



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Summary Points of the January 16, 2014 MPO Board Meeting

*PDF versions of all presentations are available for review at
<http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/agenda.htm>*

1. REGULAR ITEMS

F. Comments from the Chair

The Chair congratulated Commissioner Shanon Materio on her unopposed reelection to the City of West Palm Beach Commission.

Mayor Priscilla Taylor provided an overview of the Seven/50 summit held on January 15th in Broward County. She said it was well attended and provided many resources for community leaders. There are two more meetings in the future and any questions should be directed to Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Commissioner Shanon Materio asked to read a letter from West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio relative to Quiet Zone improvements and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. TIGER is a supplementary discretionary grant program included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The legislation provides \$1.5 billion for a National Surface Transportation System to be awarded on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation projects. Eligible applicants to receive funding for surface transportation projects include: State and local governments, transit agencies, Port authorities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and multi-state or multi-jurisdictional entities. Mayor Muoio requested the MPO Board support applying for a TIGER grant through the Palm Beach MPO. Executive Director Nick Uhren stated the three southeastern Florida MPOs and FDOT would hold a meeting to discuss the TIGER grant and how best to move forward with the application.

The Chair expressed excitement in the City of Boca Raton towards the ground breaking of the Spanish River Boulevard project.

G. Executive Directors Report

The director stated this was a big year for the MPO, as they are in the process of updating their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and determining the course of projects and funding for the next five years.

In December, the director attended the Broward and Miami MPO meetings. Both MPO's also endorsed the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project unanimously. He expressed how fortunate the MPO is to have Jim Wolfe, Stacy Miller and the FDOT D4 staff and the thorough way they present the FDOT work program and the way that they emphasize projects that matter to the MPO Board.

For the annual office luncheon, the MPO staff rode Palm Tran and the WPB trolley from the MPO office to Clematis Street. It was a great teambuilding activity and they are looking forward to the impact of the transit signal priority project on route 43 next year to improve travel time reliability for that service.

The director also attended the Seven50 summit in Ft. Lauderdale along with Mayor Taylor, Vice Mayor Burdick and Mayor Ferreri who chairs the executive committee for that project. All three southeast Florida mayors were invited to speak together at one point and each in turn identified transportation as a critical issue for the region to ensure continued mobility and economic prosperity.

Relative to the US 1 bridge, FDOT is developing a detailed cost analysis of various alternatives and will take a few more weeks to assemble information, then they will meet with MPO and Jupiter staff to evaluate prior to reporting to the MPO Board.

The director said he would be attending the SFRTA 25th anniversary lunch on Friday, January 17th in Ft. Lauderdale. He informed the Board that he had learned that Joe Giulietti, the executive director of SFRTA, would be relocating to New York to lead the Metro North Railroad. The transition plan for RTA leadership is set to be discussed at their January 24 board meeting.

The director stated the agenda included a consent item - the consent list will be reserved for items that require MPO board approval but are not anticipated to warrant discussion.

H. Consent Agenda Items

1. The MPO Board approved MPO Board member Travel to MPOAC Meetings and MPOAC Weekend Institute

I. General Public Comments

Public comments were heard from Mr. David London a resident of West Palm Beach relative to "smokeless diesel" engines. He also said Mr. Charles L. Brown, who died in 2008 had received national and international recognition in the that particular field, but efforts had not advanced.

Mr. Richard Radcliffe expressed the importance of representation for each of the affected municipalities at the January 21st meeting relative to individual Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) maintenance agreements with each of those cities.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of officers for the MPO Board

The MPO Board unanimously elected Deputy Mayor for Boca Raton Susan Haynie as the 2014 Chair and Palm Beach County Commissioner Hal Valeche as the Vice Chair.

B. Appointments to the Florida MPO Advisory Council

The MPO Board unanimously approved the appointment of Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie as the representative and Vice Mayor Wendy Harrison as the alternate representative.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board

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.

D. Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to create task 5.2 - South Florida Commuter Services

The Unified Planning Work Program is the business plan that identifies what the MPO staff and our consultant partners will work on during the year with our planning funds. Last year the MPO partnered with SFCS to promote the Vanpool program and seek to incentivize a car-sharing program in WPB. The highly successful marketing program added over 20 new vanpools to the program and grew the total in Palm Beach County to 65. The program was funded with urban area surface transportation program (SU) funds. Those funds were inadvertently not shown in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or the UPWP. Since the MPO has a 2-year UPWP, FDOT has agreed to the use of these funds again for FY 14.

This year, SFCS will continue to promote alternatives to driving alone by targeting the employment activity center in Palm Beach Gardens (PBG), identify a walk and bike score for the area and identify projects and strategies to decrease the drive alone trips by 5%. PBG was chosen because it is the third largest employment area in the county and SFCS already has existing relationships with many of the employers in West Palm and Boca Raton.

The MPO website will also be revamped, and outreach materials and videos will be developed to improve public awareness of the MPO.

The MPO Board unanimously approved an amendment to the FY 2013-2014 UPWP adding a new task to clearly reflect the use of the SU funds in both fiscal years for this partnership.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Florida MPO Advisory Council - 2014 Legislative Policy Positions and MPOAC Weekend Institute for Elected Officials

The MPOAC adopted eight key policy positions with an emphasis on transportation funding and flexibility in the use of funds. The document also seeks to remove the cap on the number of board members who can serve on an MPO (current state law cap is 19). There is a bill circulating which will increase the cap to 25.

The MPOAC also offers a Weekend Institute for Elected Officials in Orlando on March 28-30 and in Tampa on May 30-June 1. The institute seeks to explain the role of the MPO in planning for and funding transportation projects and to highlight critical issues at a statewide and national level. The Palm Beach MPO

may send one delegate to each Weekend Institute and has budgeted for travel and registration expenses.

Additionally, the Broward MPO is conducting a condensed version of the Institute on February 13, 2014 from noon to 5 pm and has invited Palm Beach MPO board members to attend. Mr. Uhren plans to attend this event and offered to provide transportation for any board members who wish to accompany him.

B. Workshop - Status of 2035 Cost Feasible Projects

In an effort to assist staff and the LRTP consultant in the development of the 2040 update to the Plan, the MPO Board was asked to review the projects included in the adopted 2035 cost feasible plan. Mr. Uhren explained that due to the recent activities that have transpired regarding projects such as the Palmetto Park/Turnpike interchange, the Palmetto Park 8-lane widening, and the Northlake Blvd/SR 710 interchange, staff thought it would be useful to present this list to the Board along with the current status of each project to allow Board review of each project and to return next month with comments.

Further information on this presentation is available at:

http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/pdf/2014_MPO_Board/Presentations/2035_Cost_Feasible_Plan_Projects.pdf

C. Correspondence - Proposed overpass at Northlake Blvd. and Beeline Highway

The MPO received correspondence from nearby residents opposed to the proposed overpass at Northlake Blvd and the Beeline Highway.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Member Comments

Councilmember Willhite expressed his concerns with the manholes being too high along portions of SR-80. He also mentioned there were issues with the signals on Lyons Road and Forest Hill Boulevard.

With the opening of the Palm Beach Outlet Mall set for Friday, February 14, county engineer George Webb, advised those present at the meeting to avoid the area around Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard and I-95 because of the expected heavy traffic.

B. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. in the 12th 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.