

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

Members Physically Present:

Doug Hall
Terry Lodge
Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Luis Leal
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Andrew Dodzik
Mark Oebbecke
Maggie Ardito
Emery Jeffreys
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
John Cotton (non-voting)

Members Virtually Present:

Stephanie Moss (non-voting)
Gwen Perney (non-voting)
Christy Gillis
Tim Grigsby
Roy Walters

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Paul Eik
Adam Mengel
Tom Ryan (excused)
Patrick McCallister (excused)
Rob Brinson
Chris Daun (excused)
Meghan Lindsey

Others Physically Present:

Stephan Harris
Lisa Buscher
Claire Hartman

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Colleen Nicoulin
Richard Hamilton
Robert Barto
Bobbie King
Jay Williams

Representing:

Daytona Beach Alternate
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County District 1
Volusia County District 1 Alternate
Volusia County At-Large Alternate
Votran

Representing:

FDOT
Port Orange
South Daytona
Volusia County, District 4
Volusia County At-Large

Representing:

Flagler Beach
Flagler County
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
Volusia County School Board
Volusia County Council Chair
Volusia County Parks & Recreation

Representing:

TPO Staff
FDOT
Ghyabi Consulting

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen
East Coast Greenway
Volusia County
Volusia County

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Determination of Quorum / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Ted Wendler. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with 12 voting and two non-voting members physically present; and three voting and two non-voting members virtually present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Vice Chairperson Wendler stated the members participating virtually are doing so as a result of social distancing restrictions associated with COVID-19. Rulings from the Florida Attorney General require that the members physically present vote to allow virtual participation due to “extraordinary circumstances”.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Mostert to allow members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Recommend Approval of October 12, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to approve the October 12, 2022 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mostert and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of FDOT’s Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY 2023/24 to 2027/28

Ms. Lisa Buscher, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation of FDOT’s Tentative Five-Year Work Program (WP) for fiscal year (FY) 2023/24 to 2027/28. FDOT’s WP is a five-year plan and a listing of transportation needs planned for the upcoming five-year period and includes public transit, seaport, airport and rail projects; activities such as transportation planning, transportation systems management and operations, engineering and design; right-of-way acquisition and construction activities. Each year, the upcoming five-year needs are developed in collaboration with their local partners’ priorities. She explained the process of approval for the WP. The WP is managed on a fiscal year basis which starts July 1 and ends June 30. A video that explains the process is available on FDOT’s website. They held a public hearing in December and public comments were accepted until December 23, 2022. She explained the key dates and the timeline for the WP the WP must be balanced with the available resources such as revenue forecasts for state and federal resources; program target areas must be met. She reviewed the funding table specific to the River to Sea TPO’s planning area as well as a breakdown of project types such as safety, capacity, bicycle/pedestrian, etc. She reviewed key projects in the WP for Volusia County and Flagler County and noted the funding for each project. She reviewed the projects deferred and how far out they were deferred.

Members discussed the presentation; the various projects included, the phases that are funded and the funding itself. It was explained that resurfacing projects include bicycle/pedestrian components when allowable. It was noted that this PowerPoint presentation will be available on the TPO’s website.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Votran Service Changes and Mobility On-Demand Project

Ms. Bobbie King, Volusia County, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Votran service changes and the mobility-on-demand (MOD) project; this was also presented to the Volusia County Council in August. Last year, Votran completed a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) with a consultant who reviewed all Votran routes to see where changes or adjustments were needed in order to be more efficient and cost-effective; Votran staff reviewed their suggested changes very thoroughly and modified the consultant’s recommendations to be viable options. She reviewed the service change updates. She reviewed Votran Gold’s service and the major upcoming projects’ details for mobility-on-demand. There are options for different tiers of the MOD service. She continued the presentation and showed operating assumptions of the MOD service and how Votran will see savings of approximately \$1 million per year for the west side. In concert with the MOD service, they intend to implement software to allow customers to pay online with an app. Votran has applied for a grant for mobile payment and scheduling software; they will also update the onboard technology and dispatch equipment as

well with that grant. Future plans include propane paratransit vehicles and electric fixed-route buses as well as an intermodal transfer station in the Orange City/Deltona area.

Members discussed the presentation and what the MOD service may look like and it was noted that a contractor has not yet been selected.

Mr. Leal stated he has been working with the city of Deltona to design sidewalks, ramps and shelters for Votran bus stops. As the former Deputy Public Works Director, his concern is that the bus stop upgrades are in the budget and now those items will be removed. He asked if the city of Deltona has been contacted about these plans, if Votran is working to build facilities elsewhere, the funds he is working with need to go somewhere else.

Ms. King replied that the city should be discussing with them anything to do with a bus route; Votran will reach out to the city to discuss this. It was noted that this presentation was provided to the public many times over the last six months.

Members continued to discuss the presentation; it was asked if MOD vehicles would carry bicycles. There are still many unknowns.

C. Presentation and Discussion of Updated River to Sea TPO Safety Data and Targets

Ms. Nicoulin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the updated safety data and the TPO's safety targets. Adopting safety targets by the end of February has been a requirement for the TPO for the last five years and the five measures have remained unchanged. Those targets are the number of fatalities, serious injuries, non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, the rate of fatalities and the rate of serious injuries. FDOT has adopted a target of Vision Zero which sets a target of zero for all five of these measures. Over the last five years, the TPO has adopted an independent target based on a 2% reduction. The TPO recently applied for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, and as part of that grant, the TPO must make the commitment to adopt the Vision Zero target. This target focuses on driver behavior, and working with partner agencies such as FDOT and local law enforcement agencies. She noted that the TPO always addresses safety in the projects that are programmed through the annual Call for Projects and that this year, safety was emphasized in the project applications. The past year's safety data was just released yesterday so staff has not yet had the opportunity to dissect it; she reviewed the safety data for both Volusia County and Flagler County as a whole. The data shows that the numbers have increased; she showed the data for fatalities, serious injuries, non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, and the rates for both. The data will be analyzed specifically to the TPO's planning area; members can access the data via the Signal Four analytics website's dashboard which is available to the public.

Members discussed the presentation and the safety data it is consistent with data shown over the last few years. It was noted that the greater Daytona Beach area is number one in the country for bicycle/pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. It was also noted that FDOT is incorporating bicycle/pedestrian safety components with resurfacing projects as much as possible.

V. Staff Comments

→ Pedestrian Safety Improvements in Lake Helen

Mr. Harris stated that in October, TPO staff participated in the White Cane Awareness Day event at the intersection of Dunn Avenue and White Street; while there, he spoke to Ms. Pamela Argue from Lake Helen. She commutes on foot through the intersection of Main Street and Euclid Avenue; she had a complaint that it was very difficult to navigate through that intersection. A conference call was held with Ms. Argue, Mr. Joseph Carson (also a member of the Center for the Blind Services), and with Volusia County's Traffic Engineering Department. This intersection had faded crosswalks and stop bars; Volusia County Traffic Engineering partnered with Volusia County's Road and Bridge Department to get those restriped. He referred to the photographs in the agenda of these pedestrian safety improvements completed in Lake Helen. He thanked Volusia County, especially Mr. Jay Williams, Traffic Engineering Director.

VI. Information Items

→ Active Transportation for All Workshop

- BPAC Attendance Record
- TPO Board Report
- TPO Outreach and Activities
- TPO 2023 Meeting Schedule

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Jeffreys referred to the mail insert Flagler County was going to do with license renewals and asked for an update; it was also suggested that Volusia County do it as well.

Ms. Blankenship replied that she is working with FDOT and their consultant to design the buck slip; the first draft is going through review and comments. Once she has the final draft is approved, she will approach Volusia County; they were receptive to the idea.

Mr. Coletti commented that some people do two-year renewals and if the buck slip is sent during the off-year, they will miss it; it should be done for more than one year.

Ms. Blankenship thanked him for that observation; she will discuss that with both the Flagler County and Volusia County Tax Collector's offices.

Mr. Hall commented that years ago he was part of an organization in Gainesville for tandem biking and suggested doing something similar for tandem or leisure biking in our area.

Mr. Mostert congratulated Ms. Nicoulin on her appointment as the TPO's Executive Director.

Mr. Dodzik asked if bicycle safety is promoted at bike helmet fitting events; it would be a great opportunity to discuss trails, issues with safety, etc. He asked if there are bike safety videos.

Mr. Harris replied yes, the TPO does promote bicycle safety at events. Ms. Blankenship coordinates those events; presentations on bike safety are also given. There are videos and the TPO has produced a bike safety video.

Mr. Dodzik suggested distributing the videos to the parks and recreation departments or the schools for them to hold workshops. Educating people is the only way to promote bike safety and bring down fatalities and serious injuries.

Mr. Lodge commented it would be good as an organization to be available for that; he would be interested.

Vice Chairperson Wendler asked if volunteers are needed.

Ms. Blankenship replied that volunteers are always needed at events, especially if they are certified to fit helmets. She gives presentations to the schools that the TPO goes to each year where they fit helmets; however, it is not possible at events. Staff does speak with people about bike safety when fitting helmets. She noted that the TPO is available to give presentations on bicycle/pedestrian safety and distracted driving.

Ms. Ardito referred to the flyer for the Active Transportation for All Workshop on Friday, January 27, 2023 at DeBary Hall from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm; she encouraged members to register for this event soon as they are almost at capacity. They have a fabulous line-up of speakers including Mr. Harris. She reviewed the schedule for the event and the organizations involved.

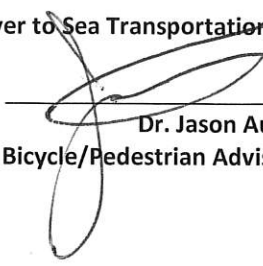
Mr. Robert Barto, East Coast Greenway, stated the East Coast Greenway wants to partner with the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance for the workshop Ms. Ardito just discussed; he believes he registered online and wants to be sure they are included in the conversation.

Ms. Ardito replied that he will be receiving detailed information regarding the workshop soon.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization


Dr. Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 8th day of February 2023.



Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**** A recording of the January 11, 2023 BPAC meeting is available upon request.**