

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, in County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach.

Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/MPO/2022.htm>

MPO Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Susan Adams, District 1
Commissioner Joseph Flescher, District 2,
Commissioner Joe Earman, District 3
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan, District 4
Bob Auwaerter, Councilmember, Town of Indian River Shores
Honey Minuse, Councilmember, City of Vero Beach, **Vice Chairman**
Rey Neville, Vice-Mayor, City of Vero Beach
Ed Dodd, Councilmember, City of Sebastian, **Chairman**
Bob McPartlan, City of Sebastian
Gerald "Jerry" Renick, Councilmember, City of Fellsmere
Jacqueline Rosario, (alternate), Indian River County School Board
Mary Jane Benedetto, Town of Orchid (non-voting member)

Others Absent:

Commissioner Laura Moss, District 5
Brian Barefoot, Indian River County School Board

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others Present:

Marsha Taylor and Christine Fasiska, FDOT D4
William Roll, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Bob Ulevich, Corrigan Ranch
Larry Reisman, TC Palm
Andrew Kennedy, Concerned Citizen
John Frederick Lang, St. Johns Improvement District (SJID)

Other Presenters (via Zoom):

Gevin McDaniel, FDOT D4

Danny Jaye, Bike Walk Indian River County (BWIRC)

Call to Order

Chairman Dodd called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. It was noted that there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting April 13, 2022.

Action Required

Chairman Dodd asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of April 13, 2022. There were none.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, and SECONDED by Mr. McPartlan, the members voted (10-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization April 13, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated June 1, 2022, 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 Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2021/22 TD Planning Grant.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated this is the periodic progress report and reimbursement invoice for program activities for the planning grant contract period from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022.

Chairman Dodd opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Auwaerter, and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to approve the Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2021/22 TD Planning Grant, as presented.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2022/23 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 Dodd 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 Earman, the members voted (10-0) to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the FY 2022/23 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreement, as presented.

Approval of the MPO Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Planning (PL) Funds for FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24.

Action Required

Commissioner Adams entered @ 10:07 AM

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, 2020 to June 30, 2022). Therefore, the current agreement expires on June 30, 2022.

At its April 13, 2022 meeting, the MPO approved the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that becomes effective on July 1, 2022. That UPWP covers a two-year period through June 30, 2024. 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.

Staff recommends that the MPO consider the new MPO agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement.

Chairman Dodd opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Mr. Auwaerter, and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (11-0) to approve the MPO Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Planning (PL) Funds for FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24, as presented.

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2022/23 – 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann who conducted this presentation. Mr. Mann explained the process involved with developing the TIP. A power point presentation was shown, a copy of which is in the MPO office. Mr. Mann remarked last year's five-year TIP was over \$300 million and that was the highest so far, but the total this year is over \$400 million, for the five-year TIP. A major factor in that amount is there are many projects are moving into the construction phase, which is usually the most expensive portion of a project.

Mr. Auwaerter explained the hand out he passed out regarding the National Highway Construction Cost Index (NHCCI) as it relates to the amount of funding the County will be receiving. Mr. Auwaerter is happy to hear of the pedestrian and bicycle improvements. He feels this committee should also look at local projects since the MPO adopted "Target Zero", to try to get to zero deaths of bicyclists and pedestrians. It might be prudent to look at arterial and collector roads that the County is solely funding to mandate 7-foot bike lanes and Mr. Neville concurred. Mr. Neville feels it is wise to plan for the future, as there will be a rise in bike riders. Mr. Freeman commented in the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), (which goes in effect July 1), there is programmed an update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. The kick off for this plan will probably take place towards the end of this year. Both the County and the State have been looking at improving the type of bicycle and pedestrian facilities we are including with projects.

Mr. Matson wanted to commend Mr. Freeman for his work and thank FDOT for the amount of funding being received, regardless to the increase of inflation and labor, \$400 million is a lot of money. Mr. Matson also reflected on how far the county has come over the past 15 years or so installing bike paths. Mr. Matson also expounded on the work with the Rail Trail and

the Sebastian River Bridge replacement to have enhanced bike riding paths.

Commissioner O'Bryan emphasized with some resurfacing projects it is not financially prudent to install 7-foot bike lanes due to drainage or right-of-way issues. Staff is doing a great job to incorporate bike/ped facilities, where we can.

Mr. Mann further expounded that some of these big ticket projects (Oslo Road Interchange, Oslo Road widening, and the eastern portion of the 17th Street Bridge) have been accelerated for the first year due to funding from the American Rescue Plan and we are grateful to FDOT for that.

Mr. Renick does support the bicycle and pedestrian access. My question concerns conducting a corridor study on CR 512. Mr. Freeman confirmed that the request was submitted to FDOT to program a corridor study for that. The MPO has not received a response yet, but he would follow up with them, this is something that will probably show up in next year's TIP.

Mr. Auwaerter asked about the Aviation Boulevard and US 1 intersection; what is the status on this. Mr. Freeman replied the PD&E study kicked off in April. This study will evaluate what is the best alternative for this intersection (i.e., flyover or at-grade improvement). This process will take approximately 18 months to complete. This will tie into an extension of Aviation Blvd. and tie into 37th Street to help improve the access to the hospital.

Commissioner O'Bryan had two items he wanted to bring up. There needs to be planning for a new medical mode out west. There will be future growth in that area and we need to start planning now. Instead of spending 90 million on that project, we should be looking at a medical facility west of town. The one bright thing with Brightline coming is that they are double tracking the tracks, they will be able to pass each other and not cause delays.

Chairman Dodd opened the floor for comments from the board. There being none, and the floor was opened for any public comment.

Mr. Bob Ulevich stated Tenet Health is building a 54-bed hospital off Becker Road in St. Lucie County which is being driven by competition not the population. With that in mind, he would like the MPO to look at future growth regarding the 82nd Avenue/CR 510 project areas.

There being no 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 2022/23 – 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented.

Approval of the 2022 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 Dodd opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Adams, and SECONDED by Ms. Minuse, the members voted (11-0) to approve the 2022 Priority Projects Report, as presented.

Summary of Visioning Outreach and Upcoming Activities.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. William Roll of Kimley-Horn & Associates who provided a brief summary updating the board members on the recent visioning outreach activities. There were seven workshops at various locations and times throughout the community. The purpose of these additional workshops was to reach more of the communities in Indian River and to give the public chance to attend, supply their comments and thoughts. More than 300 residents attended these workshops. There was also a meeting with high school students and it was interesting to hear their views and input. Kimley-Horn & Associates is currently in the process of preparing the data and information collected and will make a formal presentation to the MPO at the September meeting.

This is an informational item and therefore no action is required.

Consideration of General Planning Consultant (GPC) Proposed Scope of Services.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman reported that in October of 2018, the MPO authorized staff to hire three General Planning Consultants (GPC's) to undertake various Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Planning tasks that require consultant services. He noted that those contracts are set to expire in October 2022. Staff has prepared a scope of services of potential consultant tasks and is requesting authorization to advertise for a new round of GPC's.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (11-0) to approve the General Planning Consultant (GPC) Proposed Scope of Services, as presented.

Appointment to the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman gave a brief synopsis of what the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board is and what their duties are. As the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA), one of the responsibilities of the MPO is to appoint community representatives to the TDLCB. At this time, there are three vacancies on the TDLCB: Citizen Advocate, Senior Community and Children-at-Risk Representatives. An application has been submitted by Danica David to fill the Citizen Advocate vacancy previously held by Mr. Chuck McGinness who resigned in 2021. Ms. David is a current resident of Indian River County and is the owner/operator of Precision Kut Pet Grooming, Inc.

The staff recommends that the MPO approve Danica David as the Citizen Advocate.

Chairman Dodd 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 Earman, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Appointment to the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board, as presented.

Presentation on Audible & Vibratory Treatment (AVT) for Bike Lanes.

No Action Required

Mr. Danny Jaye with Bike Walk Indian River County, (BWIRC), opened this item with a power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. Mr. Jaye stated that BWIRC's goal is to make Indian River County safer for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

Mr. Jaye reviewed the recent bicycle/pedestrian accidents and highlighted the topic of AVTs (rumble strips), stating there are many different designs and the concerns that bicyclists have with them. BWIRC asked FDOT and others to investigate designs and find the ones that are bicycle and motorist tolerable, and community friendly.

Mr. Gevin McDaniel, with FDOT, continued the discussion with a power point presentation on Audible and Vibratory Treatments. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. During the presentation, Mr. McDaniel covered the benefit/cost analysis of AVTs, the various types (cylindrical and sinusoidal) and pointed out the differences between the two.

Mr. Freeman stated he would talk with FDOT staff to see about Indian River being part of the testing using these strips.

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

Other Business.

No Action Required

Commissioner O'Bryan would like to offer a motion to send thank you letters to FDOT's District Secretary Gerry O'Reilly, Representative Erin Grall, and Senator Debbie Mayfield, signed by the MPO Chairman, for their support and assistance in the funding Indian River has received to accelerate the major projects that are on the TIP.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, and SECONDED by Mr. Auwaerter, the members voted (11-0) to send thank you letters to FDOT's District Secretary Gerry O'Reilly, Representative Erin Grall, and Senator Debbie Mayfield , as motioned.

Comments from the Public.

Mr. Jaye requested that the MPO make a motion in support of FDOT pursuing a demonstration project installing the AVTs in Indian River County.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, and SECONDED by Ms. Rosario, the members voted (11-0) to send a letter to FDOT asking to be considered as a test location for trying out the sinusoidal strips, as motioned.

Mr. McPartlan stated it would be a good idea to discuss this with the residents in the proposed area to get their feelings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.