

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (MPOTAC) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2008, in Conference Room "B1-501" in Building "B" of the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: **Chairman Jason Nunemaker**, City Manager, City of Fellsmere; **Robert Keating**, IRC Community Development Director; **James Davis** (arrived at 10:31 a.m.), IRC Public Works Director; **Chris Mora** (arrived at 10:10 a.m.) IRC Assistant Public Works Director; **Jason Brown**, IRC Office of Management and Budget Director; **Rebecca Grohall**, Growth Management Director City of Sebastian; **Eric Menger**, Airport Director, City of Vero Beach; **Joseph Griffin**, Sebastian Airport Director; **Deb Branwell**, Town Manager, Town of Orchid; **Ruth Freeman-Wheeler**, IRC School Board; and **William Schauman**, Town of Indian River Shores.

Absent were: **Sergeant James Stewart**, IRC Sheriff's Department; **Karen Wood**, Senior Resource Association; **Tim McGarry**, Planning Director and **Monte Falls**, Public Works and Engineering Director, City of Vero Beach; **Lois Bush** and **Gustavo Schmidt**, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); **Wanda Parker-Garvin**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDOEP); and **Dave Fischer**, Engineer, City of Sebastian.

Also present was IRC staff: Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director; Sutapa Chatterjee, MPO Planner; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others Present: Herb Whittall, MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) member; James Granse, Interested Citizen; Julianne Price, IR Health Department; Stewart Roberts and Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn & Associates; Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra; and Dr. Dan McIntyre, Director of Operations, IRC School Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Nunemaker called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by Mr. Keating, SECONDED by Mr. Menger, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes of February 22, 2008 as

presented.

Consideration of the Draft North Indian River County Greenways Plan

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director, referred to the memorandum dated March 19, 2008, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He explained greenways were off-road bicycle/pedestrian conservation facilities that could be protected or constructed to give people the off-road hiking, biking experience that they lack from the information gathered during the visioning exercises conducted in IRC.

Mr. Matson introduced the consultant team: Stewart Robertson, Project Manager from Kimley-Horn & Associates; Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn & Associates; and Ryan Morrell, CivaTerra.

Mr. Robertson gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He related the objectives of the plan were largely to provide a comprehensive, conceptual master plan for identifying and defining the greenways. This plan was meant to be long-term projects that can help the MPO and various local municipalities fulfill their vision for the greenways system.

Mr. Mora arrived at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Robertson noted research has shown nearly half of all trips taken in the United States are actually less than 3 miles in length and 28% are less than 1 mile in length. Those were the types of trips which could be targeted for conversion to bicycle and pedestrian trips.

Mr. Robertson went over the 21 projects on the Completed Selection & Evaluation Matrix contained in the agenda packet. He noted the City of Fellsmere had recently been awarded a grant to develop a trailhead project west of Interstate 95 for the Trans-Florida Railroad Corridor called the Fellsmere Preserve Trailhead.

Mr. Morrell explained the necessity of forming a Greenways Management Committee consisting of representatives from local governments, public, and advocacy groups which would help determine the feasibility of developing the trails, prioritization, funding to develop the trails, and discuss access. He continued potential members all these groups are in the process of being identified that would know the area and the facilities to move past the planning stage and help ensure the system became a reality.

Mr. Robertson added the upcoming tasks would include the following:

- Additional Meetings for showing the Draft Plan to obtain comments and feedback. The first public meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008
- Revision of the Draft Plan
- Develop Goals and Objectives
- Developing the Greenways Management Committee
- Approval of final Plan

Discussion ensued regarding the 21 listed trails, how they were rated, and their feasibility.

Mr. Davis arrived at 10:31 a.m.

Chairman Nunemaker opined something regarding property owner support should be added to the list of evaluation criteria to aid in obtaining potential grant monies and he had concerns about having bike lanes attached to roadways versus making wider sidewalks.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of having wider sidewalks. Mr. Mora stated there were issues regarding the allotted right-of-way (ROW), in most cases sidewalks were allotted 5-feet. Mr. Keating added on some roads there were constraints such as railroads or canals on one side so a sidewalk may not be able to be put on those sides.

Ms. Grohall pointed out there were two types of bikers; the professional biker and the family bikers. To accommodate both there would have to be a lot of ROW.

Mr. Matson asked about the various methods of differentiating bike lanes. Mr. Robertson replied colored markings were one option or small bumps could be used. The main problem with those options were maintenance issues and the increased costs involved.

Mr. Menger left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Consideration of Initiating Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Study at Thompson Elementary School

Mr. Matson introduced Dr. Dan McIntyre, Director of Operations, IRC School Board. Mr. Matson went on to explain the MPO was assigned the task of choosing one school in the county and making it a pilot study for walkability for the students in the area, thus reducing student transportation costs.

Mr. Matson noted Thompson Elementary School was selected because it was located in an area with a high proportion of pupils walking. Consultants were contacted concerning this project and one, Stanley and CUTR, agreed to undertake the project at the allotted funds of \$9,000 for the project.

The Scope of Services in the agenda packet was reviewed by Mr. Matson. The proposed tasks were identified as follows:

TECHNICAL TASKS

- Task 1:** Study Methodology and Kick-off Meeting
Inventory of Existing Conditions and Data Collection
- Task 2:** Analysis of Existing Conditions and Development of Priorities
- Task 3:** Draft and Final Report

STUDY REQUIREMENTS AND PROVISIONS OF WORK

- A.** Project Schedule
- B.** Meetings and Presentations
- C.** Progress Reporting and Invoicing
- D.** Submittals

Mr. Matson related the Scope of Services had been shared with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and they had asked that Pedestrian Lighting be added to the things the consultant would look at in addition to signage and pavement marking. FDOT also recommended shaping the Scope of Services to conform to the Safe Routes to School Grant Application process since IRC had been very successful in obtaining grant money for several sidewalks.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Keating, SECONDED BY Mr. Mora, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to recommend to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, their approval of the Draft Scope of Services for the study of bicycle/pedestrian access at Thompson Elementary School and to issue a work order to the Metropolitan Planning Organization's General Planning Consultant.

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees

Mr. Matson explained the CAC met on February 29, 2008 and recommended approval of the Kimley-Horn & Associates consultant's study of the Aviation Boulevard Extension project which essentially terminates further study of that extension. The MPO met and also followed suit by recommending approval of the consultant's presentation terminating further study.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.