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 23, 2026, 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:

Chair, Jason Jeffries, City of Vero Beach
Vice Chair, Alix Bernard, City of Sebastian Planning
John Stoll, IRC Planning & Development Services Director
Dan Hale, IRC Traffic Engineering (alternate)
Kailey Fairchild, IRC Budget Department (alternate)
Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach
Joe Storey, Senior Resource Association (alternate)
Jeff Sabo, City of Sebastian Airport
Lee Plourde, City of Sebastian (alternate)
Chief Tad Stone, Indian River Shores
Sgt. Roderick Smith, IRC Sheriff's Office
Maura Stokes, City of Fellsmere Representative
Jennifer Idlette, IRC School Board
William Howard, City of Vero Beach Airport

TAC Members Absent:

David Schryver, Acting IRC Public Works Director
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Mark Vietze, MPO Senior Planner & Acting Recording Secretary
Jarrod McCarthy, MPO Senior Planner
Ryan Sweeney, IRC Assistant Planning & Development Services Director

Others in Attendance:

City of Sebastian: Jim Mann
FDOT: Tony Norat

Call to Order

Chair Jeffries called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. It was noted a quorum was present.

Election of Officers.
Action Required

ON MOTION by Ms. Bernard, SECONDED by Ms. Stokes, the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Jason Jeffries as Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2026.

ON MOTION by Chair Jeffries, SECONDED by Ms. Stokes, the members voted (11-0) to re-elect Alix Bernard as Vice Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee for 2026.

Approval of Minutes – TAC Meeting of December 5, 2025.
Action Required

Chair Jeffries asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC meeting minutes of December 5, 2025. There were none.

ON MOTION by Chief Stone and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (11-0) to approve TAC meeting minutes of December 5, 2025, as presented.

Adoption of MPO Safety Targets.
Action Required

Mr. Sabo entered @ 10:08 AM
Mr. Plourde entered @ 10:17 AM

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

Mr. Vietze stated the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) requires MPO's to implement performance and outcome-based planning practices. The safety performance targets must be adopted by February 27, 2026. The MPO has the option of adopting the State's performance target or developing its own.

Mr. Vietze's presentation provided charts highlighting the changes in the following categories: annual fatalities, fatality rate, annual serious injuries, serious injury rate and the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries for 2020 – 2024. Also included were maps showing the 25 intersections in the County with the highest crash rates.

The intent of supplying more in-depth data in this presentation is to aid local jurisdictions in determining where there may be potential "hot spots". Mr. Freeman commented that if anyone has intersection concerns contact us and staff would be happy to pull more data.

Sgt. Smith departed @ 10:43 AM

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. Mitts, the members voted (12-0) to adopt the MPO Safety Targets in accordance with the State's mission Vision Zero, as presented.

Consideration of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP).
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.

One project was added and it is on the transit priorities table. This is the expansion of the vehicle maintenance building where Senior Resource Association (SRA) mechanics work on their vehicles. They will be going from two to four bays, which will allow them to have more vehicles in for maintenance at one time.

Chair Jeffries opened the floor for any additional comments.

Mr. Mitts requested a change in the listing of the priority projects by swapping #6 and #7 (US #1 and Aviation Blvd. intersection improvements and Aviation Blvd. widening), with #4 and #5 (82nd Avenue). Mr. Mitts felt this was a better option with the continued growth happening at the Airport. Mr. Tony Norat (FDOT) explained that just because a project is higher on the priority projects list, it doesn't necessarily speed the progress of a project. There are projects further along with funding and ones ready for construction that will move them up on the list. There are a lot of different variables involved.

Mr. Freeman stated that the recommendations of the various committees would be conveyed to the MPO when they meet on February 11th.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Mitts and SECONDED by Mr. Howard, the members voted (11-1) to make a recommendation that

the TAC approve the Draft List of Priority Projects with the following recommendation: Move items #6 and #7 up (US 1 and Aviation Blvd.) and items #4 and #5 down (82nd Avenue, 26th to 69th and 69th to CR 510). Chief Stone opposed this motion.

<u>**Consideration of the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update.**</u>
Action Required

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Jarrod McCarthy, MPO Senior Planner, who 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 24/25 was more than 1.5 million, and with that in mind the objective is to achieve 1.75 million by 2033. The 2024 list of Florida transit systems operating expense per passenger trip shows Indian River County GoLine in the top spot with $3.42. The second is Gainesville Regional Transit System with $4.91.

This was the first full year of operating with the extended hours of 7 pm – 9 pm. With the increase of riders in the 7 pm – 9 pm slot, we wondered if it would cause a decrease in the 5 pm -7 pm time frame. There was a 78% increase in the 5 pm - 7 pm time slot for the fiscal year.

ON MOTION by Vice Chair Bernard and SECONDED by Mr. Mitts, the members voted (12-0) to approve the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update, as presented.

<u>**Consideration of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Tasks for FY 2026/27 – FY 2027/28.**</u>
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a brief overview explaining the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Mr. Freeman explained the UPWP is required by state and federal regulations and covers a two-year period. All planning activities are organized into tasks. Federal funding is received through grants as well as state and local sources. In March/April we will come back to you with the complete UPWP.

Just to highlight, some of the bigger items planned for this period will include doing a Greenways Plan update, the last one was done more than 15 years ago, and possibly an update to the bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Staff will be coordinating with the other two Treasure Coast MPO's to prepare an update to the regional long range plan. This was discussed at the Treasure Coast Technical Advisory Committee (TCTAC) meeting yesterday.

Mr. Freeman stated this is not an action item, but if there is anything you can think of that would be good to add to the UPWP, let me know after the meeting or email me. The full document will be presented at the next meeting.

This is an informational item; therefore, no action is required.

Consideration of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment for Federal Transit Administration Funds.
Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated the MPO was recently made aware of funds that we were able to obtain some additional funding assistance in the amount of $712,000 to help with funding GoLine. The next step would be to add those funds to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This information was received after the agenda packet was sent out and that is why it was sent out separately. This will be presented to the MPO at their February meeting.

> **ON MOTION by Chief Stone and SECONDED by Vice Chair Bernard, the members voted (12-0) to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment for Federal Transit Administration Funds, as presented.**

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 14, 2026, 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 11:10 AM.