

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 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 <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/TAC/2024.htm>

TAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Robert Loring, City of Fellsmere (alternate)
Andy Sobczak, IRC Planning & Development Services
Kirstin Leiendecker, IRC Public Works/Traffic Engineering (alternate)
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board
Deputy Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores

TAC Members Absent:

Kristin Daniels, IRC Budget Department (excused)
Sean Lieske, Asst. Public Works Director (excused)
Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office (alternate)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning
William Howard, 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 & Maria Formoso
Hanson Professional Svcs.: Julieta Manso & Cesar Tijerino
TC Palm: Larry Reisman

Call to Order

Chairman Jason 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. Mitts, SECONDED by Mr. Sabo, the members voted (10-0) to re-elect Jason Jeffries as Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2024.

Ms. Stowe entered @ 10:04 AM

ON MOTION by Chair Jeffries, SECONDED by Deputy Chief Shaw, the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Mark Mathes as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2024.

Approval of Minutes of the December 1, 2023 Meeting.

Action Required

Chairman Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of December 1, 2023.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sabo and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (11-0) to approve the December 1, 2023 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Consideration of the CR 510 Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study Alternatives.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Julieta Manso, from Hanson Professional Services, who conducted this presentation. Also accompanying Ms. Manso was Mr. Cesar Tijerino from Hanson Professional Services and Ms. Maria Formoso from FDOT.

Ms. Manso went over the scope of the project, denoting the different segments and alternatives and their rankings. Ms. Manso noted there will be a virtual workshop on February 27th and an in-person workshop on February 29th.

After the presentation the floor was open for comments.

Mr. Mitts asked if cost estimates have been prepared, Ms. Manso stated not yet, but preliminary work has been done. Mr. Mitts stated since FEC is a required partner in this, what if they say no, what is the cost to the public. Ms. Manso replied, if we have to go over (grade separation), that is the greater cost alternative. There are some grants that may be applied for with the FTA. Mr. Freeman noted that a grade separation

feasibility study has just kicked off. One of the MPO's General Planning Consultants (GPC's) is looking into this and a presentation will be given in the future. They will be compiling a list and will evaluate which crossings are feasible for grade separation. Chair Jeffries asked if this is an update to the plan from the 90's and Mr. Freeman responded, yes.

Chair Jeffries asked if there will be any discussions with the individual cities as they're evaluating the crossings in Sebastian, etc.? Mr. Freeman stated he is not sure the level of detail we would get at all the crossings. Chair Jeffries commented they don't want to be surprised at the meeting, there should be discussions beforehand. Mr. Freeman said he would talk with the consultants about setting up a Zoom meeting together.

Ms. Formoso stated Alternative 3 is the most expensive, with Alternative 1 being more reasonable. Ms. Miller remarked closing the Old Dixie crossing will impact the community greatly. Ms. Formoso said this information will be shared with FDOT.

Mr. Freeman reiterated the dates of the upcoming public workshops, virtual and in person.

Mr. Ferguson said the County submitted a couple of grade-separation ideas. Mr. Ferguson commented on the crash diagram. It's surprising there aren't more head on than angle crashes. Mr. Ferguson also remarked he is not a fan of pedestrian bridges, but they are ADA compliant. Also, has anyone done any research on the legal opinion of FEC's authority versus Florida statute that FDOT is the permitting authority on at-grade crossings? It has been discussed many times according to Ms. Formoso.

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

Consideration of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained this amendment is for a grant that will cover the purchase of replacement transit vehicles for a not-for-profit organization (the ARC of Indian River County).

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Deputy Chief Shaw, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented.

Consideration of the MPO Safety Targets.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated this is the time of the year the MPO reaffirms its safety targets. Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Mann who conducted this presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

With the adoption of the FAST Act, (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act), every MPO is required to adopt a safety performance target for five different measures. Each year we have followed the state's lead in setting targets of zero for each of the five measures and are recommending the same this year.

Mr. Mann continued, the MPO applied last year for a Safe Streets and Road for All (SS4A) grant and received the grant. The grant we are being awarded is called a Safety Action Plan. Staff is currently working with the Federal Highway Administration to get the grant agreement in place by Spring. With this grant we are hoping to kick off developing the safety plan to make progress to achieve "Target Zero".

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Loring and SECONDED by Mr. Ferguson, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the MPO Safety Targets, as presented.

Consideration of the Draft list of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Action Required

Mr. Freeman opened this item stating our priorities report is done every year in June. A few years ago, FDOT established a deadline for a draft priorities list, which is March 1st. This is a presentation of our draft list so that if there are any changes or additions, they can be made prior to the March 1st deadline. Mr. Mann conducted the presentation with a PowerPoint presentation being shown. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

The projects highlighted are in the following areas: priority highway and regional highways, congestion management plan priority, priority transportation alternative projects and priority transit projects. Mr. Mann did note that the Oslo Road Interchange and Oslo Road widening projects came off the report from last year, as they are in the construction phase. The Aviation Blvd. widening project has been added to this list.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Erik Ferguson remarked the traffic signal system needs upgrading, it has just about come to end of life. Mr. Freeman commented this could go under the congestion management part.

ON MOTION by Ms. Miller and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (11-0) to recommend approval of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP), approve and amend with the addition of congestion management program update and install new traffic signal equipment on the system wide network.

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

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a brief overview explaining the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and a short power point presentation was shown. 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. A notice was sent out to the different jurisdictions that make up the MPO if they have any project proposals. The deadline to respond is February 16, 2024. In March/April we will come back to you the complete UPWP.

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

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 16, 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

Mr. Ferguson stated at the BOCC meeting on February 6th there will be a presentation on Quiet Zones.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.