

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 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/2021.htm>

MPO members present: IRC Commissioners: **Commissioner Susan Adams**, District 1; **Commissioner Joseph Flescher**, District 2; **Commissioner Joe Earman**, District 3; **Commissioner Laura Moss**, District 5; **Brian Foley**, Mayor, Town of Indian River Shores; **Honey Minuse**, City of Vero Beach; **Rey Neville**, City of Vero Beach; **Gerald "Jerry" Renick**, City of Fellsmere; **Ed Dodd**, Mayor, City of Sebastian; **Bob McPartlan**, Council Member, City of Sebastian; **Brian Barefoot**, IRC School Board.

MPO members present via Zoom: **MJ Benedetto**, Council Member, Town of Orchid, (non-voting member).

Absent: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, District 4, (excused).

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

Also present: **Gerry O'Reilly**, **Leslie Wetherell**, **Steve Braun**, and **Dan Hiden**, FDOT; **Karen Deigl**, Senior Resource Association; **Melissa Ellison**, Bike Walk of Indian River County (BWIRC).

Others present via Zoom: **Michael Hicks** and **Christine Fasiska**, **Victoria Williams**, **John Podczerwinsky**, **John Krane**, **Keith Bennis**, **Sabrina Aubery**, **Shandra Haynes**, **Caren Gardner-Young**, **Mark Magdar**, **pg404wc**, and **pg404kr**, FDOT; **Noah Powers**, Town of Orchid; **William Roll**, Kimley-Horn & Associates; **Hugh Aaron**, (BWIRC); **Paul Morris**, Indian River Charter High School student.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Flescher at 10:04 AM. It was noted there was an in-person quorum present.

Election of Officers.

Action Required

ON MOTION by Commissioner Moss and SECONDED by Ms. Minuse, the members voted (11-0) to elect Joseph Flescher as Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2021.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Mayor Dodd, the members voted (11-0) to elect Bob McPartlan as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2021.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Earman and SECONDED by Mr. Neville the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Commissioner Adams as the Metropolitan Planning Organization Representative for the 2021 MPOAC Governing Board.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting December 9, 2020.

Action Required

Chairman Flescher asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of December 9, 2020. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mayor Dodd and SECONDED by Commissioner Moss, the members voted (11-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization December 9, 2020 meetings, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 19, 2021, 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 FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2021/22 through 2025/26.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT District Secretary who presented FDOT's Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2021/22 through 2025/26 using a power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

According to Mr. O'Reilly, this presentation is coming a little later than in previous years due to the fiscal impacts of COVID. The statewide impact of COVID has resulted in a loss of \$1.359 billion in revenue over this five-year period. Mr. O'Reilly stated that safety is and always has been the most important thing and there weren't any cuts in this area. FDOT still takes the "4 E" approach to safety: Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Response. Mr. O'Reilly provided a detailed explanation of what is involved in the process of compiling the information for the work program, highlighting the importance of maintenance, stating the funding for these projects comes right off the top. This year there are more funds in resurfacing than past years.

Ms. Wetherell showed a map highlighting the areas of priorities, giving updates and status reports on those areas shown.

Commissioner Moss asked about the status of the turning lanes on the 17th Street Bridge and the Barber Bridge, (turning lanes heading north). Ms. Wetherell stated there is a resurfacing project in that area and the turn lanes may be included in that project. Ms. Wetherell will look into this and provide an update.

Commissioner Moss asked if at the next MPO meeting an update on the changes that have been taken at the intersection of Indian River Blvd. and the Barber Bridge. Mr. Freeman stated that would be added to the agenda.

Mr. Neville inquired about the resurfacing project on A1A, from Beachland south to 17th Street regarding the crosswalks. Currently there is no way to cross safely. Mr. O'Reilly will research this project.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Earman and SECONDED by Commissioner Susan Adams, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval FDOT's Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2021/22 through 2025/26, as presented.

Adoption of MPO Performance Measure Safety Targets.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a presentation on the MPO Performance Safety Targets. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office. MPO staff is recommending again this year that the MPO adopt the State's "Vision Zero" safety targets.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board. There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Earman and SECONDED by Mr. Foley, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Adoption of MPO Performance Measure Safety Targets, as presented.

Adoption of MPO Transit Safety Targets.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated over the past year the Federal Transit Association has required MPO's across the country to set safety targets for transportation systems. Last year, Indian River County adopted the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), and now the MPO is required to set performance targets for transit safety. Mr. Freeman provided a power point presentation showing various categories and target goals. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Ms. Minuse and SECONDED by Commissioner Moss, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Adoption of MPO Transit Safety Targets.

Other Business

Senior Resource Association Safety Award Recognition

Mr. Freeman wanted to recognize the Senior Resource Association (SRA) and Ms. Karen Deigl, Director. At the 2020 FPTA Bus Safety and Security Excellence Awards presentation the Senior Resource Association was presented with the Gold Award. There was one gold award granted within each of the categories. The Gold award recognizes public transportation systems that have implemented programs or projects that achieved documented success in addressing specific safety program areas. This is the highest safety award a transit agency in Florida can win.

Mr. Freeman further expressed thanks to the SRA for the great job they have done over the past year keeping the buses running during this pandemic. Their efforts in keeping the buses properly sanitized and running along with the new safety plan are greatly appreciated. Currently the ridership numbers are almost where they were pre-COVID.

Ms. Deigl thanked the MPO and the County for their partnership and Chairman Flescher related there has been a notable decrease in complaints received in his office.

Visioning Strategies.

Mr. Freeman announced this is one of the projects the MPO will be undertaking later this year which is a visioning effort focusing on the growth that is taking place throughout the County. The information obtained may be used in the MPO's upcoming plans, including the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. The information collected will be used not only in the MPO but also with the City and County. Once the scope of services has been compiled it will be brought back to the MPO for review and approval at the next meeting on March 10.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Paul Morris, an Indian River Charter High School student who conducted a presentation on the intersection of 58th Avenue and College Lane and expressing his concerns. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Chairman Flescher thanked Mr. Morris for taking the time to address the MPO. Chairman Flescher asked if Mr. Szpyrka would be able to conduct a traffic study on this and return with an update.

Commissioner Moss stated she would like this put on a future agenda.

Mr. Jason Brown stated he would direct staff to do a study in the next couple of months and bring back the results.

Mr. Szpyrka stated they would do the study, but keep in mind there are many factors involved in the process and it may take some time.

Mr. McPartlan asked if every school zone has been reviewed to make sure they meet all safety requirements. Chairman Flescher that each school zone has to be reviewed individually as each one is a different situation.

Ms. Ellison, a concerned citizen, wanted to express her support for Mr. Morris and his presentation and wanted to offer some of her own statements.

Mr. Renick thanked Ms. Ellison for her comments and Mr. Morris for his presentation.

Adjournment

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.