

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, January 28, 2022, conducted and hosted in County Administration Building “B”, Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida with the option for Zoom.

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

TAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Andy Sobczak, (alternate), IRC Community Development
Kristin Daniels, IRC Budget Department
Rich Szpyrka, IRC Public Works
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Brian Benton, (alternate), City of Sebastian Airport
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering
Capt. Al Iovino, Indian River Shores
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board
Chris Stephenson, (alternate), Senior Resource Association
Marsha Taylor, FDOT (non-voting advisor)

TAC Members Absent:

Vice Chairman, Phil Matson, IRC Community Development
Lt. Joseph Abollo, IRC Sheriff’s Office
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering
Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere

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

Others in Attendance:

Jim Cannon, St. Johns River Water Management District
Victoria Williams, FDOT - FTD
Charles Hoffman, Seasons at Orchid

Call to Order

Chairman Jeffries called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present.

Election of Officers.

Action Required

ON MOTION by Mr. Stephenson, SECONDED by Capt. Iovino, the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Jason Jeffries as Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2022.

ON MOTION by Mr. Stephenson, SECONDED by Capt. Iovino, the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Phil Matson as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2022.

Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2021 Meeting.

Action Required

Chairman Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of October 22, 2021. There were none.

ON MOTION by Ms. Daniels and SECONDED by Capt. Iovino, the members voted (11-0) to approve the October 22, 2021 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Adoption of MPO Performance Measure Safety Targets.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann, who provided a presentation on the MPO Performance Safety Targets. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

According to information from Smart Growth America, Florida is in the list of the top 20 most dangerous states for pedestrians (2009-2018). The rolling five-year average for Indian River County (covers the years 2016-2020) shows decreases in the number of fatalities, the annual fatality rate, and the annual average of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. A small increase occurred in both the number and annual rate of serious injuries.

Considering the size of the County, it only takes one incident to skew the average. The State encourages MPO's to adopt targets consistent with the State, which has established Vision 0 (zero), but they may come up with their own target if they choose. There are no consequences for MPO's/TPO's if they miss the target, but all are asked to strive for Vision Zero.

Chairman Jeffries asked if the report could be shared with the members and Mr. Mann stated it will be sent out.

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

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Capt. Iovino, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Adoption of MPO Performance Measure Safety Targets.

Consideration of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced this item stating these are minor amendments requested by FDOT to provide transit operating assistance to two non-profit agencies.

ON MOTION by Ms. Daniels and SECONDED by Capt. Iovino, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments.

Discussion of the Draft FY 2022/23 – 2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman, MPO Staff Director, gave a brief overview explaining the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and provided a short power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman explained the UPWP is required by state and federal regulations and covers a two-year period. All planning activities are organized into tasks. Federal funding is received through grants as well as state and local sources.

The new UPWP will consolidate tasks, going from twelve to seven, which simplifies the UPWP's organization. Mr. Freeman highlighted the planned activities in each of the seven tasks.

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

Mr. Mitts stated he would like to meet with Mr. Freeman to discuss future traffic plans.

Census Update on Urban Areas.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided information on what urban areas are and the role the MPO plays in this process as the transportation planning agency for the Sebastian-Vero Beach urbanized area. The Census Bureau has not yet released the 2020 boundary and population data for urban areas, it has provided information on changes to its methodology for designating urban areas for 2020.

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

Mr. Mitts asked if these changes will affect the county as far as funding and Mr. Freeman replied it is very important taking our population numbers into account with the funding formulas.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 19, 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.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Charles Hoffman inquired if a decision had been made regarding the installation of railing on the Wabasso Bridge. Ms. Marsha Taylor, District 4 Liaison, informed the group there is nothing to report yet. Ms. Taylor gave an update regarding the 17th Street Bridge, stating that the eastbound mobilization is scheduled to begin next week.

Mr. Hoffman also asked if there was any information on increasing the lanes on the western side of US #1 and 510, (west of US 1 on Wabasso Road and 510). Mr. Freeman responded it will be widened in phases, FDOT is managing this project. The design is close to being finished, and FDOT will be under taking the right-of-way acquisition over the next couple of years. Construction of the first phase is expected to start in 2024. This is one of the most

significant projects in the TIP even though the start of construction is a couple of years out.

Mr. Jim Cannon, Intergovernmental Coordinator with St. Johns River Water Management District, introduced himself stating what his role is with the agency.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.