

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 9, 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 Joseph Flescher**, District 2; **Commissioner Tim Zorc**, District 3, (10:05am); **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; **Michael Hicks** and **Christine Fasiska**, FDOT (non-voting advisors).

Absent: **Commissioner Susan Adams**, District 1; **Gerald "Jerry" Renick**, City of Fellsmere; **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 Szyrka**, IRC Public Works Director, (10:11am); **Dylan Reingold**, IRC Attorney, (10:40am); **Albert Alvarez**, MPO Intern; **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant 3/Recording Secretary.

Also present: **Mark Plass** and **Josh Baker**, FDOT; **William Roll** and **Zach Chappell**, Kimley-Horn & Associates; **Tom Lanahan**, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; **Melissa Reading**, McMahon Associates; **Sarah Kraum**, Space Coast TPO; **Karina Enrico** and **Bill Smithson**, K-Factor, Inc.; **Natalia Licari**, The Corradino Group.

Call to Order

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

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

It was noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting of June 10, 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 Flescher and SECONDED by Chairman Auwaerter, the members voted (8-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization June 10, 2020 meeting.

Due to time conflicts, Item 13a, under Other Business, was presented at this time

Commissioner Zorc entered @ 10:05 am

Indian River Blvd. /Merrill Barber Bridge Intersection Update

Mr. Freeman gave a synopsis of the changes that have been made or that are proposed. Mr. Mark Plass from FDOT and Natalia Licari from McMahon Associates conducted an update on the Indian River Boulevard/Merrill Barber Bridge intersection.

Chairman Auwaerter commented the vegetation on the SE corner had been obstructing the view and he was happy to see that it was cleared out and expressed thanks to the appropriate parties responsible.

Commissioner O'Bryan replied that any changes to that intersection would be a learning curve for those traveling in that area as it will be a change. Mr. Plass stated it would be good for his staff and Indian River County staff to have detailed meetings regarding any proposed changes with this intersection.

Chairman Auwaerter thanked Mr. Plass for the update.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated September 1 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.

Consideration of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Draft Cost Feasible Plan Concepts

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced William Roll, from Kimley-Horn and Associates, who provided a brief overview of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Draft Cost Feasible Plan Concepts. Mr. Roll was accompanied by Mr. Zach Chappell, also from Kimley-Horn and Associates who was there to assist in answering questions. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Roll reminded the Committee the deadline to approve this plan is December 2020. Failure to adopt the plan by the deadline risks the denial of federal funding for transportation projects. The next step in this process would be to develop a 25-year schedule for these projects.

There was discussion on the Aviation Blvd. extension and how cost feasible that project would be. Mr. Freeman explained currently there is no “grade separation” locations in the County and it will be a benefit to the citizens.

Commissioner Zorc added he has been in conversations with the Airport Commission and County staff regarding the construction of a “flyover” at 36th Street as the cost for this location would drastically reduce the estimated \$90 million dollar cost of this project.

Commissioner O’Bryan stated for the record, he is still opposed to four-laning 43rd Street, south to 16th Street.

The MPO will conduct virtual workshops on September 15th at 6:00pm and September 16th at 2:00pm. The MPO has publicized these workshops by using the MPO’s electronic newsletter, “The MPOverview”, the MPO website, and doing mass mailings through Constant Contact.

Mr. Freeman added, for those who are familiar with the 2040 plan that was adopted five years ago, if you look at the table of projects, it is basically the same as you see today. Projects that are high priority like the Oslo Road Interchange and CR510 are included in this plan. The Aviation Blvd. and US 1 intersection is considered a major roadway improvement. This will potentially be an overpass going over US 1 making an extension of Aviation Blvd. to the hospital on 37th Street.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Zorc and SECONDED by Ms. Moss, the members voted (9-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Draft Cost Feasible Plan Concepts.

Consideration of the 2020 Transit Development Plan 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.

For the past 15 years, there has been a continued increase in ridership. Even during the COVID shut down, the numbers decreased but as of this month, we are showing the same numbers for the last year.

Under the capital program, vehicle replacements are ongoing as well as the construction of several bus shelters. Bus shelters have increased with ten constructed this year alone. There was also a discussion on the construction of a new North County Transit Hub.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board.

Chairman Auwaerter brought attention to the fluctuations in the dollar amounts, this is due to CARES money that has been received due to COVID and that does not have to be spent all at once.

Commissioner Flescher commented the operation of the current North County hub operates seamlessly and he hasn't received calls or concerns from the residents. Most people have no idea the amount of traffic that goes through that Hub. Hopefully the new hub design and location will be just as respectfully to the neighborhood.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Zorc, the members voted (9-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the 2020 Transit Development Plan Annual Update.

Consideration of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann who gave a synopsis of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. 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

TIP ensures that the included projects can continue from FDOT's FY 2019/20 Work Program into the new 2020/21 Work Program. The attached Roll-Forward Report, provided by FDOT, lists the projects that will carry forward into the new work program.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board.

There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (9-0) to recommend approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments.

Resolution with the Space Coast TPO Approving the Regional Trail Alignment

Action Required

Since the completion of the I-95 Pedestrian Overpass in 2018, the Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail has seen a tremendous increase in usage. In accordance with the North Indian River County Greenways Plan, future phases will extend the trail west through downtown Fellsmere to the Blue Cypress marsh and north to the Brevard County line.

Earlier this year, MPO staff coordinated with the Space Coast TPO to develop a regional trail concept connecting trails between Indian River and Brevard 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.

Ms. Sarah Kraum, Space Coast TPO, stated they are very excited about this project and it will be going before their Board tomorrow.

Chairman Auwaerter opened the floor for comments from the board.

There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, the members voted (9-0) to recommend approval of the Resolution with the Space Coast TPO Approving the Regional Trail Alignment.

Approval of an Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida

Department of Transportation (FDOT) for 49 USC CH. 53, Section 5303(6) Transit Planning Funds

Action Required

One of the tasks included in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is Task 4.1, Corridor and Congestion Management Planning and Consultations and Task 4.3 Bicycle/Greenways Planning, Consultants. Transit planning activities included under this task consist of administration and coordination of all transit activities. Specific tasks to be completed in FY 2020/21 include an annual update to the MPO's Transit Development Plan (TDP); analysis of ridership data and trends; review of potential bus shelter locations; and maintenance of the transit infrastructure database.

As indicated in the UPWP, these activities will be funded primarily through a Section 5305(d) grant from the Federal Transit Administration. For FY 2020/21, the MPO will receive \$95,122 in Federal and State funds, which will be matched with \$10,569 in local funds. The source of the local match will be a combination of the county General Fund and the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Fund.

To receive the FY 2020/21 Section 5305(d) funds, the MPO must adopt the attached resolution authorizing the MPO Chairman to execute the amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement.

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 Mr. Dodd, the members voted (9-0) to recommend approval of the Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for 49 USC CH.53, Section 5305(d) Transit Planning Funds.

A1A Resurfacing Project Presentation by FDOT.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Melissa Reading, McMahon Associates, who in turn introduced Josh Baker, FDOT, and Bill Smithson, K-Factor, Inc., and this group conducted the presentation on the A1A Resurfacing Project.

In 2019, the Florida Department of Transportation approved a resurfacing project located on A1A from Tides Road to Coco Plum Lane. The project includes widening the paved roadway to accommodate seven-foot buffered bicycle lanes, signalization improvements,

drainage improvements, new signs, and new pavement markings. Portions of the project are located in within the cities of Vero Beach and Indian River Shores as well as unincorporated Indian River County. The project length is 6.74 miles in length.

Chairman Auwaerter requested to have a copy of this presentation emailed to him.

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

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #4 for the 2019/20 Local Program Administrative Support Grant

No 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 April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

The attached invoice and progress report represent the fourth 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.

Attached is a copy of invoice #4 and the quarterly progress report. In order to comply with CTD deadlines, this report, along with the appropriate supporting documents, was submitted on July 20, 2020.

In accordance with MPO Resolution 99-02, the MPO Staff Director may approve minor plans, reports, and documents when such action is needed to obtain final state or federal approval of those documents, provided the director reports the action taken to the MPO and its advisory committees. This is that report.

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

Other Business

Information about IRC Transportation Projects at Future MPO Meetings

Mr. Freeman informed the Board the MPO will join Bike Walk of Indian River County (BWIRC) and County Public Works Department to conduct workshops and public information outreach to inform the citizens of upcoming projects and allow them to voice their concerns.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.