

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021

Members Physically Present:

Terry Lodge
Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Paul Eik
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Andrew Dodzik
Mark Oebbecke
Chris Daun
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
Melissa Winsett (non-voting)

Representing:

DeBary
DeLand
Flagler Beach
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County Council Chair
Volusia County At-Large Alternate
Volusia County

Members Virtually Present:

Doug Hall
Nancy Epps
Nancy Burgess-Hall
Tim Grigsby

Representing:

Daytona Beach Alternate
Ponce Inlet Alternate
Volusia County, District 2
Volusia County, District 4

Non-Voting Technical Appointees Virtually Present:

Gwen Perney
Terri Bergeron
Nancy Burgess-Hall
Stephanie Moss

Representing:

Port Orange
Volusia County Alternate
Volusia County, District 2
FDOT

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Holly Ryan
Adam Mengel
Heidi Petito
Tom Ryan
Christy Gillis (excused)
Patrick McCallister (excused)
Roy Walters
Rob Brinson
John Cotton

Representing:

Daytona Beach
Flagler County
Flagler County Public Transportation
Holly Hill
South Daytona
Volusia County, District 1
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County School Board
Votran

Others Physically Present:

Stephan Harris

Representing:

TPO Staff

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Richard Hamilton
Victoria Perk
Martin Catalá

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)

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 Chairperson Jason Aufdenberg. 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

eleven voting and one non-voting members physically present and four voting and three non-voting members virtually present.

Chairperson Aufdenberg 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 take a vote to allow virtual participation due to “extraordinary circumstances”.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of August 11, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated in the Member Comments section of the minutes, his comment regarding leading pedestrian signals was referring to Bellevue Avenue not Beville Road.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to approve the August 11, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-19 Adopting the Paratransit Service Analysis Report

Mr. Harris stated a presentation was given last month on the Paratransit Service Analysis Report; it covers the entire urbanized planning area in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The analysis identified changes in the industry that have had a negative or positive impact on efficiencies in service provision and budgets. A link to the report was provided in the agenda. A stakeholder group was formed to review the report; comments were received from FDOT and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) but there were only minimal changes to the draft report.

Mr. Eik asked if this analysis comes with a potential budget.

Mr. Harris replied no, not a detailed budget. Recommendations for improvements were included with generalized estimates of what those estimates may entail. Flagler County Public Transportation or Votran would have to run a further in-depth analysis of their operations for the costs of those improvements.

Mr. Eik asked if before this plan goes into effect if the TPO and the BPAC would have the opportunity to look at what has been budgeted for Volusia County and Flagler County paratransit services.

Mr. Harris replied he can request those agencies to provide that information when they get to that point; most likely, it will go before the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) in Volusia County but he will ask for that information to be brought to the BPAC.

Mr. Daun stated he had asked last month if bike sharing would be included as part of the transit plan; Ms. Bobbie King was going to get back to him with an answer; however, he has not yet received one.

Mr. Harris replied bike sharing is not part of paratransit service for either Volusia or Flagler County. He will follow up with Ms. King to get that information for the BPAC

Discussion continued regarding the report; it was explained that transportation disadvantaged (TD) eligibility is based on factors such as income, disability, or no vehicle in the household or access to a vehicle or to a fixed

route bus stop. It was also explained that the Paratransit Service Analysis Report is not the same as the Transit Development Plan (TDP) which is the ten-year plan for transit services. Also discussed was the percentage of people that use paratransit services.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Wendler to recommend approval of Resolution 2021-19 adopting the Paratransit Service Analysis Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodzik and carried with one opposing vote.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the Flagler County Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update

Mr. Harris introduced Dr. Victoria Perk, Transit Research Program Director, University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) to give the presentation.

Dr. Perk stated Mr. Martin Catalá, also with CUTR, will start the presentation.

Mr. Catalá gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Flagler County Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update. He explained that the TDP is a ten-year planning document that helps design the future of public transit in Flagler County; it is an FDOT requirement to receive funding. The TDP is an unconstrained vision balanced with attainable targets; what is needed and what is attainable. He reviewed the elements of the TDP including the public involvement process. There is a survey available online and an on-board survey for users. He asked Flagler County residents to please complete the survey.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked for a description of existing transit service in Flagler County.

Mr. Catalá replied it is a demand response service; users call 24 hours in advance to make a reservation for door-to-door service. The majority of users are related to the transportation disadvantaged populations. It operates Monday through Friday; he believes from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm. It does include wheelchair access.

Mr. Lodge asked if the online survey was just for Flagler County residents.

Mr. Catalá replied yes; the intention is to get information from Flagler County stakeholders and residents.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if the plan would include inter-county connections such as meeting Votran at the county line.

Mr. Catalá replied that could be considered as an alternative; as part of the analytical components they look at commute patterns; how many users travel outside the county and where they travel to. It could include a park-and-ride or van pool option.

Discussion continued regarding the TDP.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the Annual Call for Projects and Priority Project Ranking Process of the River to Sea TPO

Mr. Harris gave a presentation and discussed the annual Call for Projects and the priority project ranking process of the River to Sea TPO. Each year, after the completion of the project prioritization process, the committees and TPO staff review the process and recommend improvements for the next cycle. The aim is to achieve the best possible outcomes in terms of identifying and promoting transportation related priorities consistent with the community's goals and objectives as prescribed in the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He reviewed the three guiding resolutions for the Call for Projects. There are three project applications for traffic operations, bicycle/pedestrian projects, and planning studies. The TPO has an agreement with FDOT for them to fund planning studies but they do not have a dedicated funding source for planning studies; therefore, planning studies may not happen each year. He reviewed the schedule for the annual Call for Projects and stated the Project Review Subcommittee will convene later this month to review the resolutions, project

applications and the process and will bring the information back next month to the BPAC for feedback. The TPO intends to adopt the resolutions in November and open the Call for Projects at the end of November to run through March of next year. The Project Review Subcommittee will possibly meet on September 30, 2021.

Ms. Belin asked if the subcommittee members could receive the documentation prior to September 30, 2021.

Mr. Harris replied yes; it will be sent with the agenda at least one week prior to the meeting; he will try to get it out two weeks prior.

C. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation of the draft FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary. She explained how COVID-19 affected public outreach throughout the year and the events that were cancelled due to the pandemic. There were three advisory and TPO Board meetings that did not reach a quorum, including the November BPAC meeting. She reviewed the new ways the TPO conducted public outreach and the social media outreach conducted through Facebook and Twitter. Promotional and informational items were distributed at the few events that were held. She reviewed upcoming outreach events including Mobility Week, Love to Ride Challenge, and Port Orange Family Days.

Ms. Belin announced she and her husband have already signed up for the Love to Ride Challenge; she encouraged members to also sign up.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated the Love to Ride Challenge is developing a new app that tracks your rides and gives encouragement to participants.

Mr. Eik referred to the November BPAC meeting that did not reach a physical quorum and noted that members that did attend discussed the agenda items even though no action was taken.

Mr. Lodge referred to the Love to Ride Challenge and asked if the TPO would set up a team.

Ms. Blankenship replied she will set up a team for the TPO as a group so members can join it.

Chairperson Aufdenberg commented that the Constant Contact newsletters look good.

Ms. Blankenship replied she is open to suggestions for the newsletters if members have any ideas.

V. Staff Comments

→ FDOT Project Intake Meetings

Mr. Harris stated on August 31, 2021, FDOT and TPO staff held individual meetings with local government representatives that have projects on the Tier B list of the List of Priority Projects (LOPP); it included Port Orange, Ponce Inlet, Daytona Beach, Palm Coast, and Volusia County. They reviewed updated cost estimates and the available funding in the five-year Work Program; FDOT could not tell us all the funding that will be available but they are hoping to have that information by the end of the month. The TPO is on the way to funding several Tier B projects.

→ U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Mr. Harris stated the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed by the President in 2015 which authorized funding for five years; in September 2020 Congress authorized it for an additional year. It is set to expire at the end of this month which is the end of the federal fiscal year. A new infrastructure bill is currently being drafted by Congress in conjunction with a new transportation bill. Once it is signed into law and staff has reviewed it, he will bring that information to this committee.

Mr. Oebbecke referred to the priority project list and stated he announced at a public Ponce Inlet Town Council meeting that their project is number 3 on the list; he is frequently asked about the status of the sidewalk mobility project. He asked if more information regarding this project and the funding would be available next month.

Mr. Harris replied that the Ponce Inlet mobility project is ranked number 3 and one of the project intake meetings held with FDOT included Ponce Inlet representatives where they discussed that project. He thinks it can get programmed for fiscal year 2023; he was able to verify that Volusia County will handle the design work. They are able to accommodate it in their engineering schedule and get it into the Work Program within the next few months. It may change because they do not know all of the federal funding available for each of those five fiscal years yet.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if any of the intake meetings included the SUN Trail list or if it was just bicycle/pedestrian projects.

Mr. Harris replied no, they did not hold intake meetings on the SUN Trail projects; it was just the traffic operations/safety and bicycle/pedestrian projects. He expects to have more resources available once the new transportation law is signed.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- Central Florida Mobility Week
- TPO Outreach and Activities
- TPO Board Reports

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Coletti stated he bike rides four days a week and walks three days a week; he lives near Palm Coast Parkway and the toll bridge and has to cross the parkway on the paved trails. Before the trail, there are white painted signs indicating it is a pedestrian crossing; there is also a flashing sign with flashing yellow lights and he has observed that most times, cars do not slow down or stop for pedestrians. He pretends to take photos of license plates with his phone hoping to train drivers to obey the law; he is not sure if it is working but it gives him satisfaction.

Mr. Dodzik stated he is excited that they have started construction of the pedestrian bridge on the Graham Swamp Trail in Palm Coast.

Ms. Belin announced she attended the Ormond Beach City Commission meeting on August 17, 2021 where they discussed bike trails and a budget. She attempted to clarify a question Commissioner Dwight Selby asked but she was unable to do so; she talked with Commissioner Selby after the meeting and answered his question. It had to do with the ranking of how people do the leisure activities in Ormond Beach; bicycle safety and trails rose to the top and he did not understand why. She explained it was because the city only has one trail so people have to ride on the sidewalks or streets. The only trail is north of the Granada Bridge. The day after the commission meeting, she and Mr. Harris attended a review by a private company that is reviewing leisure activity in Ormond Beach; she was the only citizen that attended. They asked her many questions; she gave them a lot of information and Mr. Harris clarified what she did not know.

Mr. Oebbecke added to Mr. Coletti's comment regarding the flashing light signs; Ponce Inlet has one at a beach crosswalk on SR A1A. Other than that, pedestrians have to rely on the yellow flags which have limited usefulness especially at dusk or at night. They are trying to install more of the flashing lights to improve safety there as there have been many incidents in that area. He asked if any members have had to deal with electric bikes and age restrictions in their municipalities; there is an electric bike rental company on beachside and he sees small children riding at 30 miles per hour (mph). He asked if anyone else is having an issue with them or if there are any training requirements for them. It needs to be addressed somehow but he is not sure what can be done.

Discussion regarding electric bikes ensued.

Mr. Eik stated Flagler Beach worked closely with the TPO and FDOT to get a pedestrian crossing in front of the Funky Pelican restaurant on SR A1A. It seems that education of the public and continuous conversations about what was happening, why it was taking so long, etc. is the answer because of that conversation continuing, local residents pay attention to that crossing. It does work and is effective which he is glad to see. He referred to the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Moody Boulevard/SR 100 and noted how close it is to the intersection.

Mr. Mostert noted he was recently in Flagler Beach and noticed that the new crossing seems to be working great.

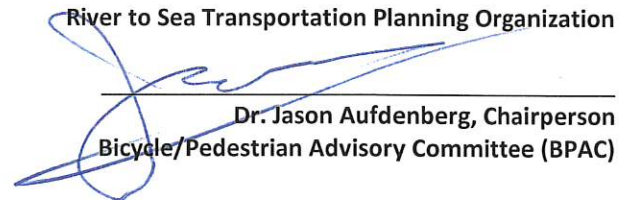
Mr. Daun commented the Volusia County Council met two weeks ago and he encouraged members to watch the video because ECHO items were removed from the consent agenda; specifically, increasing the amount of trail funding from \$1 million per year to \$1.5 million. There was a powerful conversation regarding the disparity of trails on the east side versus the west side of the county. The County Council directed staff to update the county trails master plan to address the disparity from Oak Hill to the Flagler County line; that will qualify as regional trails and be added to the county trail map. This will also help Flagler County connect their trails. He is excited because funding of \$1.5 million is decent funding that will go towards urban regional trails. Bike rides could be had from St. Augustine to Vero Beach. The discussion is about an hour into the council meeting and he encouraged members to listen to the conversation.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated the earlier comments about getting the word out reminded him of Florida's updated bike laws including making it clear that on two-lane roads with a double yellow line cars can pass a bicyclist if it is safe. There is funding in the new law to educate the public about these bike laws. There was no funding when they passed the three-foot law for education. He does not know where that funding goes or if any will come to the TPO for education on safety. He announced a bicycle safety quiz on Floridabicycle.org from the Florida Bicycle Association; there is a quiz for vehicle drivers and one for bicyclists. It is good education to remind people of the rules. On August 25, 2021, Ms. Stephanie Moss, FDOT, sent two people from Asha Planning Consultants to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) and they distributed 104 safety packets including lights and he distributed 30 R2CTPO bicycle maps.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 3:47 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 September 8, 2021 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 13th day of October 2021.



**Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization**