

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, conducted and hosted in County Administration Building “B”, Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. A video of the meeting is available on the [CivicPlus public portal](#), along with the meeting agenda and backup material.

CAC Members in Attendance: Chair, **Juliana Young** (BCC Appointee); Vice Chair **Bruce Hoffman** (City of Sebastian); **Erica Ogilvie** (BCC Appointee); **Chuck Mechling** (BCC Appointee); **Nancy Auwaerter** (Indian River Shores); **Linda Faust** (City of Vero Beach); **Dylan Wassell** (City of Vero Beach); **Eric Boissat** (City of Fellsmere), **Amber Cerda** (City of Sebastian); **William “Lundy” Parden** (Transportation Disadvantaged); **Anne Bert** (At Large Appointee)

BPAC Members Absent: **Mike Grim** (BCC Appointee); **Francine McElhenny** (BCC Appointee); **George Ritacco** (IRC School Board); **Vacant** (Minority).

Staff in Attendance: Brian Freeman (MPO Staff Director); Ryan Sweeney (Assistant Planning and Development Services Director); Mark Vietze and Jarrod McCarthy (MPO Senior Planners); Patti Johnson (MPO Staff Assistant III and Recording Secretary).

Others in Attendance: Gary Comes, Resident.

1. Call to Order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 2:00pm, it was noted there was a quorum present.

2. Approval of Minutes - *Action Required*

Approval of February 3, 2026, meeting minutes

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Vice Chair Hoffman, the members voted (10-0) to approve CAC meeting minutes of February 3, 2026, as presented.

3. FY 2026/27-FY 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - *Action Required*

Ms. Ogilvie entered @ 2:03pm

Mr. Freeman presented this item which included a power point presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the MPO office. This presentation provided an overview of the proposed FY 2026/27-FY 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Freeman provided an explanation of the tasks included in the UPWP, highlighted projects that were completed during the current UPWP, and listed the anticipated projects in the new UPWP. Mr. Freeman also covered how the UPWP is funded.

Mr. Boissat stated he has walked the trail, but he is concerned there are not enough access points or markers for emergency vehicles or paramedics if someone should have an issue on the trail. It could be a good event for kids in scouting that may be working on their Eagle Scout medal to make mile markers or some type of identifier to aid first responders. Mr. Freeman agreed, especially around the state park area.

Vice Chair Hoffman inquired about the decrease in funding from the previous UPWP. Mr. Freeman explained the previous UPWP figured in the cost for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which was a substantial amount. Any funds that aren't used by the MPO go into a reserve account.

Mr. Wassell if the budgeting for the Greenways Plan would be just for making the report/plan, not actually covering the project? Mr. Freeman responded yes, these projects whether design or construction would be in our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

There being no further questions or comments, Chair Young called for a motion.

ON MOTION by Mr. Mechling and SECONDED by Ms. Bert, the members voted (11-0) to approve the FY 2026/27 - FY 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as presented.

4. 2026 Title VI Program Update - Action Required

Mr. Freeman explained what the Title VI program is and that for the MPO to continue receiving federal transportation planning funds, this plan needs to be approved by the MPO. This item is on the MPO agenda for April 8th.

There being no further questions or comments, Chair Young called for a motion.

ON MOTION by Ms. Faust and SECONDED by Mr. Mechling, the members voted (10-0) to approve the 2026 Title VI Program Update, as presented.

5. Summary Sheet on Roadway Improvement Projects - *No Action Required*

Mr. Freeman stated at your February 2nd meeting you requested staff provide a summary sheet identifying the status of major road projects within the county. This is an informal product and will be placed on our website.

After the presentation a question and answer period was conducted on gas tax, electric vehicles impact, and funding.

Mr. Boissat stated concerns about the congestion on SR 510 once Sebastian River High School dismisses. It would be great if they had the parent pick up go through the parking lot. Also at night, the light there should be flashing as there isn't much traffic and you have to sit and wait on the timer for it to change.

Chair Young feels it would be helpful to send a letter sent to the school board requesting a change in their drop off traffic, especially with the upcoming changes in enrollment at the various schools, and asked Mr. Freeman to follow through and see if there is a short-term solution.

Mr. Mechling asked when the construction on 82nd Avenue begin, the right of way is complete. Mr. Freeman remarked on the table that has a blank means there is nothing programmed yet. The new Saltwood development is proposing to actually constructed 82nd Avenue, from 69th Street to SR 510 as part of their development. There will be a main access road right through the development.

Chair Young stated this chart if very helpful. Mr. Wassell concurred, and thought if it is posted on the website, you could have a live GIS map that these link to, so people could see it on a map would even more helpful. Any visuals would help. Mr. Freeman remarked a hyperlink could probably be embedded.

This was an informational item, and therefore no action is required.

6. Presentation on Transportation Technology and Data - *No Action Required*

Staff conducted a presentation which included:

Florida Traffic Counts - This shows the traffic counts on roadways for the entire State of Florida

Interactive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Provides a prioritized list of all transportation projects in the Indian River Planning area funded from federal and state sources over the next five years.

Indian River County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - This allows you to click on a particular project and get detailed information on it.

Indian River County GIS Map Gallery - Provides maps to explore trails, FEMA Flood Zones (not for use to lower flood insurance, just informational), and to look up the status of development projects in the County.

Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center - Which helps local agencies increase the quality and safety of their surface transportation system.

A copy of these links will be emailed to all Board members.

7. Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees - No Action Required

Mr. Freeman reviewed his memorandum, dated March 30, 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

8. Other Business

There was none.

9. Public Comments

Mr. Gary Comes, a Vero Beach resident, stated his concerns for the need of more north-south roads in the County to help assist with transportation issues.

10. Adjournment - 3:15pm