

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, conducted and hosted in 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
<https://www.indianriver.gov/Boards/BPAC/2024.htm>***

BPAC Members in Attendance:

Chair, Frank Blaisdell, Indian River Shores Representative
Vice Chair, Chris McCarthy, Sebastian Representative
Hal Lambert, City of Vero Beach Representative
Robert Loring, City of Fellsmere Representative
William Kennedy, Town of Orchid Representative

BPAC Members Absent:

Solana Morris, BCC Appointee (excused)

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner
Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner
Andy Sobczak, IRC Planning & Development Services Director
Kirstin Leiendecker, Acting IRC Public Works Director

Others Present - TEAMS:

Lucas Cruse, Patel, Greene & Associates

Others in Attendance:

Residents: George Edwards, Robert Banov, Bob & Nancy Auwaerter
Bike Walk Indian River County (BWIRC): Jeff Maltese

Call to Order

BPAC Chair Blaisdell, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of the BPAC Meeting of January 23, 2024

Action Required

Chair Blaisdell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the BPAC meeting minutes of January 23, 2024. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Loring, SECONDED by Vice Chair McCarthy, the members voted (5-0) to approve the January 23, 2024, Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Presentation of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Proposed Bicycle Network and Sidewalk Network.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided an overview on this subject and introduced Mr. Lucas Cruse, with Patel Greene & Associates, who conducted the presentation. A copy is on file in the MPO office.

After the presentation there was discussion period regarding the maps and data presented, and various areas of concern. Mr. Lambert asked if Indian River Blvd., which has the Greenways, could that become a shared use path connecting intersecting streets. Mr. Freeman replied that is something that could be looked at. There is some potential to connect the south relief greenway canal to the Lagoon Greenway, as there is a lot of property there.

Mr. Cruse noted they have tried to stick with FDOT's level of traffic stress guidelines. Mr. Freeman remarked the first bullet (posted speed limit) is the most important thing in determining what the level of traffic stress is going to be. We're not making decisions based only on the level of traffic stress. That is not the only determining factor whether something is or isn't going to happen. The most important thing we are looking at is a proposed working network, are things we want to modify or add.

This is an information only item, no action is required but Mr. Auwaerter asked that the BPAC make a recommendation to the MPO regarding this item, showing their support of buffered bike lanes.

ON MOTION by Mr. Lambert, SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy, the members voted (5-0) to endorse following FDOT design guidelines of 7' buffered bike lanes for new roads and for resurfacing, achieve 7' through restriping and if 7' is not possible, then 6' will be accomplished, then 5', and down to 4'.

Mr. Freeman suggested to the committee they take the maps home with them, review them and if they have any comments or suggestions, please return them to the MPO and we'll forward them to the project team for consideration.

Consideration of the FY 2024/25 - 2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced this item and provided a 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.

During the current UPWP a major update was completed on the Transit Development Plan, the Bike/Ped Master Plan is underway, the annual adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and completion of the Community Characteristics Report.

Chair Blaisdell asked if there were any comments, there were none. The item was open for a motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Lambert and SECONDED by Vice Chair McCarthy, the members voted (5-0) to approve the FY 2024/25 - 2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as presented.

Consideration of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services.
Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided an overview on this item and a power point presentation was shown. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman stated that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the primary source of annual transportation improvement projects and must be updated every five years. It must be cost feasible and meet planning factors and performance goals, (economic vitality, safety, security, mobility, environment/quality of life and connectivity, operational consideration, and system preservation). There are nine tasks in the LRTP: public participation, land use/socio-economic data development, study area data review and analysis, needs plan, alternatives development, financial resources analysis, goals, objectives, and policies, cost feasible plan, and the final report.

Chair Blaisdell opened the floor for any comments, there were none. The item was open for a motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Kennedy and SECONDED by Mr. Lambert, the members voted (5-0) to approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 18, 2024, 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. George Edwards and Mr. Jeff Maltese related concerns about traffic safety enforcement regarding incidents they have encountered on CR 510 and other locations within the county. Mr. Freeman agreed and remarked he has also experienced issues as well.

Mr. Edwards also commented on a recent bike trip he took from Vista Royale to Fort Pierce, and it appears there is a portion of the bike path missing, no markings or dotted lines.

Mr. Freeman also mentioned to the Committee that Mr. Robert Banov, present in the audience, has submitted the application to become the BCC Representative Alternate. The application will go before the Board of County Commissioners at the April 22nd meeting.

Adjournment

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