

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023
Daytona Beach International Airport, Airline Room
700 Catalina Drive
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Members Physically Present:

Terry Lodge
Luis Leal
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Andrew Dodzik
Mark Oebbecke
Maggie Ardito
Emery Jeffreys
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
David German (non-voting)
Jacob Lunceford (non-voting)

Members Virtually Present:

Nancy Epps
Gwen Perney (non-voting)
Eileen Sharp
Tim Grigsby
Stephanie Moss (non-voting)

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Doug Hall (excused)
Cassandra Jessie (excused)
Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Adam Mengel
Tom Ryan (excused)
Patrick McCallister (excused)
Gayle Belin (excused)
Christy Gillis (excused)
Chris Daun (excused)
Meghan Lindsey (non-voting)

Others Physically Present:

Pamela Blankenship, Recording Secretary
Stephan Harris
Colleen Nicoulin
Tim Baylie
Ty Garner
Carolyn Fitzwilliam
Joseph Fontanelli
Matt Gibbs

Others Virtually Present:

Richard Hamilton
Jay Williams

Representing:

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

Representing:

Ponce Inlet Alternate
Port Orange
Volusia County District 2
Volusia County District 4
FDOT

Representing:

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Alternate
DeLand
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
Ormond Beach
South Daytona
Volusia County Chair
Volusia County

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Volusia County Parks, Recreation, & Culture
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
CES

Representing:

Scenic A1A Byway
Volusia County

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

The River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairperson Jason Aufdenberg. The roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with nine voting and three non-voting members physically present, and two voting and two non-voting members virtually present. Rulings from the Florida Attorney General require that the members physically present vote to allow virtual participation due to “extraordinary circumstances.”

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Dodzik 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 April 12, 2023 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to approve the April 12, 2023 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of SR A1A Resiliency Plan

Mr. Harris introduced Mr. Ty Garner, Mr. Joseph Fontanelli, Ms. Carolyn Fitzwilliams, FDOT, and Mr. Matt Gibbs, CES.

Mr. Fontanelli and Mr. Gibbs gave a PowerPoint presentation on the SR A1A Resiliency Plan. The presentation covered the damage that occurred after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the history of SR A1A, and the cost of the repairs in the last six months. The Resiliency Plan Strike Team, FDOT, and stakeholders looked at the focus area which covered thirteen miles, beginning in Volusia County at Roberta Road in Ormond Beach to Osprey Drive in Flagler County.

Mr. Coletti asked if the center islands in Flagler County that are almost a mile long will be made smaller or eliminated.

Mr. Gibbs said they do not have the right-of-way to do that.

Mr. Garner stated they cannot go farther east; there was a study done of additional trail projects coming through the area.

Mr. Harris explained that there were funds programmed for a PD&E study through downtown Flagler Beach to look at a trail either along A1A or parallel to it; public meetings were held but there was no community support.

Discussion ensued on the cyclists using the lane because of safety issues.

Mr. Gibbs reviewed the identified critical areas, viable options, recommendations, and next steps.

Discussion occurred regarding coordination between the Army Corps of Engineers project and FDOT’s project and the timing and permitting of the projects.

Mr. Lodge asked at what point they would decide to move SR A1A back one block.

Mr. Garner responded that they tried that eight years ago and it wasn't supported. They are looking for a long-term solution.

Mr. Dodzik added that moving A1A back one block would be politically impossible.

Mr. Garner noted that the secant wall has a 60-year life cycle, and the Army Corps will continue to put the sand back if it erodes during that time.

Mr. Leal asked if the stones being removed would be recycled.

Mr. Garner replied that they were trying to find a site to store the stones; they do not want to get rid of them.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft FY 2023/24 to 2027/28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Nicoulin explained that the TPO is in the process of developing the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which represents five years of programming for federal and state-funded projects. It includes all transportation, bicycle/pedestrian, sidewalk, trail, capacity, traffic operations, aviation, maintenance, and landscaping projects. She gave the funding estimates for the five-year period. The draft TIP will be posted later this month for public review and comment, followed by adoption in June. The document will then be transmitted to FDOT by July 15. Information will be sent out when the draft TIP is available for review.

Ms. Ardito asked if \$40 million was available for bicycle/pedestrian projects.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that \$40 million is available for bicycle, sidewalk, trail, and pedestrian safety projects; not for bicycle/pedestrian projects that are associated with resurfacing projects.

Ms. Ardito asked about the \$10 million that is available.

Ms. Nicoulin responded that of the \$40 million, \$12 million is for funding the TPO's priority projects.

Mr. Baylie stated that Volusia County has six SUN Trail applications to close the gaps along the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. The state approved an additional \$25 million which is recurring for SUN Trail and \$200 million as a one-time amount. He asked if Volusia County does not get funding for those six projects, can they look at the bicycle/pedestrian funding to move the projects up and close the gaps?

Ms. Nicoulin responded that the projects would need to be on the Priority List.

Mr. Harris stated the projects are on the TPO's SUN Trail List of Projects.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that potentially the projects could receive funding. The Work Program that FDOT developed last fall is what rolls into the TIP; it is cyclical.

Discussion continued on SUN Trail funding and conservation corridors.

Mr. Baylie explained that a project must first be on the SUN Trail Map approved by the Office of Greenways and Trails; FDOT then works with the TPO to ensure the alignments are supported by the TPO after which they program the money.

C. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft List of Prioritized Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects

Mr. Harris reviewed the draft list of Prioritized Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects; the TPO received four applications for project implementation.

Discussion ensued on various projects on the Bicycle/Pedestrian List

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked about the Navy Canal Trail and the Federal Aviation Administration's concerns with that trail. He asked if they could come to the BPAC in the fall and discuss the trail.

Mr. Harris responded that he would reach out to them.

Discussion continued on local matches and feasibility studies; no new applications were received this year for feasibility studies. The feasibility studies that have been completed are on the TPO's website.

D. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects

Mr. Harris reviewed the draft List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail projects noting that the list is not prioritized. The list helps these projects towards being eligible for state SUN Trail funds; the projects are not eligible for the TPOs federal funds because they are not ranked and prioritized. This year, Volusia County submitted six projects for funding, and all are on the list of SUN Trail projects.

Ms. Ardito asked about the Beresford Gap on Tier B and whether the other three segments were within the gap.

Mr. Baylie responded that the Spring-to-Spring Trail gap is from Lake Beresford, north to Minnesota, where the trail currently ends. It is one big gap broken into three sections.

Mr. Harris stated that the priority list may need to be revised; Lake Beresford Park to Grand Avenue should have been the overall limits.

E. Discussion of the Volusia County Trails Master Plan

Mr. Baylie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the Volusia County Trails Master Plan Survey. He noted that Volusia County wanted to ensure the BPAC had enough opportunity to comment on the draft plan. He continued to review the public comments received so far from the trails survey and asked the BPAC whether the e-bike speed limit on the trails should be set at 15 mph or 20 mph.

Many of the BPAC members suggested the limit be set at 15 mph.

Mr. Lodge noted that he would prefer not to see a limit on e-bike speeds.

Mr. Baylie noted that the speed limit was more of a courtesy limit as it is difficult to enforce. He would like to see a threshold of 15 mph in the Master Plan. He added that as it currently is, class three e-bikes that throttle and go faster than 20 mph will be prohibited.

Ms. Sharp asked if the area has ever had a volunteer patrol program.

Mr. Baylie responded that they have had internal discussions about that; he asked how the patrol would know the person was speeding.

Ms. Sharp stated that it is more about their presence than the enforcement.

Mr. Baylie stated that they have a volunteer program that needs to be marketed better.

Ms. Ardito stated that in reference to the trail ranger program, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance would like to partner with Volusia County on that.

Mr. Baylie noted that they would work internally on that.

Discussion continued on speed enforcement through taking photos and social media.

Mr. Baylie asked for the BPAC's consensus on either prohibiting all class three e-bikes or allowing all e-bikes on the trails. He noted that he would be asking the Volusia County Council for their recommendation.

Mr. Baylie reviewed the statistics of the responses that were received from the Trails Survey; he also gave updates that have occurred since the last BPAC meeting, adding that a scheduling conflict kept him from presenting to the BPAC in March; public comments are still open through May. Volusia County leaders have met with the city managers on the east side, and they informed them that the county was happy to help them with their applications. Comments from Ormond Beach and Holly Hill were received. He will continue to reach out as they are happy to work with any of the cities on their applications. The Trails Master Plan goes before the Volusia County Council in late June or early July.

The results of the Trails Survey will be available online; they will be updated when it goes before the County Council.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked about using an interactive map for comments. During FDOT's Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, an interactive map where you could text comments was provided. Ms. Stephanie Moss, FDOT, could help with that.

Mr. Baylie stated he would like to do that and would reach out to Ms. Moss.

Discussion ensued on using a QR code along the trails to link to the survey. The idea will be brought up to Mr. Brian Woodworth, Daytona Beach, to see if he is open to the idea.

V. Staff Comments

- SUN Trail Network Press Release
- FDOT Bicycle Safety PSAs with Volusia County Sheriff Michael Chitwood:
<https://youtu.be/EMUYfnoJdk>
<https://youtu.be/IOWSKtXBOTQ>

Ms. Nicoulin stated that since the last meeting and over the last week there have been a number of exchanges among the BPAC members through email. She reminded the members that the BPAC is governed by the Sunshine Law which prohibits discussions from occurring outside of the meeting. Those email exchanges need to stop. The perfect forum for those exchanges is this BPAC meeting. She asked the members to reach out to TPO staff if there are concerns. Going forward there will be a presentation given on the Sunshine Law at a future meeting. She added that there are legal ramifications associated with Sunshine Law violations which include conversations that happen before the meeting starts. She asked the members to refrain from discussing anything that may come before the BPAC at some point.

Mr. Harris pointed out that there was a press release in the agenda regarding the new law that increases SUN Trail funding. He added that there were two links provided in the agenda for FDOT's Bicycle Safety PSAs with Sheriff Chitwood.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- TPO Board Report
- TPO Outreach and Activities

VII. BPAC Member Comments

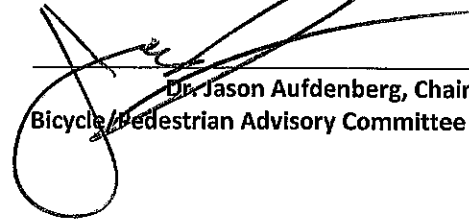
An update was provided on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. Discussion occurred regarding the upcoming reapportionment of the River to Sea TPO.

Chairperson Aufdenberg showed photos of the construction of the extension of the East Coast Greenway and St. Johns River to Sea Loop in South Daytona.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

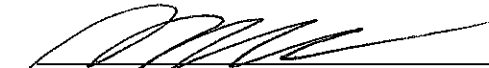
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization



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 May 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 14th day of June 2023.



Pamela Blankenship, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**** A recording of the May 10, 2023 BPAC meeting is available upon request.**