

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 9, 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 in Attendance:

Commissioner Susan Adams, District 1
Commissioner Joseph Flescher, District 2, Chairman
Commissioner Joe Earman, District 3
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan, District 4
Commissioner Laura Moss, District 5
Brian Foley, Mayor, Town of Indian River Shores
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Robert Brackett, (alternate), City of Vero Beach
Ed Dodd, Mayor, City of Sebastian
Bob McPartlan, Vice Chairman, City of Sebastian
Gerald "Jerry" Renick, City of Fellsmere

Members Absent:

Rey Neville, City of Vero Beach (Excused)
Mary Jane Benedetto, Town of Orchid (non-voting member)

Members Present via Zoom:

Brian Barefoot, Indian River County School Board

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner
Jon Howard, MPO Senior Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III/Recording Secretary
Phil Matson, IRC Community Development Director
Rich Szyrka, IRC Public Works Director
Jason Brown, County Administrator

Others Present:

Christine Fasiska and Cesar Martinez, FDOT

Chief David Currey, Vero Beach Police Department
Deputy Doug McKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Nickolas Huckabee and Corporal William Fenton, Florida Highway Patrol
Darren Guettler, Knight, McGuire & Associates
Ervin Cartwright, William Rigby, and Vernon Reason, Concerned Citizens

Others present via Zoom:

Marsha Taylor and Caryn Gardner-Young, FDOT
Kelley Klepper, William Roll and Mike Vaudo, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Kathleen Dempsey, The Corradino Group
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Brian Nolan, Lucido & Associates

Call to Order

Chairman Flescher called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. It was noted there was an in-person quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting May 12, 2021.

Action Required

Chairman Flescher asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of May 12, 2021.

ON MOTION by Mr. Foley, and SECONDED by Ms. Minuse, the members voted (9-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization May 12, 2021 meeting, as presented.

Commissioner Adams and Mr. McPartlan entered at 10:03AM

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated June 1, 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.

Approval of the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2020/21 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant.

Action Required

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 Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan, and SECONDED by Mr. McPartlan, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2020/21 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant, as presented.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2021/22 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated this is a routine matter we do every year. The purpose of the planning grant is to obtain funds to cover the planning related costs incurred by the MPO in fulfilling the MPO’s duties and responsibilities associated with the state-mandated transportation disadvantaged program.

Staff recommends that the MPO approve the agreement.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O’Bryan, and SECONDED by Commissioner Adams, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2021/22 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement, as presented.

Presentation by FDOT on Safety and Operational Improvements at the Indian River Boulevard/Merrill Barber Bridge Intersection (SR 60).

No Action Required, but a motion was made

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Cesar Martinez, Project Development Manager from FDOT District 4, who conducted the presentation. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Martinez discussed the conceptual plan and answered questions received from the members.

Chief Currey, City of Vero Beach Police Department, provided some statistics for that intersection, noting the majority of accidents occurring in this area are rear-enders. In fact, out of the last 14 accidents at that intersection, eight of them have been rear-enders. Furthermore, out of those eight, four have been from vehicles heading west on the bridge. A question was asked if any of these accidents involved bicyclists and the answer was no.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated this is not listed as an action item, but asked if there should be some type of motion. Mr. Freeman stated consensus would be fine, but an actual motion is acceptable. This item is on our Priority Projects list for possible funding.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, and SECONDED by Mr. Dodd, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Conceptual Plan for Safety and Operational Improvements at the Indian River Boulevard/Merrill Barber Bridge Intersection (SR 60), as presented.

Commissioner O'Bryan asked representatives from the Florida Highway Patrol and Indian River County Sheriff's Office for their input and they concurred with the improvements.

Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2021/22 – 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann who conducted this presentation. Mr. Mann explained the process and steps involved with the TIP. A power point presentation was shown, a copy of which is in the MPO office. Mr. Freeman stated he researched previous TIP's over the past 20 years and this is the highest level of transportation funding yet at over \$300 Million in the five-year program.

Commissioner O'Bryan would like to see a letter sent to FDOT thanking them for their continued support and funding assistance. Mr. Freeman noted the MPO would follow through with this request.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for additional comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, and SECONDED by Commissioner Adams, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/22 – 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented.

Consideration of the 2021 Priority Projects Report.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman conducted this presentation noting each year, all Florida MPO's are required to submit to FDOT a priority projects report that lists the MPO's highway, transportation alternates, congestion management process, transit and airport priority projects. The annual priority projects report is the process in which transportation improvement projects are added to the new fifth year of FDOT's work program each year.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, and SECONDED by Commissioner Adams, the members voted (11-0) to approve the 2021 Priority Projects Report, as presented.

Kickoff Presentation for Land Use Visioning.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a brief summary on the Visioning project and introduced Mr. William Roll and Mr. Kelley Klepper, from Kimley-Horn and Associates, who conducted the power point presentation on this item. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Roll explained the purpose of the study, covering future challenges, and issues, particularly those faced by agriculture.

Mr. Klepper continued the presentation acknowledging Indian River County has capacity for approximately 35k new future residential units inside the urban service area plus 10K units that have already been approved. During this presentation, Mr. Klepper showed planning techniques that have worked in other communities, which are similar to Indian River County. Some of the items Mr. Klepper covered were agrihoods, cluster subdivisions, new towns and transfer of development rights. Mr. Klepper stated there would be public outreach, including two public workshops.

Chairman Flescher opened the floor for comments from the board.

Commissioner O'Bryan had some comments and suggestions: focus on how to add more value to agricultural land, expanding the range of allowable uses for agricultural land, clustering residential uses and the possibility of building medical facilities out west.

Other Business.

Ms. Minuse wanted to thank the County for settling the lawsuit with Brightline and would like a presentation on this at the next MPO meeting in September.

Commissioner Moss asked if there were any updates on the two separate fatalities that occurred on Indian River Boulevard during the Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Freeman introduced Lieutenant Nickolas Huckabee from the Florida Highway Patrol office to answer that question. Lieutenant Huckabee stated at this time both accidents are under investigation and he is not able to discuss the particulars. Lieutenant Huckabee did state the cause appears to be vehicles veered out of their lanes. Noting that even with wider bike lanes it would not have prevented these accidents.

Comments from the Public

One member of the public asked about receiving a copy of the meeting minutes. Staff stated if he provided his email, we could send them to him. Staff also stated the minutes and videos of every meeting are posted on the MPO website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.