2045 (see Attachment #1). Later this year, the fiscal resources forecast will be used in the development of the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan.

Mr. Roll provided a presentation outlining a breakdown of the financial projections and revenue estimates involved in the 2045 LRTP. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Commissioner O'Bryan asked if the figures represented in this presentation reflect the changes the Board approved on yesterday. Mr. Freeman replied no, it doesn't, but we have made Kimley-Horn aware of the changes and they will be updating the revenue projections.

Consideration of the Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO Regional Trail Proposal

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner, who will provide a power point presentation, a copy of which is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Mann explained the Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO are in the process of coordinating the development of a regional trail concept that would connect trails

between the two counties. At each end the combined regional trail concept connects 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. Potentially, this will open up the Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail and connecting trails in both counties to new sources of possible funding.

Several questions were asked concerning what the existing trail surface is like, soft sand, hard surface, the boundaries this would include, etc. A suggestion was asked if a legend could be included on this map showing the surface types. Mr. Mann was able to answer all questions and concerns.

Staff recommends that the MPO consider the draft Regional Trail Concept and authorize staff to include the concept in a future Greenways Plan update.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the Indian River County MPO and Space Coast TPO Regional Trail Proposal.

Other Business

Triennial Review Update

Mr. Freeman presented an update on the final report from October's Triennial Review. The FTA was very complimentary on the transit system in Indian River County with there being only a few minor points that were highlighted including: the importance of Buy America certification forms, updating cost estimates on projects and transitioning older vehicles that have been used as spares.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Christine Fasiska, from FDOT District 4, provided an overview of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). There will be public workshops concerning this updates and public participation is appreciated. Mr. Freeman will forward the link to committee members.

Adjournment

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.