

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, conducted through Zoom, and hosted in County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida for those unable to attend virtually.

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; **Jim Hill**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Laura Moss**, Vice Mayor, City of Vero Beach; **Joe Graves**, Council Member, City of Vero Beach; **Rey Neville**, (alternate), City of Vero Beach; **Gerald "Jerry" Renick**, City of Fellsmere; **Jessica Salgado**, (alternate) City of Fellsmere; **Jacqueline Rosario**, (alternate), IRC School Board; **Charles Mauti**, (alternate), City of Sebastian; **Christine Fasiska** and **Michael Hicks**, FDOT (non-voting advisors).

Absent: **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; **Jason Brown**, IRC Administrator; **Rich Szpyrka**, IRC Public Works Director; **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant 3/Recording Secretary.

Also present: **William Roll**, Kimley-Horn & Associates; **Tammy Bursick**, City of Vero Beach; **Laurence Reisman**, TC Palm; **Caryn Gardner-Young**, FDOT; **Patrick Nelson**, Florida Department of Health.

Call to Order

Chairman Auwaerter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Members.

The MPO Recording Secretary performed a roll call of the committee members with those present responding. The alternates acknowledged their presence and stated their representation. It was noted there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting of March 11, 2020

Action Required

Chairman Auwaerter asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of March 11, 2020. There were none.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (12-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization March 11, 2020 meeting.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated May 5, 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.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2020/21 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated that the purpose of the planning grant is to obtain funds to cover the planning related costs incurred by MPO staff in fulfilling the MPO’s duties and responsibilities associated with the state-mandated transportation disadvantaged program.

Staff recommends that the MPO approve the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2020/21 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board. There being no comments, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2020/21 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement.

Approval of the Final FY 2020/21 – FY 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program

Action Required

Mr. Freeman, MPO Staff Director, gave a brief overview explaining the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and provided a short power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman explained the UPWP is required by state and federal regulations and covers a two-year period. It is organized into tasks, which are separated into four categories. Federal funding is received through grants as well as state and local sources.

Mr. Freeman highlighted some of the accomplishments during the previous period which included the Community Characteristics Report, US 1 Corridor Retrofit Study, Triennial Review, the TDP and Long Range Transportation Plan, to state a few. (The new UPWP takes effect on July 1, 2020.)

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board.

Chairman Auwaerter stated an update to the Greenways Plan would be very beneficial to the community and in light of the pandemic he has noticed more people exercising and riding bikes. Chairman Auwaerter continued he was very happy to see information concerning bike paths included. He would also like to see more emphasis placed on safety in reference to Virgin Trains.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval of the Final FY 2020/21 – FY 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Amendment to the FY 2018/19 – FY 2019/20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated the purpose of this amendment is to de-obligate funds that were not spent and roll them over into next year’s UPWP.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board. There being no comments, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval to De-obligate and Amend the FY 2018/19 – FY 2019/20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Authorization to Submit an Application for Section 5305(d) Transit Planning Grant Funds for FY 2020/21.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman informed the Board this is the annual application for transit planning funds from the Federal Transit Association through FDOT.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board. There being no comments, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval to Submit an Application for Section 5305(d) Transit Planning Grant Funds for FY 2020/21.

Consideration of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Preliminary Needs Assessment.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman 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 on the preliminary needs assessment for the 2045 LRTP. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

The discussion was opened and one question was asked if there will be virtual public workshops for the LRTP. Mr. Roll responded that normally we would hold public meetings and workshops in a variety of different geographical areas, but in light of the current health conditions and the restrictions that are in place, it is not feasible to do that. Kimley-Horn & Associates will conduct virtual on-line workshops. In advance of the workshops there will be materials posted on-line. The public will be able to make their comments and concerns known at that time. The workshops will be held during work hours and another one will be after hours to accommodate the public. Kimley-Horn is looking into having the video presentation posted on-line so that no matter your availability it the public would be able to leave comments.

Mr. Freeman followed up and informed the committee that in early June there will be two virtual workshops hosted. One virtual workshop will be during work hours and the second will be conducted after hours.

A question was asked concerning east/west connections between 27th Avenue and 43rd Avenue in St. Lucie County, would that be connected to Indian River County. Mr. Roll replied that Indian River uses the same traffic-forecasting model as St. Lucie County, and they would look into it.

Another question regarding the potential new interchange at I-95 and 53rd Street. If money wasn't an issue, how quickly could it be completed? Mr. Freeman replied that it is in the early stages and as the county's need grows for this interchange, it would move from aspirational to cost feasible. Mr. Matson added 53rd Street would have to be extended to I-95 before this could be planned. The demand for this project could possibly be there in 2035.

Chairman Auwaerter thanked Mr. Roll for his presentation.

This is an informational item only and does not require an approval or motion.

Florida Transportation Plan Presentation by FDOT

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Christine Fasiska, Florida Department of Transportation District Four, who will provide the presentation of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the update that is currently taking place. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Ms. Fasiska explained what the FTP is and how it affects all Floridians, and why your input is important. The FTP provides the framework for transportation decisions and investments. The interactive polling portion will contain three questions with multiple choices and a segment open for comments. On the FDOT website, you will find additional surveys that allow for feedback as well. Ms. Fasiska stated the results would be forwarded to Mr. Freeman, who will in turn email the poll results when he receives them.

Commissioner Zorc asked if the survey is open to the public or only targeted groups? Ms. Fasiska replied that anyone may go to the website and there are areas where you may leave comments. Look for the areas that state "Get Involved" and post your comments and take surveys. Mr. Freeman reiterated the website – FloridaTransportationPlan.com.

Chairman Auwaerter thanked Ms. Fasiska for the presentation.

This is an informational item only and does not require an approval or motion.

Other Business

Virgin Trains Financing Update

Chairman Auwaerter provided an informative update on Virgin Trains, based on their annual financial report.

Indian River Blvd. and Merrill Barber Bridge Follow-up

Mr. Freeman provided an update concerning the recent changes made at that intersection. After the February MPO meeting in which FDOT did a presentation there were changes made to the traffic signal operation. The southbound left turn signal at the west end of the bridge was changed to a flashing yellow light. Based on the findings from FDOT's simulation, there would be significant queuing if a "protected left turn" was put in place. The left turn lane would have to be re-worked extensively. More information will be provided as it is received.

66th Avenue Update

Mr. Freeman reports the County has received some exciting news regarding the widening of 66th Avenue. The County has received just under ten million dollars in funding from the State. Eight and a half million of that is for construction of the next phase of the 66th Avenue project, which is from 49th Street to 69th Street. In addition, the Treasure Coast Transportation Council (which the MPO is a part of with the other two Treasure Coast MPOs) recently conducted its review of the TRIP Grant Applications for FY 25 and recommended that Indian River County receive \$1.25 million for the final phase of 66th Avenue.

Commissioner Zorc would like to make sure the new 53rd Street bridge at 66th Avenue could accommodate a future widening of 53rd Street to four lanes.

Oslo Road Interchange

Mr. Matson received word the State of Florida selected the Oslo Road Interchange as the sole candidate by FDOT for funding through the BUILD grant program. Mr. Matson asked that everyone spread the word as FDOT could still use support with this project.

Commissioner O'Bryan asked when a decision will be made, Mr. Matson responded over the summer, and the funding would be available in the next federal fiscal year. Mr. Matson relayed the cost of this project is around 63 million dollars.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

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