

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:

Community Development Asst. Director, (alternate), Andy Sobczak
City of Vero Beach, (alternate), Danessa Chambers
County Commissioner Laura Moss (MPO Board)
Sebastian Council Member – Ed Dodd (MPO Chairman)
Vero Beach Council Member – Honey Minuse (MPO Vice-Chair)
Vero Beach Council Member – Rey Neville (MPO Board)
Town of Orchid Council Member – MJ Benedetto (MPO Member)
Heather O’Shea – Vero Beach Magazine
Concerned Residents - Joanne Blum, David Renne, Ron Celli, James Kelly, Karen Jordan, Mary McGee, Ken Hendrix, Jan Patrick, Geronimos Dimitrelor, Nancy Neill, Alisa Barkett, Linda Hillman, Lil Miller Fox, Ken Daige, Linda Moore, Shari Stock, Peter Robinson, Melissa McSulla, Robert Bruce, George Blythe, Richard Baker, John W., William D., Karen Hiltz, Graham Cox, William Schrader, Susan M., Gloria Barnhart, Walter and Judy Stachnik and Charles Hoffman.

Call to Order

MPOCAC Chair Young, along with MPOTAC Chairman Jeffries called the joint meeting to order at 2:02 PM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present for both committees.

Approval of Minutes of the MPOTAC Meeting of January 28, 2022.

Action Required

MPOTAC Chairman Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOTAC minutes of January 28, 2022. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes, SECONDED by Ms. Stowe, the members voted (13-0) to approve the January 28, 2022 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2022 Meeting.

Action Required

MPOCAC Chair Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPOCAC minutes of February 1, 2022. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Mr. Woolfork, the members voted (10-0) to approve the February 1, 2022 Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Mr. Freeman commented that a presentation on the visioning study is on the agenda. There have already been many workshops and interest shown in the visioning study. Due to that response, the MPO is in the process of scheduling more workshops in May. If you are not already on our mailing list, make sure you leave your information so that you will be notified when and where they will take place. These workshops will be occurring at different locations and various times throughout the course of the day. Meeting notices will be mailed out in a week or so with the pertinent information.

Chair Young reminded the public the visioning study is not an action item for this meeting.

Consideration of the Final FY 2022/23-2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman, MPO Staff Director, provided 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 and 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.

Over the course of the current UPWP two-year period which will end June 2022, some highlights of projects the MPO accomplished are the adoption of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), annual updates to the transportation improvement program, a land use visioning study, and the MPO also adopted an update to our transit development plan.

The new UPWP, which begins July 1, 2022, will wrap up the visioning study, undertake a major update to the Transit Development Plan, update the Title VI Program, and the Community Characteristics Report. The Transportation Improvement Program will be updated as well the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, and we will coordinate with our partners in Martin and St. Lucie County to work on the regional long-range plan for the Treasure Coast. The 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan will kick off during this period.

Members of the committee discussed corridor studies. Mr. Mathes and Chairman Jeffries stated they both have a few locations they would like to have studies performed.

Ms. Frazier commented in the past a study was conducted for US 1. Should we solicit DOT, or how should we proceed to identify some type of plan. Mr. Freeman explained that US 1 is a state roadway and when it was approved, the funding came from DOT.

Chairman Jeffries asked if the funding for a plan like this is a year-to-year budget decision. Mr. Freeman explained the UPWP is a two-year program, but the MPO board has the right to amend it after it is adopted, providing funding is available.

Chairman Jeffries opened the floor for additional comments from the MPOTAC board. There were none from the TAC, other than a motion and second.

Chair Young opened the floor for additional comments from the MPOCAC board. There were none from the CAC, other than a motion and second.

The floor was opened for public comments.

Diana Hoffman: Is new to the area and wanted an explanation of what exactly this is. Mr. Freeman explained that it is a “budget for work plans and/or studies” of projects the MPO will take on over the next two years. Chairman Jeffries stated this is a work plan and does not affect public policy; the next item is the vision plan. Mr. Freeman continued, every single MPO has to adopt this and any urban area with a population of 50,000 or more in the country has an MPO.

Karen Mills (from Sebastian): How much money are we talking about and is this an estimate, and do you expect to go out for proposal. Chairman Jeffries explained this is the MPO’s administrative work plan. The funding amount varies from year to year. The MPO’s main funding source is from different federal and highway grants. The MPO receives around \$600k a year from those sources. The monies received goes to the projects, employee salaries, overhead, etc. Chairman Jeffries further expounded that all of the major transportation projects in the County, come through the MPO and are funded by the federal government, FDOT, etc.

Melissa McSulla: Does this take into account the environmental impact on projects? Mr. Freeman responded yes, any type of project the environmental factors are figured in, especially when federal dollars are involved.

MPOTAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Mr. Mathes, the members voted (13-0) to approve the Final 2022/23-2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program, as presented.

MPOCAC:

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Ms. Edwards, the members voted (10-0) to approve the Final 2022/23-2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program, as presented.

Presentation on Land Use Visioning.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided some history on this item stating last spring that the MPO approved the scope of services to undertake this visioning study. Since the scope was approved last year the MPO and its' consultant, Kimley-Horn & Associates, have conducted three public workshops accommodating more than 200 attendees. Currently, the MPO is in the process of working with our consultant to schedule more workshops at various times and locations throughout the county during the month of May.

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. William Roll, from Kimley-Horn & Associates, who will conduct this portion of the presentation via a video conference connection. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Szpyrka departed @ 2:15 PM

At the conclusion of Mr. Roll's presentation, Chair Young opened the floor for any questions from the CAC members. There were none.

Mr. Marsh entered @ 2:33 PM

Chairman Jeffries opened the floor for any questions from the TAC members. Mr. Mitts asked if this presentation would be made to the MPO on April 13th. Mr. Freeman replied it would be the same presentation the TAC-CAC just viewed. In May there will be additional workshops and during the summer there will be a final presentation and summary report.

Mr. Freeman directed the audience to the county website (ircgov.com) where there is the link for the visioning web page that has presentations and information previously provided at the other workshops. Staff will be adding today's presentation to that page as well. There is a link that you can click to sign up to receive the MPO newsletter. If you signed in at the table and included your email address, you will be added to future mailings.

Lt. Abollo departed @ 2:56 PM

The floor was open for questions and comments. Some questions and concerns are listed below:

- Encourage local government to annex lands and incorporate this in their comprehensive plans, where rural lands are being annexed in. Include in the comp plan what attracts people to Vero Beach.
- Making business growth in regards to cluster developments known.
- Clarify the vision study – update EAR.
- New town areas, moving boundaries. Right now that is not being recommended.
- Expand service areas, include agrihoods. Agrihoods and cluster developments are some of the things the consultant will look into.
- Accessory dwelling units are also being researched.
- The importance of taking care of the lagoon and green infrastructure with

- low designs.
- The need for more affordable housing is being looked into.

Mr. Freeman stated there are many areas of the visioning study that will need to be refined; this is still a work in progress.

Ms. Idlette departed @ 3:15 PM

- Understanding drainage is an important factor.
- Take into consideration “protected” lands

Ms. Stowe asked if there were any surprises with the rankings and Mr. Freeman replied #5 and #6 were lower than anticipated.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 28, 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

CAC:

There was none.

TAC:

Mr. Mitts spoke about Brightline improvements and the possibility of a traffic signal being installed at 21st and US #1. August –to the end of the year. Mr. Freeman stated he has not heard anything on that, but to keep us informed.

Ms. Edwards commented that is a dangerous corner and it might help to clear out some of the landscape.

Comments from the Public

The floor was opened for public comments and several attendees had concerns involving growth, affordability, Brightline, conservation, the lagoon, and affordable housing.

CAC Chair Young commented there are some valid concerns but this is not the venue for these concerns.

Mr. Erik Ferguson departed @ 3:22 PM

Mr. Marsh remarked the County Commissioners are the avenue to address concerns and you should contact them for guidance and assistance.

Amber Cerda departed @ 3:35 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM.