

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, September 27, 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
Erik Ferguson, IRC Traffic Engineering
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Deputy Chief Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian Engineering
Lee Plourde, City of Sebastian (alternate)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning

TAC Members Absent:

City of Fellsmere Representative
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport (excused)
Kristin Daniels, IRC Budget Department (excused)
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board (excused)
William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport
Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, IRC Sheriff's Office

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
Dan Hale, IRC Public Works (alternate)

Others in Attendance:

FDOT: Marsha Taylor & Victoria Peters

Others in Attendance - TEAMS:

Patel & Greene, Associates: Kelly Farabee

Call to Order

Chairman Jeffries called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. It was noted there was an in-person quorum present.

Election of Vice Chair

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (10-0) to elect Erik Ferguson as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for the remainder of 2024.

Approval of Minutes of the August 23, 2024 Meeting.

Action Required

Chair Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of August 23, 2024.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (10-0) to approve the August 23, 2024 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Consideration of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Final Report.

Action Required

Ms. Leiendecker entered @ 10:06 AM

Mr. Freeman stated this is an effort that kicked off a little over a year ago with one of the MPO's General Planning Consultants (GPC). There has been extensive public outreach with stakeholder meetings and workshops at various locations throughout the community. A draft of the final plan was placed on the County website for 30 days for the public to review and leave comments. Some comments were received and based on those comments there were some minor revisions made to the report.

Mr. Freeman introduced Ms. Kelly Farabee with Patel Greene & Associates who is the project manager and will continue this presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

During this presentation Ms. Farabee covered the existing sidewalk and bicycle networks, the successful existing conditions, (Trans-Florida Rail Trail, Jungle Trail and SR A1A), the challenging existing conditions, (canals, the Airport, no grade separated crossings and limited at-grade crossings).

Mr. Mitts would like to see bridges over the canals and asked if was funding available to that. Mr. Freeman replied they could look at the funding available for

greenways and bridge projects.

Mr. Plourde inquired as to what material is used on shared use paths, Ms. Farabee commented that sidewalks are concrete, but shared use paths are asphalt. Mr. Freeman added that next year staff is hoping to add more projects on the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP).

Ms. Stowe noted it would be nice to see landscape covering added, which might encourage more users. Ms. Farabee added that sometimes trees can be a speed deterrent also. It wasn't given much detail in the plan, but it is something that can be looked at to incorporate more landscaping.

Chair Jeffries asked regarding the suggestion by Mr. Mitts of adding bridges into the plan, near 20th Avenue. Chair Jeffries added it has been suggested by the community about having a linear park along 20th Avenue.

Ms. Miller stated there is a location in Sebastian we would like to have added in the plan and that is on Barber Street, near Pelican Island Elementary. The right-of-way is extremely narrow now. Mr. Freeman replied if that is a recommendation from the Board, it could be added to the list.

Vice Chair Ferguson is concerned about Table 7. the priority crossings, the costs of recommended signalized crossings. Vice Chair Ferguson feels an analysis hasn't been done to recommend a signal now. Furthermore, his recommendation would be to remove the specific signalized crossing, remove the treatment, and make a footnote that there would be a study, and these costs assume the signal.

Mr. Freeman remarked one thing this plan has shown is we need to make our GIS data for bicycle and sidewalk facilities more robust. We would like to create one county wide inventory system, whether it's a city, county or state facility.

Deputy Chief Shaw stated there is a need for a pedestrian crossing, just north of 7-11 and CVS on SR A1A. The speed limit has been dropped to 35 mph but there is a need for a pedestrian crossing.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Final Report, with the following corrections: add Barber Street sidewalk to the priority list, changing the term for signalized crossing to enhanced crossing and add a footnote that it is for all intent purposes assume it's a signalized crossing, and install a pedestrian crossing at the 46th E Place Tracking Station .

Review of the MPO Annual Certification Statement.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained the certification process and reviewed the findings from FDOT of the MPO Annual Certification. As it has in the past, FDOT identified a number of noteworthy practices undertaken by the MPO and found no deficiencies in this evaluation. Some the of the highlights include: long range planning efforts and visioning, excellence in public transportation (1.24 million riders, the 12th consecutive year of 1 million + riders, even during COVID), the most efficient public transportation system in Florida (number one ranking in cost per passenger trip), FTA triennial review resulted with zero fundings, bike/ped safety programming reaching out to the PE classes in elementary schools (issuing helmets to all participants), and cooperation in regional planning activities.

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 Deputy Chief Shaw, the members voted (11-0) to approve the MPO Annual Certification Statement, as presented.

Review of the Public Participation Plan Annual Evaluation for FY 2023/24.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman remarked this is not so much of an evaluation, but an overview of the public involvement activities the MPO has participated in over the past year. This is a part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and it covers from July 1st through June 30th period.

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

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated September 19, 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

2025 MPO & MPO Advisory Committees Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Freeman presented the 2025 MPO & MPO Advisory Committees Meeting

Schedule. As a cost saving measure there will be some TAC-CAC and TAC-CAC-BPAC joint meetings as the consultants will be presenting in person. Also, due to that and FDOT's project deadlines there are a couple of meetings that fall on days at different times of the month.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

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