METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in County Administration Building "B", First Floor Conference 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:

Chair, Bob McPartlan, City of Sebastian
Vice Chair, Aaron Vos, Council Member, City of Vero Beach
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
Ed Dodd, Council Member, City of Sebastian
Bob Auwaerter, Vice Mayor, Indian River Shores
Linda Moore, Council Member, City of Vero Beach
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere (alternate)

Members Absent:

David Dyer, IRC School Board
Daniel McEvoy, Town of Orchid (non-voting)

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Freeman, MPO Staff Director
Mark Vietze, MPO Senior Planner
Jarrod McCarthy, MPO Senior Planner
Patti Johnson, MPO Staff Assistant III/Recording Secretary
John Stoll, Planning & Development Services Director
Ryan Sweeney, IRC Assistant Planning & Development Services Director
Dan Hale, Public Works
Max Sherman, IRC Commissioner Assistant

Others Present:

FDOT: Tony Norat & Victoria Williams
City of Fellsmere: Maura Stokes
Town of Orchid: Cherry Stowe
Senior Resource Association: Karen Deigl

Indian River Neighborhood Association: Mike Johannsen
Ranger Construction: Brynn Carlson-Cerri
Residents: Honey Minuse, John Peer, William McCaslin, William Rigby, Ervin Cartwright

Call to Order.

Chair McPartlan called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Election of Officers.
Action Required

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Moss, SECONDED by Mr. Dodd, the members voted (8-0) to re-elect Bob McPartlan as Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2026.**
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> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Moss, SECONDED by Mr. Dodd, the members voted (8-0) to elect Aaron Vos as Vice Chair for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2026.**

Approval of Minutes of the MPO Meeting on December 10, 2025.
Action Required

Chair McPartlan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the MPO meeting minutes of December 10, 2025.

There being none, the item was open for motion.

> **ON MOTION by Ms. Moore and SECONDED by Vice Chair Vos, the members voted (8-0) to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization December 10, 2025, meeting as presented.**

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees.
No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated February 3, 2026, included in the agenda packet and on file in the MPO Office.

Ms. Hernandez entered @ 10:02 AM

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

Commissioner Adams entered @ 10:03 AM
Commissioner Flescher entered @ 10:04 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.

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

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher and SECONDED by Ms. Moore, the members voted (11-0) to approve the MPO Safety Targets, as presented.**

<u>Consideration of the Draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP).</u>
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 for maintenance at one time.

Mr. Freeman noted that the TAC and CAC had slightly different views concerning this list. The TAC requested projects #6 and #7, (US 1 and Aviation Blvd. and Aviation Blvd. Widening from 43rd Avenue to US 1), move up on the list and move #4 and #5, (the two 82nd Avenue projects), down. Mr. Freeman responded that the 82nd Avenue projects, items #4 and #5, are further along in the process. These projects have been on the LOPP for many years. The PD&E study and the design have been completed on these projects. Right-of-way and right-of-way acquisition have been completed, and the next step will be funding them for construction.

Concerning #6 and #7, these are earlier in the process. Project #6 is the intersection project for US 1 and Aviation Blvd. This project has been through the PD&E study that recommended an at-grade improvement, which is currently in design. FDOT has also programmed funds for right-of-way beginning in the next couple of years. Project #7, Aviation Widening, this was added to the LOPP approximately 2 years ago. It is currently programmed to begin the first phase, (PD&E study), in 2029. Following that is project design, right-of-way, and construction.

The CAC recommended keeping these projects in the order they are in now, with no changes. This is just a draft list; the final list will be submitted in the next couple of months.

The floor was open for comments and questions. After a lengthy discussion Mr. McPartlan opened the floor for motion.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Mr. Auwaerter, the members voted (9-2) to approve the MPO Draft List of Priority Projects, as presented, with Ms. Moore and Vice Chair Vos opposing.

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 2022 list of Florida transit systems operating expense per passenger trip shows Indian River County GoLine in the top spot with $3.42. Second place is Gainesville Regional Transit System with $4.91.

This was the first full year of operating with the extended hours of 7pm – 9pm. 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 for the 5pm-7pm time slot.

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Loar and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (11-0) to adopt the 2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update, 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 funds in the amount of $712,000 to assist with funding for GoLine. The next step would be to add those funds to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Chair McPartlan opened the floor for a motion.

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Adams and SECONDED by Commissioner Loar, the members voted (11-0) to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment for Federal Transit Administration Funds, as presented. The vote was taken via roll call by the Recording Secretary.**

<u>Amendment to the Safe Routes to School Program Agreement.</u>
Action Required

Mr. Freeman provided a summary on the Safe Routes to School Program, explaining each elementary school in the County, over a two-year rotation, will participate in this program. Every child that participates is educated on safe bicycle and pedestrian practices and receives a bicycle helmet to take home.

. This item is an amendment to the original agreement which would allow us to dispose of bicycles that have reached their life expectancy. The original agreement prevented us from disposal of those bicycles These particular bicycles have been in use for approximately 15 years and will be donated to Bike Walk Indian River County (BWIRC) for rehab and distribution to deserving residents.

Chair McPartlan opened the floor for a motion.

> **ON MOTION by Commissioner Earman and SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the members voted (11-0) to approve the Amendment to the Safe Routes to School Program Agreement, 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 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.

Mr. Freeman stated this is not an action item, but if there is anything you would like to see added into 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.

Other Business.

There was none.

Comments from the Public.

Mr. Rigby, West Wabasso resident, addressed the Board and read a letter from the West Wabasso Progressive Civic Club that he wanted entered into the record as an official document.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.