

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 10, 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 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; **Christine Fasiska** and **Michael Hicks**, FDOT (non-voting advisors).

Absent: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, District 4; **Tiffany Justice**, IRC School Board; **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: **Eric Penfield**, RS&H; **Nannette Rodriguez**, QUEST; **Chris Stephenson**, Senior Resource Association; **Caryn Gardner-Young**, FDOT; **Gus Schmidt**, Tylin International.

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 that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting of May 13, 2020

Action Required

Chairman Auwaerter asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of May 13, 2020. There were none.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (10-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization May 13, 2020 meeting.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated June 2, 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 the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2019/20 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated the attached invoice and progress report represent the third quarter of the 2019/20 TD 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.

Staff recommends that the MPO approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Invoice #3 and direct staff to submit the report and invoice to the state CTD for reimbursement.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2019/20 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant.

Approval of the MPO Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Planning (PL) Funds for FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22.

Action Required

To receive PL funds, the MPO must enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Beginning in 2018, FDOT requested that the MPO

agreement run concurrently with the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020). Therefore, the current agreement expires on June 30, 2020.

At its May 13, 2020 meeting, the MPO approved the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that becomes effective on July 1, 2020. That UPWP covers a two-year period through June 30, 2022. In order for the MPO to continue to receive Federal Highway Planning (PL) funds during the new UPWP, it must adopt the attached PL fund agreement at this time. The attached agreement was developed by FDOT and is virtually unchanged from the MPO's existing two-year agreement. It has been reviewed by the County Attorney, MPOAC Attorney, and County and MPO Staff.

Staff recommends that the MPO consider the new MPO agreement (Attachment #1) and authorize the Chairman to execute the 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 Zorc and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the MPO Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Planning (PL) Funds for FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22.

Approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Annual Evaluation Report (FY 2018/19).

Action Required

On May 28, 2020, the TDLCB approved the CTC annual evaluation report, recommended that the MPO retain the Senior Resource Association as the county's CTC, and directed staff to forward the annual evaluation report to the MPO for its approval prior to submittal of the report to the state Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Staff recommends that the MPO approve the attached CTC annual evaluation report, retain the Senior Resource Association as the county's CTC, and direct staff to forward the report to the State Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Commissioner Solari mentioned the Senior Resource Association's performance for the past several years has been excellent and he does not want the Board to think this is an exaggeration. Based on others in the state, we may not be as big as some, but this is consistently one of the best run.

Commissioner Zorc asked Mr. Freeman, if at the next MPO meeting, could we see a comparison of the scores from all of the other transportation systems, it would be interesting

to see how Indian River compares.

Commissioner Flescher wanted to point the number of awards Indian River has received regarding their transportation service and believes that speaks to the excellent ratings. Commissioner Flescher continued, stating the service provided by the Senior Resource Association (SRA) is exceptional.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board.

Mr. Stephenson, from the SRA, thanked the MPO for their kind comments and support. The SRA really is happy to work with the MPO and the TDLCB. Should any of the Commissioners or the MPO ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Commissioner Flescher added, in the past some constituents have had questions and concerns and reached out to the SRA and the SRA has been very responsive to their concerns, followed up in a timely manner and been very thorough in any investigations.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Annual Evaluation Report (FY 2018/19).

Approval of the Final FY 2020/21 - FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann, who presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Mann explained the TIP is a culmination of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the MPO Priorities and the FDOT Tentative Work Program. This is a five-year program and generally consists of projects/phases carried forward from the previous TIP, plus new projects/phases generally added to the fifth year.

The MPO's FY 2020/21 – 2024/25 TIP, includes an introduction to the various federal requirements of the TIP, as well as a listing of specific local, state and federally funded transportation improvement projects programmed for the next five years in the MPO area. As is required by state and federal regulations, the TIP contains all state and federally funded projects programmed for FY 2020/21 – 2024/25. While not a required component of the TIP, the TIP also contains locally funded projects that are identified in the County's approved five-year capital improvements program for FY 2020/21 – 2024/25.

After the presentation, there was a discussion concerning some areas of interest, including Aviation Blvd., A1A resurfacing, CR 510, and US 1.

Ms. Moss wanted to express her thanks concerning the lengthening of the turn lanes at A1A at the bridges.

Ms. Moss also asked if an update on the Indian River Blvd. and Barber Bridge intersection could be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Freeman replied this would be added to the next meeting agenda.

Staff recommends that the MPO review the TIP, consider the staff presentation on the TIP, and approve the TIP.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2020/21 – 24/25.

Approval of the MPO's 2020 Priority Projects Report.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman gave a brief summary of the Priority Projects Report, which included a power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. The presentation covered highway priorities, congestion management, transportation alternatives, transit projects and airport projects from Vero Beach and Sebastian.

Mr. Freeman also asked if there are any comments that needed to be updated on the priorities projects list to let us know so we can incorporate them into the final report.

Chairman Auwaerter had a question about the Airport priorities; does the funding for that come from a separate pool of money? Mr. Freeman responded that it does come from a separate fund and does not interfere with the highway funding. The majority of funding for the airport priorities is funded through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) not the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Ms. Moss had a question concerning the funding for the Natural Gas Pipeline, which shows under the projects for the Vero Beach Regional Airport. Ms. Moss stated she did not see that in the TIP. Mr. Freeman stated the funding for that project would have shown up in the last year's TIP. Ms. Moss would like that information sent to her and Mr. Freeman acknowledged that request. The discussion continued and it was determined the gasline is currently in the

permitting stage and should be started within the next 90 days.

Staff recommends that the MPO review the 2020 Priority Projects Report, suggest any necessary revisions and/or additions, and approve the Priority Projects Report.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the MPO's 2020 Priority Projects Report.

FDOT Presentation on the I-95 Master Plan

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a brief introduction of the I-95 Master Plan, which travels through the counties of the Treasure Coast. There have been several presentations over the past year and this is the final one and includes a summary of recommendations. Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Christine Fasiska of FDOT District Four who will provide the presentation. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Ms. Fasiska stated at this time they will share the final step in the I-95 Multimodal Master Plan and present the summary results that were collected during this process. This study has gone on for several years and is a collaboration of Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin. During this process, the needs for short and long-term improvements were determined. Ms. Fasiska introduced Mr. Eric Penfield of RS&H, the consultant on the project, who will assist with the remainder of the presentation. Mr. Penfield shared the proposed projects that have come out of the Master Plan and the recommendations for potential timing and funding for those projects in the Work Program.

Mr. Penfield pointed out there is a project website where reports, information and presentations that have been uploaded to throughout this process for your reference. The project website is www.fdot.gov/projects/sefl/future/95/treasurecoast.

Commissioner Zorc asked what action would the County have to do to ask for a “stub out” at 82nd Avenue that would provide future access to County’s the property on the south side of the street. Mr. Penfield stated since this is already recommended as a signalized intersection; it would be a minor accommodation request. Mr. Freeman replied there is a project for the widening of Oslo Road that will follow up with that interchange, making Oslo Road a four-lane road. Mr. Freeman stated we could see if that could be added in the Interchange project or the Oslo widening project. Mr. Matson suggested coordinating this with County Public Works on this availability.

Mr. Penfield interjected there may be a limited access line, that may affect how far that

extends eastward which may affect how far access may be able to be granted on the south side of Oslo Road.

Chairman Auwaerter thanked FDOT for their presentation.

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

Consideration of an Amendment to the MPO Agreement for FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained this is a routine handling of modification to the existing MPO agreement (still in effect until June 30, 2020) that would allow \$108k in funds to be rolled over into the new agreement that was adopted earlier today.

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

Other Business

A1A Resurfacing Project

Chairman Auwaerter directed this to FDOT, regarding the 7' buffer lane additions on A1A, he is very grateful they have constructed these throughout the extent of the County. Hopefully by adding these enhancements it will lessen fatalities.

Virgin Trains

Chairman Auwaerter stated Virgin Trains have finally submitted their financials for 2019 and they continue to lose money, particularly in regards to their train operation.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.