

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, December 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 Susan Adams**, District 1; **Commissioner Joseph Flescher**, District 2 (10:10 am); **Commissioner Joe Earman**, District 3; **Commissioner Laura Moss**, District 5; **Brian Foley**, Mayor, Town of Indian River Shores; **Jim Hill**, City of Sebastian (alternate); **Honey Minuse**, City of Vero Beach; **Rey Neville**, City of Vero Beach; **Robbie Brackett**, (alternate), City of Vero Beach; **Gerald "Jerry" Renick**, City of Fellsmere; **Michael Hicks** and **Christine Fasiska**, FDOT (non-voting advisors).

MPO members present via Zoom: **Bob McPartlan**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Brian Barefoot** and **Jacqueline Rosario**, IRC School Board. (logged off at 10:15 am).

Absent: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, District 4, (excused); **Ed Dodd**, Mayor, City of Sebastian (excused); **Robert Gibbons**, 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; **Jon Howard**, MPO Senior Planner; **Rich Szyrka**, IRC Public Works Director, (10:24am); **Jason Brown**, IRC Administrator, (10:37am); and **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant 3/Recording Secretary.

Also present: **Bob Auwaerter**, Indian River Shores Citizen; **Matthew Mitts**, City of Vero Beach.

Others present via Zoom: **William Roll**, Kimley-Horn & Associates; **Patricia Evans**, **Becki Larson**, and **Josh Midence**, DBI; **Victoria Williams** and **John Podczerwinsky**, FDOT.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by MPO Staff Director Brian Freeman at 10:06 AM. Mr. Freeman stated it will be necessary to nominate a Chair Pro Tem, for this meeting, since the Chair is currently vacant. **Commissioner Susan Adams** was nominated Chair Pro Tem by **Commissioner Joe Earman** and seconded by **Commissioner Laura Moss**, and all members approved this action. Election of a new Chair will occur in January.

Chair Pro Tem Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Commissioner Flescher entered at 10:10 AM.

With this being the first meeting for several new MPO members each member was asked to state their name and affiliation.

Ms. Rosario wanted the record to show since Mr. Barefoot signed on she would be signing off to prevent any Sunshine issues.

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

The introduction of members present constituted as the Roll Call, and it was noted there was an in-person quorum present.

Authorization for MPO and Advisory Committee Members to Exercise Video Conferencing Vote Options

Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained the Governor's executive order waiving in-person quorum requirements was not extended past October 31, 2020 and it is now necessary for meetings to have in-person quorums. As long as the in-person quorum is met, the members participating via Zoom are able to vote, if allowed by those attending in-person. Staff proposes that the MPO adopt such a policy covering all MPO and committee meetings for the next 90 days.

Commissioner Flescher entered at 10:10 AM.

Commissioner Moss expressed concerns about the validity of this practice. Mr. Freeman noted that MPO Staff reviewed the proposed policy with the County Attorney.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams opened the floor for any additional comments from the board. There being no further comments, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Earman, the members voted (9-1) to allow MPO, TAC, CAC, BAC, and TDLCB members attending meetings via Zoom to vote on agenda items for a 90-day period. Commissioner Moss opposed.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting of October 14, 2020

Action Required

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of October 14, 2020. There were none.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Foley and SECONDED by Mr. Neville, the members voted (11-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization October 14, 2020 meeting, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated December 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 Final 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced William Roll, from Kimley-Horn and Associates, who presented the Final 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Roll shared a power point presentation on this plan. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman stated among the most important tasks undertaken by any MPO is the development and adoption of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the importance to vote on this by the deadline.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams opened the floor for any additional comments from the board. There being no further comments, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Moss, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Consideration of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The vote was taken via roll call by the Recording Secretary.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2020/21 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 July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams 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. McPartlan and SECONDED by Mr. Neville, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2020/21 Planning Grant.

Review of MPO Annual Certification Statement

Mr. Freeman explained the process and reviewed the findings from FDOT of the MPO Annual Certification. As it has in the past, FDOT identified a number of noteworthy practices undertaken by the MPO and found no deficiencies in this evaluation.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams opened the floor for comments from the board. There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hill and SECONDED by Mr. Foley, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Review of MPO Annual Certification Statement.

Mr. Matson wanted to extend his thanks to everyone for their hard work and diligence in completing the tasks at hand under these trying times we are going through. In addition, noting this was Mr. Freeman's first year as MPO Staff Director and he has done a great job. Mr. Matson also introduced Ms. Christine Fasiska from FDOT. Ms. Fasiska stated FDOT appreciates their partnership and looks forward to future projects.

Other Business

SRA Safety Award Recognition

This item is being rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances and will be on the January agenda.

Presentation by DBI, FDOT Maintenance Contractor

Mr. Freeman introduced Patricia Evans from DBI, who in turn introduced fellow DBI staff that will be assisting in this presentation. DBI was invited to the MPO Meeting by Mr. Bob Auwaerter to address some concerns expressed by some citizens of Indian River County. A power point presentation was provided and a copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams opened the floor for questions from the board.

Mr. Foley asked about receiving information regarding the periodic maintenance performed, scheduled and by requests, in a report to spot trends. DBI stated usually they prepare a quarterly report, in-house, but they can provide that information to the MPO on a quarterly basis. Mr. Freeman stated the MPO would coordinate with DBI and FDOT Operations to receive this information.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams extended thanks to DBI for their presentation.

2021 MPO and MPO Advisory Committees Meeting Calendar

Mr. Freeman stated the 2021 Meeting Calendar is included in the agenda packet, noting the months of January and October have been shifted to the 4th Wednesday of the month to accommodate FDOT's Tentative Work Program deadlines. During the January 27th meeting, FDOT will be presenting the new Work Program for the next five fiscal years.

MPO New Employee

Mr. Freeman introduced the newest member of the MPO family, Jon Howard. Mr. Howard hails to us from Virginia and the MPO is very happy to welcome him. For the new members of the MPO Mr. Freeman also introduced Mr. Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner, and Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant.

Other Items

Mr. McPartlan asked if the State still offers the "MPO 101 Course". Mr. Freeman will research this and get the information out to the members. Mr. McPartlan stated he participated in this course several years ago and it is an informative tool explaining the purpose and processes of the MPO.

Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Adams concurred this is a beneficial tool for members. We will research it and send the information out to any who would like to participate.

Comments from the Public

There were no further comments.

Adjournment

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.