METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 3, 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_citizen_advisory_committee/agendas___minutes.php

CAC Members in Attendance:

Chair, Juliana Young, BCC Appointee
Vice Chair, Bruce Hoffman, City of Sebastian
Dylan Wassell, City of Vero Beach
Francine McElhenny, BCC Appointee
George Ritacco, IRC School Board
Nancy Auwaerter, Indian River Shores
William Lundy Parden, Transportation Disadvantaged Appointee
Chuck Mechling, BCC Appointee
Erica Ogilvie, BCC Appointee
Linda Faust, City of Vero Beach
Eric Boissat, City of Fellsmere
Anne Bert, BCC At Large Alternate

CAC Members Absent:

Freddie Woolfork, Minority Appointee
Amber Cerda, City of Sebastian
Mike Grim, BCC Appointee

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

TC Palm: Larry Reisman

Call to Order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Election of Officers.
Action Required

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Ms. Faust, the members voted (9-0) to re-elect Juliana Young as Chair

for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee for 2026.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Ms. Faust, the members voted (9-0) to re-elect Bruce Hoffman as Vice Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee for 2026.

<u>Approval of Minutes – CAC Meeting of December 2, 2025</u>
Action Required

Chair Young asked if there were any additions or corrections to the CAC meeting minutes December 2, 2025. There were none.

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ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Vice Chair Hoffman, the members voted (9-0) to approve December 2, 2025, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Mr. Boissat entered @ 2:02 PM

<u>Adoption of MPO Safety Targets.</u>
Action Required

Ms. Auwaerter entered @ 2:04 PM

Ms. Ogilvie entered @ 2:10 PM

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.

Chair Young opened the floor for a motion.

ON MOTION by Ms. Cerda, SECONDED by Mr. Boissat, the members voted (12-0) to approve Adoption of MPO Safety Targets, as presented.

Mr. Boissat departed @ 2:12 PM

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 the vehicles. They will be going from two to four bays, which will allow them to have more vehicles in for maintenance at one time.

On the first page, the highways list, the TAC voted to make a change in the rankings. The TAC is recommending projects #6 and #7, US 1 and Aviation Blvd. intersection and Aviation Blvd. widening be moved up to #4 and #5. With this change the 82nd Avenue projects would be in spots #6 and #7. Mr. Freeman commented as far as the ranking goes; the placement on the list doesn't mean as much as that the projects are on the list.

Several members voiced their thoughts and concerns; the consensus was to disagree with the TAC's recommendation and keep the current listing order.

There being no further comments, Chair Young opened the floor for a motion.

ON MOTION by Vice Chair Hoffman, SECONDED by Mr. Mechling, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP), 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 the 5 pm-7 pm time slot for the fiscal year.

There being no further comments, Chair Young opened the floor for a motion.

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Ms. Auwaerter, the members voted (11-0) to approve the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP), as presented.**

<u>Consideration of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment for Federal Transit Administration Funds.</u>
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 the GoLine. The next step will be to add those funds to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Chair Young opened the floor for a motion.

> **ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling, SECONDED by Ms. Bert, the members voted (11-0) to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment for Federal Transit Administration Funds, as presented.**

<u>Consideration of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Tasks for FY 2026/27 – 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 recently at the Treasure Coast Technical Advisory Committee (TCTAC).

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 prepared and presented at the next meeting.

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

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated January 26, 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

Chair Young asked if someone from Public Works could look at the signage on 43rd Avenue, just south of SR 60 regarding U-turns. Mr. Freeman stated there have been new staff hired in Public Works, so he will reach out with them. Mr. Ron Jones is the new Public Works Director; he previously worked in Solid Waste.

Mr. Ritacco stated the Oslo Road ramp on I-95 is confusing. Are they building a road adjacent to Oslo Road? Mr. Freeman commented it will be a clover leaf design. Heading west on Oslo, the new road makes if confusing, there should be signage or something there. Mr. Freeman explained it will become a four lane road and right now the process is to build the two lanes (heading in the same direction) and then come back and build the other two. Mr. Ritacco would like to see if reflectors or something could be installed to assist with traveling that road. Mr. Freeman will speak with the managing team about this concern.

Chair Young asked what the process is to request installation of street lighting? The intersection of 66th Avenue and SR 60 is a bad intersection, there are no lights there and it's very dark late at night. Mr. Freeman will contact FDOT about this concern.

Mr. Mechling would like to have an update on the priority road projects, showing the timeline on the status of projects, etc., for the next meeting.

Mr. Freeman introduced the new representative from the School Board, Mr. George Ritacco. Mr. Ritacco shared his background and enjoyed the meeting.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.