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 22, 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.indianriver.gov/Boards/TAC/2024.htm

TAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Ryan Sweeney, IRC Planning & Development Services (alternate)
Sean Lieske, Acting IRC Public Works Director
Ruth Bommarito, IRC Budget Department (alternate)
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board
Deputy Chief Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores

TAC Members Absent:

Vice Chair, Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere
Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office (alternate)
William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Nancy Bunt, IRC Assistant County Administrator
Kirstin Leiendecker, IRC Public Works Assistant Director
Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III & Recording Secretary

Others in Attendance via Teams:

FDOT: Vandana Nagole
WGI.: Bill Evans
Patel, Greene, & Associates: Lucas Cruse

Others in Attendance:

FDOT: Maria Jaimes & James Brown
Marlin Engineering.: Ashkok Sampath & Jeff Weidner

Call to Order

MPO Staff Director Brian Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present; but the Chair and Vice Chair were absent. Mr. Freeman called for a motion to elect a Chair Pro Tem until the Chair arrived.

Election of Chair Pro Tem.

Action Required

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts, SECONDED by Mr. Sweeney, the members voted (10-0) to elect Sean Lieske as Chair Pro Tem for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee, until the Chair arrives.

Ms. Idlette entered @ 10:06 am

Approval of Minutes of the January 26, 2024 Meeting.

Action Required

Chair Pro Tem Lieske asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of January 26, 2024.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (11-0) to approve the January 26, 2024 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

FDOT Presentation of the Preferred Alternative for the US 1/Aviation Blvd. Intersection.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Bill Evans, from WGI, who conducted the presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. Mr. Evans introduced Ms. Vandana Nagole, who is the Project Manager from FDOT.

Chair Jeffries entered @ 10:13 am and assumed his position as Chair.

During the presentation Mr. Evans covered the following areas: the project location, purpose and need; a summary of the public outreach and agency coordination; alternative comparisons; the preferred alternative; TIP funding for the project; and the future public hearing date.

Alternative 1 was chosen as the preferred alternative, a conventional intersection. This alternative will have a 12-foot shared use path on US 1, 7-foot buffered bicycle lanes, 2 bus bays on US 1, a dry retention pond, shared used path and/or sidewalk with bicycle lanes on Aviation and the replacement of the Main Canal bridge.

After the presentation the floor was opened for comments/questions.

Mr. Lieske inquired as to how much right-of-way will need to be acquired. Mr. Evans stated approximately an 80 foot wide strip will be needed and unfortunately it will impact Camp Haven. They are working closely with Camp Haven to get some right-of-way processes started to help them stay in place until the very last possible moment. The next step would be to provide appropriate funding and transactions to go forward so they will be able to potentially relocate. All businesses on US 1, from 30th to 33rd Street, will be acquired.

Mr. Freeman thanked Mr. Evans and Ms. Nagole for the extra work they have put into the presentation to have it ready for this meeting.

Mr. Ferguson wanted to make sure that rail safety is a project commitment with the black-out signs. Mr. Evans said they spoke with FEC last week and they are very pleased with the changes that have been incorporated in this project. There will be signal black-out lights for the turn lanes, so that when the railroad gates are down, the signal is blacked out for the turn lanes. Also Mr. Ferguson mentioned the second-train signs for pedestrians and Mr. Evans stated they will add that to the report documentation.

Mr. Evans added that there is still talk with the FEC about the 14th Avenue potential closing at the crossing. FDOT will be coordinating with the City on that issue. A traffic study was done and FDOT will be reviewing that and a southbound right turn concept from US 1 to downtown. Within the next four weeks we will get with the City on that topic. Chair Jeffries stated the City is concerned about the impact to downtown access so we would be looking for other improvements to replace that one. Chair Jeffries remarked the City has a concept and they are going through a downtown plan now that would include a right turn at 21st Street, that could be shared.

Mr. Mitts informed Mr. Evans that Brightline and FEC have contacted them regarding the 26th Street crossing, there is an issue with the length of the closing crossing gate. The meeting with FEC will take place in April. Mr. Evans stated they would be happy to be a part of that meeting, please keep them informed, that way they can meet internally with FDOT prior to that and have a plan in place.

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

Presentation of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Proposed Bicycle Network and Sidewalk Network.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Lucas Cruse, with Patel, Greene, & Associates, who conducted the presentation on the proposed bicycle and sidewalk network.

Mr. Ferguson asked about rumble strips; could you explain what type they are and where they would be installed. Mr. Cruse discussed the different types of rumble strips. The ones that are less noisy for neighbors are the ones most acceptable to bike riders. The County can establish a preference on which is used and where they are located. Mr. Cruse would recommend following FDOT's guidelines regarding the rumble strips.

If anyone has any comments or recommendations, please try to submit them by April 5. Mr. Freeman stated there will be more refinements made to the plan and then it will be brought back to the TAC for review and approval.

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

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

Mr. Freeman gave 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. 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 the completion of the Community Characteristics Report.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

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

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Mr. Sweeney, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval of the Final 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 gave a power point presentation, a copy of which is located in the MPO office. He gave a brief description concerning the LRTP, explaining that the LRTP was a federally required document that included formal processes for public input, future transportation demand estimation, and roadway analysis and was the source of all federal and state-funded transportation projects in Indian River County.

Mr. Freeman noted since 1995 the LRTP has been updated by the MPO every five years with the most recent update to the 2045 LRTP occurring in December 2020. State and Federal regulations require that the MPO prepare and adopt the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by December 31, 2025. He explained that, consistent with that requirement, staff had prepared the draft scope of services which provides a detailed methodology to be utilized by the MPO's consultant in preparing the 2050 plan update.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Mitts inquired as to whether the LRTP would be an appropriate vehicle that has some type of inter-local agreement with FEC. FEC has indicated they would be open to a discussion county-wide regarding bike lanes, possibly on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Freeman stated he doesn't think this is something that can be negotiated with FEC in the development process of the LRTP. If the LRTP has projects involving rail crossing improvements, we could look at identifying the cost. Chair Jeffries would like to look at these on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Ferguson would like to look into intersection levels of safety basis individually. Does the LRTP take into account ACES, autonomous vehicles, it can be looked into.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Scope of Services, as presented.

<u>**Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.**</u>
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 14, 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.

<u>**Consideration of an Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**</u>
Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated this is an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to provide preemption signalization along rail crossing at 85th Street (SR 510) West of US 1.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for comments.

There being none, the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Mr. Sweeney,

the members voted (12-0) to recommend approval of an Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented.

Other Business

Mr. Freeman introduced the new Assistant County Administrator Nancy Bunt, who was present at the meeting.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM.