

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2024
Daytona Beach International Airport, Airline Room
700 Catalina Drive
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Members/Technical Appointees Physically Present:

Ted Wendler, Chairperson
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Laura Schweinsberg
Jason Aufdenberg
Emery Jeffreys
Eileen Sharp
Elizabeth Bonds
Amy Stroger (non-voting)
Meghan Lindsey (non-voting)

Representing:

DeLand
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County District 1 Alternate
Volusia County District 2
Volusia County Chair
Flagler County Transit
Volusia County

Members/Technical Appointees Virtually Present:

Doug Hall
James Lowry
Nancy Epps
Christy Gillis
Maggie Ardito
Suzette Cameron (non-voting)

Representing:

Daytona Beach
Palm Coast
Ponce Inlet Alternate
South Daytona
Volusia County District 1
Large City, Port Orange

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Terry Lodge (excused)
Victor Ramos, Vice Chairperson (excused)
Jauxniece Palmer
Patrick McCallister
Tom Bahleda (excused)
Lee Rogowski
Adam Mengel (non-voting)
Hamid Tabassian (non-voting)
Trevor Martin (non-voting)
David German (non-voting)
Jacob Lunceford (non-voting)
Stephanie Phillips (non-voting advisor)

Representing:

DeBary
Deltona
Flagler Beach
Lake Helen
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
Flagler County
Flagler County Transit
Flagler County Transit Alternate
Volusia County School Board
Volusia County Transit Services
FDOT

Others Physically Present:

Donna Ralston, Recording Secretary
Pamela Blankenship
Stephan Harris
Colleen Nicoulin
Loreen Bobo
Kia Powell

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT
FDOT

Others Virtually Present:

Richard Hamilton
Jenny Nazak

Representing:

Citizen
Daytona Beach Permaculture Guild

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 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ted Wendler. The roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with ten voting and two non-voting members physically present; and five voting and one non-voting members virtually present.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Nomination and Election of BPAC Chairperson

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Belin to nominate and elect Mr. Ted Wendler as Chairperson of the BPAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

B. Nomination and Election of BPAC Vice Chairperson

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Belin to nominate and elect Mr. Victor Ramos as Vice Chairperson of the BPAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Storke and carried unanimously.*

Mr. Mostert thanked Mr. Aufdenberg for his service as BPAC Chairperson.

C. Review and Approval of the May 8, 2024 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Gillis to approve the May 8, 2024 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

D. Review and Approval of the June 12, 2024 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Bonds to approve the June 12, 2024 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharp and carried unanimously.*

E. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2024-## Amending the FY 2024/25 to FY 2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin provided detailed information regarding the proposed amendments to the FY 2024/25 to FY 2028/29 TIP. She presented the "roll-forward amendment," which is a routine process that ensures projects from the previous TIP are carried forward into the new fiscal year. This amendment captures ongoing projects that need to continue into the new TIP year. Additionally, there are a few new projects being introduced, as well as a project already in the TIP that has received additional funding. Funding was secured through Legislative appropriations during the last Legislative session for a few projects, which she reviewed.

Ms. Nicoulin addressed member concerns about the inclusion of bike lanes in the three projects in Palm Coast, the specific locations of these projects, the impact of overdevelopment and new development on residents, and the increased flooding affecting cyclists and pedestrians.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of new and overdevelopment in local flooding in the Palm Coast area; the dangers associated with cycling in Palm Coast; the information included in the FDOT roll-forward report; the

ramifications if the BPAC did not recommend approval of the TIP amendment; the BPAC's responsibilities as a committee; the sources of funding; and how to properly structure the motion.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Bonds to recommend not approving Resolution 2024-## amending the FY 2024/25 to FY 2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharp. The motion carried by roll call vote with Mr. Storke voting against the motion.*

F. Review and Recommend Approval to Change the Name of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization to the Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization

Mr. Harris announced that the Governor's office had approved the River to Sea TPO's Apportionment Plan this past week, which includes expanding the TPO's planning area to cover all of Flagler County. The TPO Board is recommending a name change for the organization to better represent the entire planning area.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to recommend changing the name of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization to the Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonds and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of FDOT's Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan

Ms. Loreen Bobo, FDOT District 5 Safety Administrator, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on FDOT's Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan. She provided an overview of District 5's fatality statistics since 2016 and outlined the nine-month process of developing the Safety Strategic Plan, which emphasizes safer street designs, behavior change, and a commitment to achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries. Ms. Bobo also mentioned that FDOT is forming a steering committee to monitor annual progress and prioritize future actions. An annual safety summit will bring together all partners, with the most recent summit having been held on May 17, 2024.

Ms. Bobo responded to BPAC members' inquiries on several key points. She addressed the focus on identifying the most significant problems through data collection; the specific details of the safety strategic plan; and whether there is a platform for the public to report safety concerns or suggestions. She explained the challenges posed by differing state laws regarding pedestrians and cyclists and ways to educate new residents and visitors on current regulations. Other topics included safety issues on A1A in Flagler County related to rumble strips in the bike lanes, the involvement of older non-drivers, the adequacy of crash reports in supporting data collection, the consideration of new drivers over the age of 65 in the data, pedestrian safety concerns, distracted drivers, the factors contributing to the decrease in fatalities from 2022 to 2023, and whether the fatality rate accounts for the significant influx of tourists.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the Development of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. Nicoulin delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. She outlined the requirements of the LRTP, provided an overview of the development process, and reviewed the project timeline. The 2050 LRTP is scheduled for adoption in September 2025.

Ms. Nicoulin responded to BPAC members' inquiries concerning future road technologies anticipated over the next 25 years that will enhance safety and mitigate the impact of erratic drivers; TPO partners aiding in the development of the 2050 LRTP; and if the gas tax has decreased due to the rise in electric vehicle usage.

V. Staff Comments

Mr. Harris announced that the DeLand SunRail Station began service this past Monday. SunRail is supported by six funding partners: FDOT, the counties of Volusia, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola, and the City of Orlando. He explained the history of SunRail as well as the funding structure. With the commencement of service at the DeLand Station, the 17th station and the full 61-mile network are now complete. Operations and funding will gradually be

transferred to the local partners. Although FDOT is still covering the costs, starting January 1, 2025, the local partners will begin contributing \$63 million annually, with adjustments for inflation over time. In Volusia County, Votran provides connecting bus service at the DeBary station, and VoRide offers connecting service at the DeLand Station. Votran has recently introduced a bus circulator service between the DeLand SunRail Station and downtown DeLand.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- TPO Board Report
- TPO Outreach & Activities
- TPO Upcoming Events
- VCARD Event: Bridging Local and Regional Planning

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Aufdenberg recommended the book "When Driving is Not an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency." The book highlights the website www.aweekwithoutdriving.org, which features an event held every September. He suggested that this could serve as a meaningful challenge for Florida's elected officials and other stakeholders. Mr. Aufdenberg also mentioned that some Votran buses do not announce their stops.

Ms. Bonds requested additional information from Ms. Ardito concerning the Active Transportation workshop related to the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIP) grant that Ms. Ardito mentioned at the previous BPAC meeting.

Ms. Ardito indicated that the Active Transportation workshop is scheduled for January 31, 2025. Additionally, discussions are underway to hold a workshop during Mobility Week in District 5. She stated that further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Ms. Belin expressed her hopes for Ms. Ardito's swift recovery and reminded everyone to cast their votes on Tuesday.

Mr. Coletti expressed his appreciation for the inclusion of all of Flagler County in the TPO's planning area and offered his assistance in updating the bicycle map when the time comes.

Ms. Stroger highlighted the TRAIL-GO information included in the agenda. She reported that Flagler submitted their TRAIL-GO application on August 1st.

Mr. Harris stated that TRAIL-GO is a new grant program from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), designed for trail maintenance. He clarified that the program does not provide funding for trail construction but rather supports local governments in maintaining existing trails.

Mr. Coletti expressed his appreciation for Ms. Stroger's work on the new bridge and other bridges over the swamps. He inquired about the possibility of obtaining a grant for the wooden bridge over Colbert.

Ms. Stroger acknowledged the request and that she would keep it in mind.

Ms. Bonds shared that her cycling group, "The Sandy Cyclers," recently organized a bike ride with local candidates who are not backed by developers. She expressed her desire to continue hosting rides with local candidates who are genuinely interested in making improvements. She invited anyone interested in joining the cycling group to sign up.

Ms. Jenny Nazak, representing the Daytona Beach Permaculture Guild, shared that she is also a new member of Walkable Volusia, a recently established organization that held its inaugural meeting on July 31st. The meeting focused on the challenges of navigating our area without a car and the associated difficulties. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to connect through this meeting and thanked the TPO for providing a virtual attendance option. Ms. Nazak also mentioned her satisfaction as an Amtrak rider, noting that for her annual trip out of state to visit family up North, she uses the DeLand Amtrak station. She highlighted the importance of the

connection between downtown DeLand and the station. She emphasized that Ms. Ardito's recent cycling crash serves as a reminder of the importance of cyclists being vigilant about relative velocity for everyone's safety.

Mr. Lowry expressed his willingness to discuss and assist as needed concerning the three Palm Coast projects mentioned in the TIP amendment discussed earlier in this meeting.

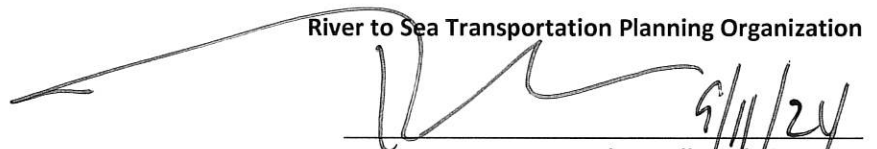
Ms. Nicoulin provided a reminder of the Sunshine Law requirements.

Ms. Ardito announced that the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance newsletter was distributed last week. If anyone did not receive a copy, she encouraged them to contact her for the link to sign up for future issues. The Alliance is currently planning for Mobility Week, which will include a "Trail to Train" ride on November 1, from Lake Beresford Park to DeBary, with a return on SunRail. Due to the limited space for bicycles on SunRail, she urged those interested to notify her as soon as possible. Additionally, there will be a trails update on October 26 at DeBary Hall. Ms. Ardito thanked BPAC members for their get-well wishes.

Additional comments were made regarding voting in the elections and Mr. Hall's new guide dog.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

9/11/24
Mr. Ted Wendler, 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 August 14, 2024 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 11th day of September 2024.


Donna Ralston, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**A recording of the August 14, 2024 BPAC meeting is available upon request.*