

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 28, 2025, conducted and hosted in County Administration, First Floor Conference Room, 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
Chris Balter, IRC Planning & Development Services Director
Richard Reichenbach, IRC Public Works, (alternate)
Dan Hale, IRC Traffic Engineering, (alternate)
Cecilia Caba, IRC Budget Department, (alternate)
Danessa Chambers, City of Vero Beach (alternate)
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association, (alternate)
Tad Stone, Chief, Indian River Shores
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport
Lee Plourde, City of Sebastian, (alternate)
Sgt. Roderick Smith, IRC Sheriff's Office
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board

TAC Members Absent:

Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid, (excused)
Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian (excused)
Noah Powers, City of Fellsmere Representative
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
Addie Javed, IRC Public Works Director

Others in Attendance:

FDOT: Kelly Budhu, James Brown, Victoria Williams, Shania Layne, Katina Kavouklis, and Siasos Fine
Kimley-Horn & Associates: William Roll

Others in Attendance via TEAMS:

FDOT: Marsha Taylor-Long
Inspire Placemaking Collective: Eric Raasch
Patel, Greene & Associates: Kelly Farabee

Call to Order

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

Ms. Idlette stepped out

Approval of Minutes of the January 24, 2025 Meeting. *Action Required*

Chair Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC Meeting minutes of January 24, 2025. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. Sabo and SECONDED by Chief Stone, the members voted (13-0) to approve January 24, 2025 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Mr. Javed entered as a non-voting member since there was an alternate present.

Due to technical difficulties the order of the meeting has been adjusted.

Presentation on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Preliminary Needs Assessment. *No Action Required*

Ms. Idlette re-entered

Mr. Freeman remarked that developing a long range transportation plan is probably the single most important function of every MPO. The LRTP guides what projects get programmed for implementation through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The long range plan is a 20-25 year plan and must be updated every five years. To support this endeavor the MPO is in the process of conducting several public workshops at various locations and times throughout the County.

Mr. Freeman introduced William Roll, from Kimley-Horn & Associates, the Project Lead. Mr. Roll provided a presentation on the preliminary needs assessment for the 2050 LRTP. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Chair Jeffries has some concerns regarding population growth, roadway needs the airport expansion, and employment growth. It would be good to have individual meetings with the staff of the cities to discuss future plans. Mr. Freeman agreed that it would be good to have these meetings and will work to schedule them.

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

Consideration of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Analysis.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided an overview on this item, and introduced Mr. Eric Raasch from Inspire Placemaking Collective and Kelly Farabee from Patel, Greene & Associates who conducted this presentation. A copy of this power point presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Raasch provided an update where this plan stands, noting that recommendations from the MPO and Stakeholder meetings have been included. Mr. Raasch also noted the feedback received from public engagement. There were over 200 responses collected online. Ms. Farabee provided a more indepth explanation on the crash data (types and profiles). Mr. Raasch explained what the next steps are and thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this item.

A suggestion was made to “drill” down in the “Other” category to be more specific on the causes. This category has the highest number of fatalities, and it would be good to see if there are any commonalities to aid in prevention.

This is an informational only item; no action is required.

Consideration of Amendments for the Bylaws of the Indian River County MPO.

Action Required

Mr. Freeman commented there hasn't been an update to the bylaws in almost ten years. These bylaws cover all the MPO advisory committees. There are some things that need to be updated, and it was a good time to take this opportunity to update and clean up the language.

There was a new section added, Section Five, to cover joint meetings of the advisory committees. One Chairperson will conduct the meeting in place of having several chairs and several committees. There will be one group with a majority quorum.

Mr. Balter stated the reason this came about was that the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to look at the bylaws of all committees. So, if you happen to be on any other committees, there will be amendments made as there haven't been changes or amendments to the bylaws in quite some time. Their goal is to have all committees on the same page.

Chair Jeffries commented with that in mind, since Vero Beach doesn't have an Engineering Department anymore, the Cities of Vero Beach and Sebastian requested to have their membership include "Public Works or Engineering".

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

There being no further comments; the item was open for motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Balter and SECONDED by Ms. Chambers, the members voted (14-0) to Amendments for the Bylaws of the Indian River County MPO, with a modification to list "Public Works or Engineering" for the cities of Vero Beach and Sebastian.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 19, 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

Mr. Balter stated the Planning and Development Services Department at Indian River County will be doing the Oslo Corridor Study. The last meeting will be Monday, March 31st at North County Library in Sebastian. There will be two meetings, one in the morning (11:30am) and evening (6:00pm).

Mr. Freeman commented this is Jim Mann's last day with the MPO. Jim will be taking a position with the City of Sebastian and perhaps may appear at future meetings as a TAC member.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.