

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 23, 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://indianriver.gov/government/boards_and_committees/mpo_technical_advisory_committee/agendas_minutes.php

TAC Members in Attendance:

Chairman, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Ryan Sweeney, IRC Planning & Development Services Assistant Director
Kirstin Leiendecker, IRC Public Works Assistant Director (Acting)
Ruth Bommarito, IRC Budget Department (alternate)
Robert Loring, City of Fellsmere (alternate)
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering
Lee Plourde, City of Sebastian (alternate)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning

TAC Members Absent:

Vice Chair, Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere (excused)
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport (excused)
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board (excused)
William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport
Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office
Deputy Chief Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

FDOT: Victoria Peters & James Brown
Marlin Engineering: Jeff Weidner
TC Palm: Larry Reisman

Others in Attendance - TEAMS:

FDOT: Marsha Taylor & Tina Thompson

Caltran: Group: Jeannelia Liu

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes of the May 31, 2024 Meeting.

Action Required

Chair Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of May 31, 2024.

Mr. Freeman noted that on page 4, Ms. Stowe's comment should reflect 85th Street and not 53rd.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (12-0) to approve the May 31, 2024 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, with the necessary correction.

Presentation on the FEC Railroad Grade Separation Feasibility Study.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated at the last TAC meeting (05-31-2024) Marlin Engineering conducted a presentation on Railroad Grade Separation Feasibility Study. This study looked at all the crossings in Indian River County and evaluated the feasibility for grade separation crossings.

Mr. Jeff Weidner from Marlin Engineering conducted the presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. During this presentation Mr. Weidner explained the purpose of the study, as well as the methodology used for Tier 1 full grade separation and Tier 2 analysis. The following crossings were evaluated as having the most need: Oslo Road, 4th Street, 53rd Street and 85th Street. Oslo Road had the highest crash rating and congestion rating. The third highest crash rating was 4th Street. The crossing at 53rd Street had a lower crash rating and 85th Street had the highest crash rating within 300 feet.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

Mr. Ferguson asked if any pedestrian-only bridges were looked at or was it focused only on vehicular crossings? Mr. Weidner responded they did look at 32 crossings, but only considered vehicle crossings, not pedestrian. Mr. Ferguson inquired

if 85th Street would be a partial grade separation; would that require a public hearing? Mr. Freeman stated they have had the alternatives workshop, but the final public hearing for the PD&E study has not occurred, this should happen early next year, 2025. Aviation Blvd. has concluded their public hearing and are wrapping up the PD&E study. Chair Jeffries added, this has been completed and they are moving into design.

Mr. Mitts thanked Marlin Engineering and the MPO for initiating this study and taking comments into consideration.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

There being none, the item was open for a motion.

**ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard,
the members voted (12-0) to approve the FEC Railroad
Grade Separation Feasibility Study, as presented.**

Chair Jeffries appreciated the coordination and the corrections to the report.

Consideration of the Updated Federal Functional Classification Map

Action Required

Mr. Freeman opened this item stating it is a once in a decade exercise. After each census there are several activities where we update the urban area boundary and functional classification of roadways. Also, FDOT coordinates with all 27 MPO's across the state updating the functional classification maps for the entire state. There is nothing that is being downgraded from federal aid eligibility, but there are several additions and upgrades in classifications.

Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Victoria Peters from FDOT, who is the Transportation Planning Manager continued this presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Ms. Peters started her presentation and then there was a power outage. In respect of time, while the computer and cameras were rebooting, Mr. Freeman advanced the order of the items on the agenda.

Consideration of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment.

Mr. Freeman stated this is an administrative exercise which is done every year because the State's fiscal year starts July 1st, and the federal fiscal year starts October 1st. Projects which have funds left are rolled forward so that projects may be completed.

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

There being none, the item was open for a motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Mr. Loring, the members voted (12-0) to approve the Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) Amendment, as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated August 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.

****Continuation - Consideration of the Updated Federal Functional Classification Map**

Action Required

During this presentation, Ms. Peters explained the role of functional classification, urban boundaries summary, the correlation of mobility/land access, major and minor roadways. Ms. Peters also expounded on the evaluation of functional classification for change, including any additions. The completed activities included: the Board approved smoothed urban boundaries earlier this year, the functional class was reviewed by FDOT, Cities, Counties, & MPO, a draft of the final functional class was submitted to TDA/FHWA for pre-approval and any changes from Central Office/FHWA were incorporated. Roads without broken ground may be postponed.

The next step in the process will be to submit maps to MPO for signatures, then submit the maps to Central Office/FHWA for their signatures and update the Roadway Characteristics Inventory (RCI) system

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any comments.

Ms. Miller commented you did mention federal aid, but are there any grants available, Ms. Peters provided the information regarding grants. Some of the grants have a 2-month turnaround. The FHWA website is a helpful tool.

Chair Jeffries asked what roads are changing classifications, Mr. Freeman pulled up a highlighted map showing the roads which were urban to rural, minor to major collector and additions.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Ferguson and SECONDED by Mr. Sweeney, the members voted (12-0) to approve the Updated Federal Functional Classification Map with the removal of Aviation Blvd. extension as requested by FHWA, as amended.

Other Business

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.