METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:03 AM on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, in County Administration Building "B", Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach.

Note: Audio and video recordings of the meeting can be found at https://indianriver.gov/government/boards_and_committees/metropolitan_planning_organization_(mpo)/index.php

MPO Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Susan Adams, District 1
Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, District 2
Commissioner Joe Earman, District 3
Commissioner Deryl Loar, District 4
Commissioner Laura Moss, District 5
Chairman, Mayor Bob McPartlan, City of Sebastian
Ed Dodd, Council Member, City of Sebastian
Vice Chairman, Bob Auwaerter, Council Member, Indian River Shores
Linda Moore, Vice Mayor, City of Vero Beach
Kevin McDonald, IRC School Board
Ben Baker, City of Fellsmere
Daniel McEvoy, Town of Orchid

Members Absent:

Vacant, Council Member, City of Vero Beach

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Chris Balter, Planning & Development Services Director
Jim Mann, MPO Sr. Planner
Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III/Recording Secretary

Others Present:

FDOT: Jessica Rubio, John Krane, Steve Braun, Cesar Martinez, Mark Madgar, Binod Basnet, Karyn Vidal, Natasha Wallace, James Brown, Chad Rucks, Marsha Taylor & Tony Norat
City of Fellsmere: Noah Powers
Kimley-Horn & Associates: Marc Ispass
Patel, Greene & Associates: Kelly Farabee
Indian River Land Trust: Rose West
St. Johns Improvement District: John F. Lang
City of Vero Beach: AaronVos

WGI, Inc.: Bill Evans
Resident: Honey Minuse

Call to Order.

Chair McPartlan called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. It was noted that an in-person quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting September 11, 2024.
Action Required

Chair McPartlan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of September 11, 2024. There were none:

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Commissioner Loar, the members voted (9-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization September 11, 2024 meeting, as presented.**

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated December 3, 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. Mr. Freeman also mentioned the vacancies that we have on the CAC board and that they did not have a quorum at the last meeting. The City of Vero Beach vacancies have occurred due to a recent death and another member had to resign due to health issues. The Fellsmere Representative stepped down to age and his replacement was then appointed to their City Council. Staff would also like to add an alternate from the County. In the past the CAC was one of the committees who never had attendance issues in the 15+ years I have been involved with the MPO, but there were two meetings this year that they did not have a quorum present.

Review of FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2025/26 through 2029/30
Action Required

Commissioner Flescher entered @ 10:08 AM

Mr. Freeman opened the item by recognizing FDOT staff who are in attendance for this presentation. For those who are new to the MPO, Indian River County is part of District 4, which runs from Broward County up to Indian River County. The MPO has enjoyed an outstanding relationship with the district for many years. Here to present the Draft Tentative Work Program, which is the district's response to the MPO's List of Priority Projects (LOPP), is Mr. Steve Braun, District Secretary.

Mr. Braun's presentation covered FDOT's mission, safety, resiliency, economic prosperity and the supply chain, technology, and workforce development. The I-95/Olso Road new interchange and widening, east end of the 17th Street Bridge deck replacement, rumble strip improvements, intersection improvements at the Barber Bridge, SR 60 from west of CR-512 to West of 94th Drive, US 1 from N/O 6th Avenue to 12th Street, and SR A1A bridge replacement over the Sebastian Inlet. Mr. Braun introduced Mr. Cesar Martinez who conducted the presentation on the general work program cycle. Mr. Martinez covered the priority projects which include 45th Street (58th Avenue to 43rd Avenue), CR-510 (from 58th Avenue to CR-512), CR-510 (58th Avenue to E/O US 1), 82nd Avenue (from 26th to 69th Street) and 82nd Avenue (69th Street to CR-510), US 1 at Aviation Blvd., Aviation Blvd. from 43rd Avenue to US 1 and US 1, from 53rd Street to CR-510. The Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) will partner with Indian River County and resurface 43rd Avenue from 5th Street SW to 1st Street SW.

Mr. Baker inquired about the widening of CR-512; Interim City Manager Powers also spoke about the need to widen CR-512.

Mr. Balter stated the County Commissioners approved going forward with the Gifford project.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for questions, answers, and comments from the Board.

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

ON MOTION BY Mr. Dodd, and SECONDED by Commissioner Moss, the members voted (10-0) to approve FDOT Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2025/25 through 2029/30, as presented.

<u>**Consideration of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.**</u>
Action Required

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), proposed sidewalk and bicycle networks, and the proposed implementation program.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for any additional comments from the Board.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Commissioner Loar, the members voted (10-0) to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, as presented.

Presentation on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided an overview of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Schedule. According to State and Federal Law, all MPO's must adopt an update to their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every 5 years. LRTP's form the basis of the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), FDOT's Five-Year budget for transportation projects in the Metropolitan Area. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office.

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Marc Ispass from Kimley-Horn & Associates, who conducted this presentation. Mr. Ispass explained the steps involved in putting the LRTP together, including performance measures, resources, and goals and objectives. The cost feasible portion is one of the most important parts as it identifies the phases of projects, (planning, design, and construction).

Mr. Freeman remarked that we are in the early stages of developing the 2050 LRTP. In the Spring we will come back with goals, objectives and performance measures, the 2050 population and how the transportation network will perform in 2050, what the needs are going to be so we will be able to address the growth in population that is expected to occur. Once the revenue standpoint is finalized, we will work on the cost feasible/affordable plan over the Summer. All of this will occur over the next 12 months, and when we come back next year at this time it will be with the final plan.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for comments from the Board.

This is an informational item; no action is required.

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.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for comments from the Board.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Mr. Baker, the members voted (10-0) to approve the MPO Annual Certification Statement, as presented.

<u>**Consideration of an Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**</u>
Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated this is an administrative process; in which when the previous year UPWP closes out, and monies that weren't used are placed back into the work program by preparing this amendment.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for comments from the board.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Loar and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (10-0) to approve the Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as presented.

<u>**Review of the Public Participation Plan Annual Evaluation for FY 2023/24.**</u>
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.

Chairman McPartlan opened the floor for comments from the board.

This is an informational item; no action is required.

Other Business.

There was none.

Comments from the Public.

There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.