



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Summary Points of the April 16, 2015 MPO Board Meeting

PDF versions of all backup material is available for review at:

http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/pdf/2015_MPO_Board/2015_APR_16_MPO_Agenda_&_Backup.pdf

1. REGULAR ITEMS

F. Comments from the Chair

The Chair made the following comments:

- The MPOAC has offered Mr. Jeff Cramer from Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) the executive directorship of the MPOAC, replacing Mr. Howard Glassman who is retiring at the end of May. Chair Haynie also encouraged board members who have not attended an MPOAC Weekend Institute to do so. Because the last MPOAC meeting was held in Tallahassee, Mr. Jim Boxold, the new Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was invited to speak at the meeting and said he truly feels the FDOT sees the MPOs as partners. Present at the same meeting was the Chair of the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) Mr. Jay Trumbull who said they also see the value of the MPOs.

H. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Uhren reported on the following activities:

- Introduced Ms. Renee Cross as the new Deputy Director, Mr. Seth Contreras as the new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Coordinator and Ms. Janice Allwood as the new Secretary for the Palm Beach MPO.
- Mr. Gerry O'Reilly was announced as the new FDOT D4 Secretary, Mikel Oglesby is the new Deputy Director of SFRTA. Other regional agencies in transition include the Miami Dade MPO who is looking for a new executive director and Palm Beach County is going through the process of selecting a new county administrator.
- Five Palm Beach County cities signed up to participate in the Mayor's Challenge during Florida Bike Month. BikePalmBeach.org is a great resource. On March 4th West Palm Beach announced that Sky Bike would be the sponsor for the BikeShare program in the city's downtown. There was a Westgate bike rodeo on March 21 where 50 helmets were given out.
- On March 29th South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) assumed control of dispatch and maintenance of the South Florida Rail Corridor. On April 9th, SFRTA and Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) celebrated National Transportation Infrastructure Day with a grand opening ceremony at the new Miami Airport Station, providing a direct connection to Miami International Airport.

- TCRPC conducted a charette for Dixie Highway from Okeechobee Blvd to South of Belvedere Road on March 28th.
- On April 28th we will have a SERPM model peer review by FHWA and FTA, hopefully providing input into our way forward in the world of regional modeling.
- MPO staff and advisory committees reviewed all 13 Local Initiative applications (6 transit and 7 bike/ped) along with 8 bike/ped Transportation Alternative applications. These will come to the MPO Board for final prioritization in July following the FDOT eligibility review.

I. The Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items

1. Travel expense reimbursement for the MPO chair to attend Florida Transportation Plan/Strategic Intermodal System Steering Committee meetings.
2. Received and Filed the 2014-2015 annual update to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan and Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The document is available at: http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/pdf/TD_Service_Plan.pdf
3. Appointment of Mr. Lee Lietzke as alternate to the Bicycle/Greenways/Pedestrian Advisory Committee representing the Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management.

J. General Public Comments

Jim Smith with Safety as Floridians Expect (SAFE) asked the MPO or FDOT District 4 to fund 50% of the cost of a city or town Bike/Ped/TDM Coordinator for a 3-year period to encourage municipalities to do the same.

Irwin Goldzweig, Assistant Professor and Director of Injury Prevention Unit at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, and SAFE Legislative Liaison, advocated for Senator Maria Sach's Bill SB246 and Senator Thad Altman's Bill SB192 banning Texting and Driving.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approved the Palm Beach MPO FY 16 Operating Budget

The MPO Board unanimously approved the FY 16 Operating Budget for the Department. The budget includes a request for one financial staff person and a request for up to \$195,122 in budgeted Ad Valorem revenue to serve as the required 10% local match for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funds.

B. Approved Appointment Renewals to the Advisory Committees

The MPO Board unanimously approved appointment renewals for several members of the Technical and Bicycle/Greenways/Pedestrian Advisory Committees for a three year term as stipulated in the committee's respective bylaws. Approval extends their term to April 16, 2018. The Board was reminded that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members need to be nominated by an MPO Board member and several members had not exercised that opportunity. Those members can either nominate an existing CAC member to serve on their behalf or nominate a new member to represent them on the CAC.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Innovative Metropolitan Planning Organization

The MPO Board heard how in the last several years there has been a surge in innovative thinking and practice among MPOs nationwide and their work inspired Transportation for America to create a new, free guidebook to help MPO staff, board members, and civic leaders find innovative ways to make communities prosper. The full guidebook is available at t4america.org/maps-tools/the-innovative-mpo/

B. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Program Funding Levels

MPO staff highlighted two items – the statutory funding target for the DDR fund code and the role of the MPO Board in allocating SU funds to projects in the TIP.

C. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received by the MPO.

1. SR 7 Extension Letter of Support from the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce.
2. FDOT response to comments made by the MPO Board on the Turnpike FY 2016-2020 Tentative Work Program.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Member Comments

1. Commissioner Taylor voiced her concerns with some bus stops being very close to intersections and they could cause safety issues, she asked Mr. Charles Frazier, Assistant Director for Palm Tran to address the concerns.
2. Councilman Willhite voiced his concerns with a specific bus shelter along Southern Blvd and D Rd located behind the jersey barrier and asked Palm Tran to address the safety issue.
3. Commissioner Materio made reference to a bus stop, without a shelter, on Forest Hill Blvd west off Dixie Hwy. The bus stop is in front of a private home and the home owner has to deal with people sitting on her steps while waiting for the bus. Commissioner Materio asked if the bus stop could be moved to an alternate location.

B. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 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 welcome to join us and learn how their transportation tax dollars are put to use.