



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Summary Points of the October 16, 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:

- Thanked Port of Palm Commissioner Edward Oppel and County Commissioner Jess Santamaria for their service to the MPO Board.

Asked for MPO Board input regarding the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) initiative to withdraw from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) and join the South Florida Regional Council (SFRPC). Commissioner MaryLou Berger explained that Mayor Taylor initiated the discussion with the BCC. She said Commissioner Abrams commented that the north portion of the county is more aligned with the counties to the north and the southern portion of the county with the counties to the south. The BCC asked the Legislative Affairs staff to investigate the ramifications of the move.

Commissioner Hal Valeche stated he voted against the proposal and added that it was impractical to split the county in half, and also the cost to do business with SFRPC would be much lower than with TCRPC.

Commissioner Paulette Burdick thanked Chair Haynie for bringing up the topic.

Chair Haynie asked the Board to discuss the topic with their councils and provide feedback.

G. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Uhren reported on the following activities:

- All Aboard Florida Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released on September 19, 2014. A public meeting will be held on October 29, 2014 at the West Palm Beach Marriott at 3:30 PM to provide an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the DEIS with Florida Rail Administration (FRA) and project staff.
- FEC Quiet Zone- The finalized list of supplemental safety measures (SSMs) and sidewalk improvements was distributed on October 2, 2014. The MPO is able to fund enough SSMs to allow for a city-by-city quiet zone designation along the corridor from 15th Street in West Palm Beach to Broward County. The MPO will also be able to fund missing sidewalk connections at 41 crossings and additional exit gates at many locations requested by the cities. SSMs and/or sidewalk improvements will be

provided at 70 of the 83 crossings in this portion of the FEC corridor. The AAF project team has been performing diagnostic reviews for these SSMs and should finish in WPB today.

- The Railvolution conference in Minneapolis was very useful. He was impressed by their light rail system, widespread implementation of their bike share program, and investment in non-motorized infrastructure to support active transportation. He resonated with one city's vision to change the perception of Public Transit - "From a Social Service to a Lifestyle Choice" He also resonated with the introduction of BRT systems that operated in mixed traffic but provided a premium experience to riders: level boarding, low floor vehicles, enhanced shelters, off board fare collection, real time passenger info and transit signal priority systems.
- Will attend the AMPO conference in Atlanta next week along with Shanon Materio and Luke Lambert.
- December meeting will include the FDOT work program, I-95 updates, and a regional plan overview.
- With the Board Retreat scheduled for January, the administrative items for that month would be moved to the December agenda.

H. The Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items

1. Second amendment to the agreement with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC).
2. Resolution MPO-2014-03 authorizing execution of a Transportation Planning Funds Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with FDOT.
3. City of Lake Worth membership on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
4. Mr. Jamie Brown, Public Services Director representing the City of Lake Worth on the TAC and Mr. Felipe Lofaso, Assistant Public Services Director as his alternate.

I. General Public Comments

No public comments were received.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The Board adopted the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan with the addition of Boutwell Rd in the City of Lake Worth by a 12-2 vote. City of West Palm Beach Commissioner Keith James and Commissioner Shanon Materio were in the minority due to the inclusion of the SR-7 extension to Northlake Blvd and the extension of Roebuck Rd.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. TIP Project Mapping

Ms. Nellie Fernandez presented a map of the projects in the adopted FY 15-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

B. Correspondence

The following letter was received by the MPO.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Complete Streets Policy

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Member Comments

Councilmember Wendy Harrison suggested planning now for a potential transportation funding ballot initiative in 2016. She also highlighted the increase in rail freight in Minneapolis which is affecting their commuter line schedule and noted that we may experience similar issues if we begin running commuter trains on the FEC corridor.

Commissioner Paulette Burdick said Palm Springs Middle School will be greatly affected by the proposed intersection improvements at Forest Hill Blvd and Kirk Rd in West Palm Beach. She said parents and school officials are very concerned with the intersection because of how dangerous it already is to cross and fear that dual left-turn lanes onto Kirk Rd will only add to the danger. The board directed Mr. Uhren to work with the stakeholders to evaluate options and report back to the board.

B. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at an alternate location. The meeting is scheduled in the 1st Floor Hearing Rooms 1W-47 and 1W-50 located at 2300 N. Jog Road, in West Palm Beach. The public is always welcome to attend and learn how their transportation tax dollars are put to use.

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