

**JOINT MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOTAC) AND THE
MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOCAC)**

A joint meeting of the MPOCAC and the MPOTAC was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 in the County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at

<http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/TAC/2019.htm>

<http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CAC/2019.htm>

MPOTAC members present were **Chairman Noah Powers**, Town of Orchid, Manager; **Eric Menger**, City of Vero Beach, Airport Director; **Chris Stephenson** (alternate), Senior Resource Association, Vice-Chairman **Jason Jeffries**, City of Vero Beach, Planning Department; **Scott Baker**, City of Sebastian, Airport Director; **Matthew Mitts** (alternate), City of Vero Beach, Public Works Director; **Ruth Bommarito** (alternate), IRC Budget Department; **Mark Mathes**, City of Fellsmere, City Manager; **Chief Touchberry** (alternate), City of Fellsmere; **Deputy Doug MacKenzie**, IRC Sheriff's Office, Traffic Unit; **Rich Szpyrka**, IRC Public Works Director; **Roland DeBlois**, Interim IRC Community Development Director; **Lisa Frazier**, City of Sebastian, Community Development Director; **James Ennis** (alternate), IRC Traffic Engineering; and **Mira Skoroden**, FDOT (non-voting advisor).

MPOTAC members absent were **Kristen Daniels**, IRC Budget; **Janie Hollingsworth**, IRC Traffic Engineering; **Paul Carlisle**, City of Sebastian, Engineering; **Karen Deigl**, Senior Resource Association; **Sgt. Kip Benham**, Town of Indian River Shores; **Monte Falls**, City of Vero Beach, City Manager; **Jon Teske**, IRC School Board.

MPOCAC members present were: Chair **Juliana Young** BCC Appointee; **William Lundy Parden**, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee; **Mike Grim**, BCC Appointee; **Francine McElhenny**, BCC Appointee; **Freddie Woolfork**, Minority Appointee; **Clarence Korke**, City of Fellsmere Appointee; **Deryl Seemayer**, City of Sebastian Appointee; **Bruce Hoffman**, City of Sebastian Appointee; **Herb Whittall**, City of Vero Beach Appointee; **Nancy Auwaerter**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; **Amber Cerda** (alternate), City of Sebastian.

MPO CAC members absent were: **Jeff Luther**, School Board Appointee; **Erica Ogilvie**, BCC Appointee; Vice Chairman **Chuck Mechling**, BCC Appointee, (**Excused**); **Joan Edwards**, City of Vero Beach Appointee, (**Excused**).

Also present were IRC Staff: **Phil Matson**, MPO Staff Director; **Brian Freeman**, MPO Senior Planner, **Jim Mann**, MPO Senior Planner; **Patti Johnson**, MPO Staff Assistant III & Recording Secretary.

Others Present included: **Brandon Dambeck**, City of Vero Beach Airport, **Dan Hiden**, **Natasha Wallace**, **Larry Wallace**, **John Podczerwinsky**, **Victoria Williams**, **Leslie Wetherell**, **Sabrina Aubrey**, FDOT.

Call to Order

MPOTAC Chairman Powers, along with MPOCAC Chairman Young, called the joint meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOTAC Meeting of August 23, 2019

MPOTAC Chairman Powers asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOTAC minutes of August 23, 2019. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. DeBlois SECONDED by Mr. Szpyrka, the members voted (13-0) to approve the August 23, 2019 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOCAC Meeting of July 2, 2019

MPOCAC Chair Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOCAC minutes of July 2, 2019. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Whittall, SECONDED BY Mr. Woolfork the members voted (10-0) to approve the July 2, 2019 Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

Review of FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020/21 through 2024/25

Action Required

Mr. Matson gave a brief overview of the Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020/21 through 2024/25. FDOT's work program must be developed cooperatively with the MPO and local governments. That coordination requirement results in a short time frame for FDOT to prepare and the MPO to review and approve the Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program, therefore necessitating this joint meeting. A copy of this document is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Matson introduced Sabrina Aubrey. Ms. Aubrey was the project manager for the Oslo Road project, and is an engineer with the district who has moved over to the Work

Program and is working with Leslie Wetherell. Ms. Aubrey expounded on the steps that are taken in putting the work program together. She further stated there are parts of the program not yet complete and FDOT will conduct a District Public Hearing on October 22, 2019 at 6:30pm at the District Four Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale. This meeting link for this webinar will be provided to the MPO for posting on the website. The Statewide Public Hearing will be held January 13, 2020.

Ms. Wetherell commented on several projects listed in this report, primarily the Oslo Road Interchange and the Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement which are two of the more important projects in the Work Program. Several questions were proposed during this presentation such as right-of-way acquisitions, traffic monitoring system technology and the total costs on some projects. Ms. Wetherell explained to the best of her ability and addressed all of these concerns.

Mr. Szpyrka interjected concerning State Road 60 and that staff is working on the timing issue of the lights after several members of the committees stated there are times when you are able to catch all the green lights and then other times you are stuck with every red light. Another issue that was mentioned was sitting at red lights when there isn't any traffic in the lanes with the green lights. Mr. Szpyrka remarked that county staff will be partnering with FDOT to connect with their fiber network to improve the system.

A question was introduced concerning Oslo Road Interchange (shown on Page 2) and I-95 and Fellsmere Road (shown on Page 6) landscaping costs. Ms. Wetherell pointed out that a landscape engineer is hired who will put together an eye-pleasing and practical set up as the appearance of the layout is very important once the construction is all done. If anyone has any further questions concerning the landscape issues, please contact FDOT Landscape Engineer Dan Williams.

Several committee members voiced concerns over the speed reduction in some areas and they felt that once widening is completed these roads will become speedways. Ms. Wetherell further explained there is a complex formula used in determining the how and why various roads have more lanes and that speeding drivers should be handled by law enforcement. Ms. Frazier also indicated concerns that the six-laning of US 1 will make that road like a speedway also.

Mr. Szpyrka wanted to know when will the project start at State Road 60 at 43rd Avenue. Ms. Wetherell informed the committees this is a partnership project with the County and that there are still some right-of-way acquisitions pending, but it is projected to start in January 2020. Ms. Wetherell replied that she will look into this and get back with Mr. Szpyrka.

Mr. Matson remarked this work program will cover many projects such as: widening of US 1, CR 510 construction, various resurfacings, as well as extending the turn lanes on A1A. Aviation Boulevard PD&E and the next rail trail extension were fully funded and are other major projects in the work program. The bottom line dollar figure on this work program is over \$224

million, that exhibits the great working relationship the County has with FDOT and they see the growth happening in this area.

Ms. Young, CAC Chair, would like to thank FDOT for getting the green arrow installed at 43rd and 26th Street.

MPOTAC:

ON MOTION BY Mr. Mathes, SECONDED BY Mr. Szyrka, the members voted (13- 0) to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020/21 through 2024/25

MPOCAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Whittall, SECONDED by Mr. Korke, the CAC members voted (10-0) to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020/21 through 2024/25

Presentation of Non-Motorized User Count Program

No Action Required

Mr. Matson introduced Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner, who will provide a presentation on the Non-Motorized User Count Program, a copy of which is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Mann explained the vision of the bike/ped counter program, describing the trail counters and how they work, the locations on the trail where they were placed and the data that was accumulated. The initial installation of these counters was in July for a 2-week period and the numbers retrieved from the counters was astonishing. The median number of trail users during that period of time was approximately 90 people a day. On the weekends those numbers increase. Taken into consideration the heat and rain during that time it is safe to say this trail has been a great benefit to the residents.

Mr. Mann extended a special thank you to Mira Skoroden and the FDOT staff for their support in obtaining funding for these counters. The data that is acquired from these devices will be beneficial in obtaining funding for future enhancements on the trail and facilities. Mr. Mann also extended a thank you to the MPO's Intern, Albert Alvarez for his assistance in deploying the counters and supporting tasks involved.

FDOT has shown interest in having MPO take part in their Counter Loaner Program in the near future. The short term loaner program will use pneumatic tubes to count walkers as well as bicyclists. The counters will be placed in various locations along the trail for 2 week periods during the different seasons of the year. In the near future the trail counters will be placed along College Lane and the Barber Bridge. Other proposed locations mentioned by the

committee members were the Jungle Trail and A1A. If there are any other locations these counters may be placed, please let the MPO staff know and they will try to accommodate the requests.

Mr. Mann also referenced another way to track pedestrians/bicyclists is the free app called STRAVA. STRAVA is a social fitness network, that is primarily used to track cycling and running exercises using GPS data.

Status Report of Other MPO Advisory Committees

Mr. Matson reviewed his memorandum, dated September 20, 2019, included in the agenda packet and on file in the MPO Office. Also noting the next meeting dates for the MPO and its advisory committees.

Other Business

Mr. Matson gave a presentation on the 2019 Urban Mobility Report, prepared by TTI (Texas A&M Transportation Institute) which is a national report. CUTR (the Center for Urban Transportation Research) at USF published a study of the best practices in transit system and planning agency coordination and Indian River County MPO ranked number 1!

Mr. Matson further elaborated a big part of our success is due to the great working relationship we have with the Senior Resource Association (SRA), our transportation partner. The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) requested a letter of appreciation be sent to the SRA for their outstanding efforts in operating Indian River County's public transportation system, which will be presented to the SRA at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Matson also wanted to inform the group that one of the SRA's employees was recently recognized in the September 2019 Mass Transit's "2019 40 Under 40." Mr. Chris Stephenson is the Transportation and Mobility Management Director with the SRA. Mr. Stephenson refers to "the public transportation industry in Florida as being one big family. The Florida Department of Transportation, the Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff, the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged and the Florida Public Transportation Association; everyone is passionate about helping others and helping each other succeed." Chris commented this job is all about the people and at Indian River Transit their two top priorities should be safety and customer service.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Victoria Williams, FDOT Turnpike Liaison, apprised the committees of the upcoming projects concerning the turnpike. Ms. Williams also mentioned she just received word that FDOT will be conducting a "Drive-Thru Open House" on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. The

meeting location will be Outside the Desert Inn, in Yeehaw Junction. Ms. Williams will make sure we receive the official notice and Patti will send it out to the committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.