



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Summary Points of the July 17, 2014 MPO Board Meeting

*PDF versions of all presentations are available for review at
palmbeachmpo.org/committees/agenda.htm*

1. REGULAR ITEMS

F. Comments from the Chair

The Chair made the following comments:

- Stated Nick Uhren was one of the guest speakers at the ULI Conference held on July 15, 2014 in Ft. Lauderdale.

G. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Uhren reported on the following activities:

- On June 30th, Congresswoman Lois Frankel hosted a meeting to highlight the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant program and identified a workforce training center to support the marina district in Riviera Beach and a lock system on the C-51 canal between Lake Worth and WPB to create a navigable connection between inland fresh waterways and the intracoastal waterway as potential projects.
- On July 14th, the FEC technical group requested that the MPO pursue a regional quiet zone designation for the FEC corridor and accompanying submittal to FDOT for state grant funding by the October deadline. The Palm Beach MPO will be working with the Broward MPO to establish eligible local funds as a match for state grant funding.
- Will meet with the Houston, TX MPO director next week to discuss best practices and exchange ideas of what projects and strategies have been successful in their area.
- Chair Haynie will be installed at the new MPOAC governing board chair on July 24, 2014.
- Commissioner Hal Valeche will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 5, at 9:00 am for the Pantano Trail at Riverbend Park.
- State, county, and city staff will provide a presentation on transportation operating and maintenance funding at the September meeting.
- The Airport Department will provide a presentation on their future plans at the October meeting.

H. The Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items

1. Receive and File the Palm Beach MPO Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process 2014 Modified Joint State/MPO Certification Review.
2. Mr. Eitan Esan as the new alternate representing the Village of Wellington on the BGPAC.
5. Mr. Alan Friedberg as the new alternate representing the Boca Raton Bicycle Club on the BGPAC.

I. General Public Comments

Jim Smith with Safety As Floridians Expect (SAFE) commended the MPO for taking the leadership role with Quiet Zones and asked the Board to adopt a Complete Streets policy for the County and provide help for cities in doing the same. Secondly, he asked that a yearly comprehensive County-wide report be presented to the Board on crashes and fatalities in an effort to discuss and implement ways to reduce crashes and deaths. He also requested the MPO's consideration of elevated trains and stations.

Alexandria Larson said she questioned how the C-51 Canal lock system would work when the South Florida Water Management District discharged approximately 70 million to 200 million gallons of water per day. She expressed concern regarding a Sun Sentinel newspaper article about building 75 houses on 5.91 acres of land when traffic was already heavy, and building elevated train tracks in a hurricane zone.

Anne Kuhl said that private companies, such as the Bristol Group, who purchased Broward Park along the City of Fort Lauderdale's railroad tracks, would benefit from state and local lobbying efforts to implement All Aboard Florida (AAF). She expressed concern that the public's concerns for the area were not being considered.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. The Board unanimously approved the Palm Beach MPO Executive Director's Evaluation, including a 3% salary increase and a 6% special increase for completion of the initial year probationary period.

Public Comment:

Jim Smith said that there was a tremendous improvement in the MPO's transparency, accessibility, participation, leadership, and the MPO's website since Mr. Uhren became the MPO's executive director.

B. The Board unanimously endorsed increased locally directed use of federal funds for projects without endorsing any specific legislative proposal.

Public Comments:

Alexandria Larson said that she supported long-range goals to encourage funding of local transportation solutions. She added that Mr. Uhren would create a better MPO environment.

Dwight Mattingly representing Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1577 requested MPO consideration of broader-based, locally-driven transportation solutions by forming a local control committee rather than through HR 4726.

- C. **The Board approved revisions to MPO Board Voting Membership to establish the City of Greenacres and the Village of Royal Palm Beach as permanent voting members and to add the Village of Palm Springs as a new voting member. Councilmember Michael Fitzpatrick in minority.**

Public Comments:

Richard Reade, Village of Palm Springs manager, said that the council members supported adding Palm Springs as a new MPO voting member.

Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach councilman, said that creating permanent seats for the City of Greenacres and Royal Palm Beach would improve the MPO's efficiency and effectiveness.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. LRTP Revenue Forecast and Major Project Cost Estimates

Mr. Uhren presented an overview of the plan revenue by category and the major project costs competing for funding within each category to demonstrate the fiscal constraints imposed in developing the cost feasible plan.

Public Comments:

Alexandria Larson said that the Okeechobee Blvd and the Flavor Pict Rd extension projects should be removed from the Draft Fiscal Year 2014-2040 Desires Plan list. She opposed taxpayers subsidizing the AAF project.

B. LRTP Revised Goals and Objectives and Draft Project Scoring

Mr. Uhren presented a draft of the revised plan values, goals and objectives that seek to ensure the LRTP has identified specific and measurable objectives to select the best projects, demonstrate progress, and comply with federal MAP-21 guidelines for performance based planning.

Public Comments:

Alexandria Larson said that greater development costs should be borne by the builders. She expressed concern regarding the elimination of toll booth workers and "driverless" trucks.

C. SR 7 Extension

Mr. Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT District 4 Director of Transportation gave a presentation on Environmental Assessment versus Environmental Impact Study.

Public Comments:

Robert Diffenderfer representing the Western Communities Council (WCC) requested that West Palm Beach's recommendation to perform an environmental impact statement (EIS) not be revisited until completion of the environmental assessment (EA). He also asked that MPO staff speak with County staff about continuing to coordinate with resource agencies on resource impacts.

Anne Kuhl commented that the State Road 7 extension was needed and would not go through environmentally sensitive land.

Roger Sims, West Palm Beach's outside counsel, said that an EA did not substitute for the EIS.

Michael Erickson stated that the western community residents needed traffic relief, and that performing an EIS was delay tactic by West Palm Beach.

Alexandria Larson suggested two choices: close the extension from Okeechobee Blvd north until it was completed or build a two-lane extension from Okeechobee Blvd to Northlake Blvd.

Kimberly Rothenburg, West Palm Beach interim counsel, said that West Palm Beach supported continued efforts to obtain an EIS to appropriately measure adverse, road-construction impacts in an environmentally sensitive area.

Michelle Damone, Indian Trail Improvement District and WCC member, said that West Palm Beach's request for an EIS was a delay tactic that would derail the extension project's funding.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Member Comments

Matt Willhite said that the guardrail along Southern Blvd at D Rd needed a cut-in at the bus stop allowing passengers to safely get behind it or a bus shelter should be built. He requested Palm Tran review a safer alternative bus stop for the area.

B. Next Meeting

There will not be a meeting in August. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 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.