

## **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, March 31, 2023, conducted and hosted in County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

*Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at  
<http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/TAC/2023.htm>*

### **TAC Members in Attendance:**

**Chairman**, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach  
**Vice Chairman**, Phil Matson, IRC Community Development  
Ruth Bommarito, IRC Budget Department (alternate)  
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering  
Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere  
Rich Szpyrka, IRC Public Works  
Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office (alternate)  
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach  
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board  
Deputy Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores (alternate)  
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)

### **TAC Members Absent:**

William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport  
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport (excused)  
Lisa Frazier, City of Sebastian Engineering (excused)  
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering (excused)  
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid (excused)

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director  
Jim Mann, MPO Senior Planner  
Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner  
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III & Recording Secretary

### **Others Absent:**

Maria Jaimes & Tony Norat, FDOT (non-voting advisor) (excused)

### **Others in Attendance:**

FDOT: James Brown  
Hanson Professional Services: Julieta Manso & Gabriel Gonzalez  
TCPalm: Larry Reisman

### **Others in Attendance via Zoom:**

FDOT: Maria Formoso & Jennifer Shipley

S&ME: Kelly Farabee

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Jason Jeffries called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present.

### **Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2023 Meeting.**

#### *Action Required*

Chairman Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of January 27, 2023.

**ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes and SECONDED by Mr. Szpyrka, the members voted (11-0) to approve the January 27, 2023 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.**

### **FDOT Presentation on the CR 510 Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study.**

#### *No Action Required*

Mr. Freeman stated this is the phase of CR 510, just east of 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue continuing to, or just past the US 1 intersection. The improvements to CR 510 have been in the top two spots on the MPO's Priority Projects List for the past several years. Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Julieta Manso who is part of FDOT's consultant team from Hanson Professional Services, and will conduct the rest of this presentation. Also present is Gabriel Gonzalez with Hanson Professional Services, and Maria Formoso, Project Manager with FDOT(via Zoom). A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Ms. Manso's presentation included a review of the project design process, accident history in the corridor, the existing conditions on CR 510 and level of service (existing and future). Adjacent projects and design alternatives along the CR 510 corridor were also highlighted. The design alternatives included sidewalks, buffered bike lanes, shared use paths or a combination of those facilities.

Vice Chair Matson stated Alternate #2 is the most multi-model friendly option for the more casual cyclist. The high-performance cyclist will still tend to ride with traffic. The shared use path offers a safer option for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mr. Ferguson stated Alternate #3 would not work based on gutter spread

calculations. Ms. Formoso wanted to thank everyone for their input and comments thus far. Right now, this project is in the infancy stage and all of these alternatives are only very conceptual.

Mr. Mathes asked if 7-foot bike lanes are the trends nowadays and the answer was yes. Mr. Mathes continued, he has seen these types of shared use paths that aren't used that much due to being in the direct sun. Will these alternatives provide a quality analysis and show the landscape chosen? Ms. Manso replied when doing the PD&E Study, landscape is not figured in. Mr. Mathes would encourage this be looked into as the process advances. Mr. Szpyrka asked if the County will be responsible for maintenance, how can the sidewalks be protected from tree damage so the County isn't responsible for covering the costs of repairing the sidewalks down the road. Mr. Ferguson added it is important to look at the trends with shared use paths going through intersections. Ms. Manso concurred and stated the southside is the better choice.

Ms. Manso stated their goal is to come back in June to present some of the concepts they have laid out and get a better feel before the public workshops.

Mr. Mitts asked if there was any news on the Wabasso Bridge. Vice Chair Matson stated we could ask FDOT to present the inspection report. Bridges can be structurally deficient or functionally deficient. Functionally deficient means there are no bike lanes, sidewalks, etc. This particular bridge is still pretty strong, but is functionally deficient.

Ms. Manso thanked everyone for their input and comments and invited everyone to checkout the project website for updates, questions, and information.

This is an information item only and no motion is required.

### **Consideration of the Scope of Services for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update.**

#### ***Action Required***

Mr. Freeman introduced this item and stated the Bike Ped Plan was initially approved back in 1997 with updates approved in 2004 and 2015. Staff included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which was approved last year, an update to the bike/ped master plan. There have been a lot of improvements and growth which has occurred within the community in the last 10 years.

Staff has partnered with one of the recently selected General Planning Consultants (GPC), S&ME and joining us on Zoom is Kelly Farabee, Project Manager, who is available for any questions or comments.

Mr. Freeman expounded on the areas that will be covered in this update, such as: existing conditions analysis (level of traffic stress for bicyclists and pedestrians), prioritization and implementation plan when looking at TAP Grant Applications over the next couple of years and recommendations on types of facilities to include in other

projects. There will be extensive public outreach in this endeavor. This process will look at state, local and county roads.

Mr. Mitts stated as far as the City of Vero Beach is concerned, they are very interested in participating and even though we have been constrained due to no right-of-way available.

Mr. Mathes asks that the consultants pay attention to the Fellsmere area in this process.

Chair Jeffries requested that extensive coordination efforts be made with the local municipalities, do an inventory and come back with some recommendations for the scope, even policies that can be put into the CIE, Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Freeman stated there will be extensive coordination with the municipalities. On the last page you will find the tentative schedule, which will probably be about a 12-month process. Fortunately, this plan is not tied to a deadline like the LRTP, Transit Development Plan, etc. It would be ideal if it could be wrapped up it around the time we are kicking off the LRTP

Mr. Mathes would also like to address bike destinations per se, if a local government wanted to do something such as off-road BMX courses. Mr. Matson stated you could use it as a destination and build bike paths to it, and incorporate it as a major destination. Fellsmere may become owners of approximately 240 acres north of the rail trail. Mr. Mathes expounded he would like to start conversations with a BMX firm to put a nature-based, bicycle type course with the jumps and ramps, etc.

Mr. Ferguson inquired about Task 5.2, is this developed based on existing right-of-way constraints? In the past there have been recommendations that are not buildable, it would be nice to see examples using the existing right-of-way and what could be built if more right-of-way were available. Mr. Freeman stated as for the implementation plan, it would include projects that we could readily move forward with and implement.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments from the board.

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

**ON MOTION by Mr. Szpyrka and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Matson, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Scope of Services for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update, as presented.**

### **Consideration of Performance Measures for Pavement and Bridge Condition and System Performance.**

#### ***Action Required***

Mr. Freeman provided a brief summary of this item and provided a power point presentation, which is in on file in the MPO office, explaining that FDOT requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to implement performance and outcome-based planning practices. He explained that FDOT has established performance measures for pavement and bridge condition and for system performance and for each performance measure, the proposed targets apply only to the National Highway System (NHS), which consist primarily of interstates and major arterials maintained by FDOT. He noted that, at this time, FDOT is requesting that MPO's adopt performance targets in these areas.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments from the board.

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

**ON MOTION by Mr. Szpyrka and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Matson, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Performance Measures for Pavement and Bridge Condition and System Performance, as presented.**

#### **Consideration of the 2023 Title VI Program Update.**

##### ***Action Required***

Mr. Freeman explained the purpose of the Title VI program is to document the methods by which the MPO ensures that its transportation services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. Federal regulations stipulate which elements must be included in the Title VI Program. For the MPO, the Title VI program includes a description of the MPO's Title VI public notifications, a complaint process, and a limited English proficiency (LEP) population analysis with a language assistance plan.

Mr. Freeman further expounded the last Title VI plan was adopted in 2020 and with this update there have been very minimal changes except for updating the census numbers.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments from the board.

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

**ON MOTION by Mr. Szpyrka and SECONDED by Mr. Ferguson the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the 2023 Title Vi Program Update, as presented.**

#### **Consideration of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment.**

##### ***Action Required***

Mr. Freeman stated this is a small amendment adding one project to the

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was approved last year. This will provide the Senior Resource Association with \$72,795 to go towards its operating assistance for door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled passengers.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments from the board.

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

**ON MOTION by Mr. Szpyrka and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Matson, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment, as presented.**

### **Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.**

*No Action Required*

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 23, 2023, 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**

Mr. Mitts mentioned that FDOT was doing a project at the Barber Bridge and Indian River Blvd. as a result of the safety studies to eliminate the free flowing, right turn onto the bridge and adding two lanes for the south bound approach. While safety improvements are good, some comments that may be brought up to the MPO are:

- Make sure the cue line (will be controlled by a signal) is adequate so cars aren't blocked.
- If this could be coordinated with other projects and done in the summer it would be helpful.

Mr. Freeman commented he would pass this information along to FDOT.

Mr. Freeman had one announcement that he wanted to make and inform the group that this will be Phil's last TAC Meeting as both a staff member of the MPO and TAC member. Phil has been a mentor and a lot of what I learned involving transportation has come from him. We would like to thank him for all of his accomplishments. We will miss him and wish him all the best.

### **Comments from the Public**

There was none.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.