

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 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_bicycle_advisory_committee/agendas_minutes.php

BPAC Members in Attendance:

Hal Lambert, **Chair**, City of Vero Beach
Robert Baus, Town of Orchid
Chris McCarthy, City of Sebastian
Danette Dieffenbach, Indian River Shores
Robert Banov, BCC Appointee (alternate)

BPAC Members Absent:

Solana Morris, **Vice Chair**, BCC Appointee

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

FDOT: Michael Melendez

Call to Order

Chair Lambert called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm, it was noted there was a quorum present.

Election of Officers.

Action Required

ON MOTION by Mr. McCarthy, SECONDED by Mr. Baus, the members voted (5-0) to re-elect Hal Lambert as Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for 2026.

ON MOTION by Chair Lambert, SECONDED by Mr.

McCarthy, the members voted (5-0) to re-elect Solana Morris as Vice Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for 2026.

Approval of the Combined Meeting Minutes - TAC-CAC-BPAC of October 28, 2025.

Action Required

Chair Lambert asked if there were any additions or corrections to the TAC-CAC-BPAC combined meeting minutes of October 28, 2025. There were none.

ON MOTION by Mr. McCarthy and SECONDED by Mr. Baus, the members voted (5-0) to approve October 28, 2025, Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory, Citizens Advisory, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees meeting minutes, as presented.

Adoption of MPO Safety Targets

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated every year the MPO reaffirms its support of Vision Zero, which has been the safety targets that FDOT has taken a lead on for the State of Florida. There are five different performance measures and Mr. Mark Vietze, MPO Senior Planner, will conduct a presentation on both the safety performance measures as well as crash data.

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.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Baus and SECONDED by Ms. Diffenbach, the members voted (5-0) to approve MPO Safety Targets, as presented.

Consideration of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

Action Required

Mr. Freeman stated that every year in the month of June, the MPO updates its List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The LOPP is the instruction/guidance we give to FDOT

on which projects we want to program in the work program. These are multi-year projects, so the list doesn't change much from year to year. A draft of this list must be submitted by March 1st every year.

There was one addition to the list, on the transit list, the top project is a new addition to the transit vehicle maintenance building from two bays to four. This is where Senior Resource Association (SRA) performs maintenance on their vehicles. This was recommended in the Transit Development Plan (TDP) update a few years ago.

On page three you will find a bicycle and pedestrian project list. There are seventeen different projects listed. This list was derived from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which was adopted last year. The MPO is proposing an update to the Green Ways Plan which has not been updated in over 15 years.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. McCarthy and SECONDED by Ms. Diffenbach, the members voted (5-0) to approve the Draft List of Priority Projects, as presented.

Consideration of the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update.

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 that fiscal year in the 5 pm -7 pm time slot.

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

ON MOTION by Mr. Baus and SECONDED by Mr. McCarthy, the members voted (5-0) to approve the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update, as presented.

Consideration of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Tasks for FY 2026/27 - FY 2027/28.

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.

If there are any projects you can think of that would be good to add into the UPWP, let staff know after the meeting or email me.

At this time there is no action required, but at the next meeting this item will be on the agenda for voting.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.

No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 16, 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 was adjourned at 3:06 PM.