

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, August 25, 2023, 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://indianriver.gov/services/metropolitan_planning_organization/meeting.php

TAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Andy Sobczak, IRC Interim Director of Community Development
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere
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)
Karen Deigl, Senior Resource Association
Lisa Frazier, City of Sebastian Engineering
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport

TAC Members Absent:

Vice Chairman, Rich Szpyrka, IRC Public Works
Kristin Daniels, IRC Budget Department
Brandon Dambeck, City of Vero Beach Airport

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 in Attendance:

FDOT: Maria Jaimes & Tony Norat
WGI, Inc.: William Evans
Kimley-Horn: Stewart Robertson
CUTR: Jonathan Roberson

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 June 2, 2023 Meeting.

Action Required

Chairman Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of June 2, 2023.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (10-0) to approve the June 2, 2023 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Amendment to the FY 2022/23-2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained this is an administrative item to make changes to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Freeman further stated there had been a small increase (\$1,414) in the allocation for the second year of the UPWP. These additional funds are from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5305(d) transit planning program. A UPWP amendment is required to receive the additional funds.

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

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes and SECONDED by Ms. Deigl the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval to the Amendment to the FY 2022/23 - 2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as presented.

Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated at the end of each state fiscal year, FDOT typically requests a roll-forward amendment to the TIP. Approval of this roll-forward amendment to the TIP ensures that the included projects can continue from FDOT's FY 2022/23 Work Program into the new 2023/24 Work Program.

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

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes and SECONDED by Ms. Deigl, the members voted (10-0) to recommend approval of the Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented.

Ms. Miller & Mr. Sabo entered @ 10:08 AM
Ms. Frazier entered @ 10:10 AM

Consideration of the 2023 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update.
Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained that according to state and federal regulations, the MPO must prepare and adopt a major update of its Transit Development Plan by September 30, 2023. Every year annual updates are prepared and every five years a major update is required. This year's outreach received more than 1,400 responses, in person and on-line, which is a record number in this County. Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jonathan Roberson, from Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), who conducted this presentation. A copy of this presentation is in on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Roberson's presentation covered the results of TDP evaluation and alternatives development, the outline of short-term and long-term needs, the financial plan, and strategies for implementing needs plans. The top five service needs that were identified were:

- Extend the current span of transit service on weekday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.
- Expand current span of service on Saturdays from 8:00am-5:00pm to 7:00am-7:00pm.
- Add Saturday Service for Route 13.
- Add Sunday Service.
- Increase weekday frequency of buses to 30 minutes on top performing routes.

Mr. Mathes asked if there was a possibility to draw down fund to help initiate some of the short term goals. FDOT has indicated they may be able to assist with this, noting FDOT has helped fund Route 15 (Indian River State College). Ms. Deigl commented that the more ridership brings the cost down and increases the local match. Mr. Freeman added, the funds received from the block grant is substantial. In comparison to Martin County, which is about the same population, our block grant is over twice the size of theirs.

Mr. Roberson expounded that the next steps in the TDP would be to seek approval for the MPO TDLCB and advisory committees between August and September. There will be a final presentation to the MPO and BOCC in September. Lastly the final TDP, with MPO and BOCC approval, will be forwarded to FDOT for review and approval in September 2023.

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

There being none, the item was open for motion.

**ON MOTION by Mr. Mathes and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts,
the members voted (13-0) to recommend approval of the**

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update, as presented.

Presentation on the 2045 Treasure Coast Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP).

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided an overview of what the 2045 Treasure Coast Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) is, stating the 2045 Regional LRTP is based on the 2045 LRTP's adopted by the three MPO's.

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Stewart Robertson from Kimley-Horn & Associates who conducted this presentation. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

During this presentation Mr. Robertson covered the following items:

- Population and employment projections
- Regional goals, objectives, and performance measures (GOPM's)
- 2045 regional non-motorized, roadway, and transit needs
- Prioritization criteria and needs projects

Mr. Mitts asked a question regarding 17th Street to 37th Street on Indian River Blvd. operational improvement, is that signal timing, or what. Mr. Robertson stated it would be capacity enhancements that don't include road widening. Ms. Miller asked if the Roseland Road projects include sidewalks and bike paths, Mr. Robertson stated they will be multi-modal. Mr. Mathes inquired as to the trails and sidewalks, non-motorized. Mr. Freeman stated we are working with the state agency to get those connections. Mr. Mathes also asked if the CR 512, near the farms, made the regional network, and the answer was yes.

This is an informational item, there is no action required.

Presentation by FDOT on the US 1 @ Aviation Blvd. Intersection Improvement Project.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Bill Evans, from WGI, Inc., who conducted this presentation. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Evans stated he is working with Ms. Vandana Nagole from FDOT, present via Zoom, on this project and he will show the various alternatives which will be presented at the public alternative workshops occurring in October. The overpass and underpass alternatives were eliminated based on FAA conclusion, screening evaluation, public input and coordination with the city, county, airport and applicable agencies.

Discussions took place regarding the level of service at the intersection, right-of-

way impacts, and restrictions involved using existing railroad crossings.

For the record, the City of Vero Beach is in favor of Alternative 1, they oppose Alternative 2, and are neutral on all others.

Mr. Evans stated, after the October 11 workshop, there will be a 10 day comment period. The best selected alternative will then go forward. There will be a public meeting on May 28, 2024 and coordination among the municipalities will occur in March/April, prior to the public hearing.

This is an informational item, there is no action required.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated August 17, 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

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.