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 24, 2025, 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, (alternate)
Joseph DeFronzo, IRC Public Works, (alternate)
Dan Hale, IRC Traffic Engineering, (alternate)
Cecilia Caba, IRC Budget Department, (alternate)
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association, (alternate)
Jane Garcia, Town of Orchid, (alternate)
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport
Lee Plourde, City of Sebastian, (alternate)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning
Sgt. Roderick Smith, IRC Sheriff's Office
Noah Powers, City of Fellsmere Representative
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board

TAC Members Absent:

Deputy Chief Mark Shaw, Indian River Shores
William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

City of Vero Beach: Danessa Chambers
FDOT: Marsha Taylor-Long (via TEAMS)
TCPALM: Larry Reisman

Call to Order

Chairman Jeffries called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. It was noted a quorum was present.

Election of Officers.
Action Required

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney, SECONDED by Ms. Bernard, the members voted (13-0) to re-elect Jason Jeffries as Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2025.**
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> **ON MOTION by Chair Jeffries, SECONDED by Mr. Sweeney, the members voted (13-0) to elect Alix Bernard as Vice Chairman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2025.**

Approval of Minutes of the December 6, 2024 Meeting.
Action Required

Chair Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of December 6, 2024. There were none.

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Sweeney and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (13-0) to approve December 6, 2024 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.**

Adoption of the MPO Safety Targets.
Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jim Mann, who provided a presentation on the MPO Performance Safety Targets. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

New Mexico has taken the top spot of the most dangerous state; Florida is now number two. The State encourages MPO's to adopt targets consistent with the State, which has established Target Zero, but they may come up with their own target if they choose. There are no consequences for MPO's/TPO's if they miss the target, but all are asked to strive for Target Zero.

Mr. Freeman added, as for our safety action plan, we are working on a model resolution promoting hands-free cell phone use when driving that could be presented to each of the City Councils and the Board of County Commissioners for adoption. Getting to zero fatalities is probably an impossible goal, but it is something we should be striving for.

Mr. Mann stated once we have adopted the safety target plan it would open additional funding sources.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

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

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Vice Chair Bernard, the members voted (13-0) to approve the MPO Safety Targets, as presented.**

<u>**Consideration of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP).**</u>
Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated the two primary functions of any MPO are adopting a long range plan and programming the projects to implement that plan. That program ultimately becomes the MPO's TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). 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.

Priority Highway Projects include: 45th Street "Complete Street" (58th Avenue to 43rd Avenue), CR510 widening, (CR512 to 58th Avenue), CR510 widening, (58th Avenue to US 1), 82nd Avenue new road construction (26th Street to 69th Street), 82nd Avenue new road construction (69th Street to CR510), US 1 (intersection improvements at Aviation Blvd.), Aviation Blvd. widening (43rd Avenue to US 1), and US 1 widening (53rd Street to CR510).

Priority Regional Highway Projects include: CR512 widening (Willow Street to I-95) and 26th Street widening (66th Avenue to 43rd Avenue). The Congestion Management Plan Priority Project includes the replacement of traffic signal equipment on the State Road system within the County-wide network.

There are eighteen (18) Priority Transportation Alternatives Projects which we will work on for the coming years. The Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail (Broadway Street to St. Sebastain River State Park) and 43rd Avenue (45th Street to 49th Street) are on the top of the list.

Priority Transit Projects include the following: construction of the North County Hub, initiate Sunday operating hours (8am – 5pm) and continue construction of shelters and benches.

Mr. Plourde requested Barber Street, (18) and South Easy Street (#10) switch places, moving Barber Street up on list. The reason being that Barber Street is further along in the planning stage.

Mr. Mitts asked for an explanation on how projects stand on the LOPP as far as funding; the work program is the actual funding hitting the ground today. Mr. Freeman explained the whole process.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

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

ON MOTION by Vice Chair Bernard and SECONDED by Mr. Plourde, the members voted (13-0) to approve the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP), as amended: Switch the order of projects #18 (Barber Street) and #10 (South Easy Street), (Barber Street #10, South Easy Street #18).

Mr. Javed entered @ 10:37AM

<u>Consideration of the 2025 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update.</u>
Action Required

Mr. Powers entered @ 10:42AM

Mr. Freeman conducted the presentation, a copy of which is on file in the MPO Office. Major updates are required every five years. The update is necessary to obtain funding in the Public Transportation Block Grant.

GoLine has 20+ years of increasing ridership, the only exception to this was during the pandemic. Ridership for FY 23/24 was more than 1.3 million, and with that in mind the objective is to achieve 1.75 million by 2033. The 2022 list of Florida transit systems operating expense per passenger trip shows Indian River County GoLine in the top spot with $3.10. The second spot is Gainesville Regional Transit System with $5.99.

The past year two new hours of evening service, Monday-Friday were added (7:00-9:00pm), Saturday added three hours of service (7:00am – 7:00pm) and Route 13 was added to the Saturday schedule. During the extended hours for the 4th Quarter of FY 23/24, ridership was 28,153. There was also an increase in ridership from 5pm-7pm by 40%.

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

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

ON MOTION by Vice Chair Bernard and SECONDED by Mr. Powers, the members voted (12-0) to approve 2025 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update, as presented.

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

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 15, 2025, 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 10:49 AM.