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## PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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### **Summary Points of the February 20, 2014 MPO Board Meeting**

*PDF versions of all presentations are available for review at*

<http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/agenda.htm>

Vice Mayor Jablin requested the agenda be reorganized to discuss item 3.B. first since several Palm Beach Gardens residents were present to voice their concerns for the proposed urban interchange at Beeline Hwy and Northlake Blvd.

#### **1. REGULAR ITEMS**

##### **F. Special Presentation- Bicycle Month Proclamation**

The Chair presented Mr. Bret Baronak, senior planner and bicycle/pedestrian coordinator, and members of the Palm Beach MPO Bicycle, Greenways and Pedestrian Advisory Committee with an MPO Proclamation declaring March 2014 as Palm Beach County Bicycle Month.

The Chair tabled a proposal to hold a future MPO Board meeting at the Port of Palm Beach due to low anticipated board member attendance.

##### **G. Comments from the Chair**

The Chair and other Boca Raton council members attended the ground breaking ceremony of the I-95 interchange at Spanish River Boulevard that will take traffic directly to Florida Atlantic University. The project completion date is sometime in the fall of 2016.

A certificate of appreciation was sent to Boynton Beach Vice Mayor Woodrow Hay, who was not at the meeting, thanking him for his service to the MPO Board. Vice Mayor Hay would be stepping down in March due to term limits.

##### **H. Executive Directors Report**

The executive director presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Angela Morlok, principal planner for the Palm Beach MPO, for 24 years of faithful service. Ms. Morlok will retire on March 28, 2014. Mayor Steve Wilson from Belle Glade also thanked Ms. Morlok for her efforts in improving transit in the Glades area.

The executive director reported traffic patterns for the grand opening of the Palm Beach Outlet Mall had gone well and was impressed by the pedestrian facilities leading to the site and the walkways with shade canopies made for a pleasant shopping experience.

FDOT is setting up a meeting with the MPO and staff from the City of Jupiter to evaluate alternatives for the US 1 Bridge. A report would be provided to the Board after the meeting.

The Chair and executive director attended the quarterly MPOAC meeting in Orlando on January 23. The MPOAC is tracking legislative activity in the current session, including a request to increase maximum MPO board membership from 19 to 25.

Ms. Kim Delaney and the executive director attended the North County Neighborhood Coalition meeting on January 28 where Ms. Delaney provided an overview of the planned rail projects within Palm Beach County. The executive director provided an opportunity to those present to participate in the MPO's LRTP survey. Ms. Delaney provided a similar overview at Vice Mayor Burdick's town hall meeting held February 11 and Mr. Bret Baronak and the executive director also provided an MPO overview at the Vice Mayor's town hall meeting on February 19.

Vice Mayor Wendy Harrison and the executive director rode Tri-Rail to the MPOAC condensed training hosted by the Broward MPO on February 13. The training offered an excellent review of the history and role of MPO boards; both board members and staff directors would benefit from the training.

The executive director also attended the groundbreaking for the I-95 interchange at Spanish River Boulevard along with Deputy Mayor Haynie, Councilmember Majhess and FDOT District 4 Secretary Jim Wolfe.

The Jog Road extension to Northlake Boulevard Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony would be held Wednesday, February 26 at 9:00 am.

The Quiet Zone Tiger Grant discussions are progressing with Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Application submission will be in three to four months and letters of support will be requested from the cities along the rail corridor.

**I. Consent Agenda Items**

**1. Appointments to the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board**

The MPO Board unanimously approved several members to the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

**2. Certification of the Current Board Membership of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board**

The MPO Board certified the current membership including the newly appointed members of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

**J. General Comments and Public Comments on Action Items**

Mr. Richard Radcliffe executive director for the PBC League of Cities informed the board the Board of County Commissioners would have a first reading of the Water Taxi ordinance in April or May. Each operator could purchase a decal from the cities they would service. Mr. Radcliffe also said discussions were continuing with the FEC and the cities along the corridor on the individual maintenance agreements.

### 3. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### B. Workshop - Status of 2035 Cost Feasible Projects

Mr. Uhren said the main component of the workshop was to ask whether the projects previously identified in the 2035 LRTP still meet the needs and goals of the communities. He highlighted the transportation projects included in the adopted cost feasible component of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to enable board discussion. The discussion would assist staff and the LRTP consultant in the development of the 240 update to the Plan.

Vice Mayor Jablin read a letter from the Palm Beach Gardens City Council urging the MPO Board not to endorse the urban interchange at Beeline Hwy. and Northlake Blvd. Public comments were heard from numerous concerned residents from Palm Beach Gardens. Each expressed their opposition to the proposed urban interchange.

Further information on this presentation is available at:

[http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/pdf/2014\\_MPO\\_Board/Presentations/2035\\_Cost\\_Feasible\\_Plan\\_Projects.pdf](http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/pdf/2014_MPO_Board/Presentations/2035_Cost_Feasible_Plan_Projects.pdf)

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Appoints to the Citizens Advisory Committee

The board unanimously approved two members to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

#### B. Amendment #4 to the FY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program

The board unanimously approved Amendment #4 to the FY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program which adds the environmental and design phases to FY 2014 for the I-95 at Atlantic Avenue interchange improvements.

### 3. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. I-95 Corridor Planned Improvement Projects

The FDOT is currently conducting the I-95 Interchange Masterplan study in Palm Beach County for the I-95 interchanges from Linton Blvd. to Northlake Blvd. All seventeen interchanges between these interchanges are being studied over a nineteen month period. FDOT staff presented an overview and current status of the study.

Further information on this presentation is available at:

<http://www.i95interchangemasterplan.com>

#### B. Correspondence - Regional TIGER Grant Application Coordination and Trimming Solo Commutes at the Palm Beach Zoo

The MPO received correspondence from the City of West Palm Beach requesting the PBMPO coordinate a regional federal TIGER Grant Application. The funds would assist communities along the corridor to implement improvements which would help maintain their quality of life.

In response to an article in the Palm Beach Post dated January 24, 2014, the Palm Beach Zoo sent a letter thanking the MPO for their efforts in reducing traffic

and invited MPO staff to visit the Zoo to discuss their program to help employees diminish their own environmental footprint.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**A. Member Comments**

Vice Mayor Harrison stated Jupiter had preserve land and development didn't have to happen.

Commissioner Valeche said there were issues with All Aboard Florida and the Loxahatchee River Bridge.

Mayor Wilson requested a copy of North County Neighborhood Coalition meeting minutes where the Inland Port was discussed.

**B. Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. in the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor McEaddy Conference room of the Palm Beach County Governmental Center in West Palm Beach. The public is always welcome to attend and learn how their transportation tax dollars are put to use.