

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
Daytona Beach International Airport, Airline Room
700 Catalina Drive
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Members/Technical Appointees Physically Present:

Terry Lodge, Vice Chairperson
Luis Leal
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Jason Aufdenberg
Chris Daun
Eileen Sharp
Adam Mengel (non-voting)
Amy Stroger (non-voting)
David German (non-voting)
Jacob Lunceford (non-voting)
Jay Williams (non-voting)
Stephanie Moss (non-voting advisor)

Members Virtually Present:

Patrick McCallister
Mark Oebbecke
Nancy Epps
Timothy Grigsby
Trevor Martin (non-voting)
Gwen Perney (non-voting)

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Doug Hall (excused)
Cassandra Jessie
Ted Wendler, Chairperson (excused)
Candice Cornelssen
Jauxniece Palmer
Danielle Anderson
Christy Gillis (excused)
Maggie Ardito
Emery Jeffreys (excused)
Sean Castello (non-voting)
Meghan Lindsey (non-voting)
Lisa Divina (non-voting)

Others Physically Present:

Donna King, Recording Secretary
Pamela Blankenship
Stephan Harris

Others Virtually Present:

Richard Hamilton
Bob Cunningham

Representing:

DeBary
Deltona
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County Chair
Volusia County District 2
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Flagler County Transit Alternate
Volusia County Schools
Volusia County Transit Services
Volusia County Traffic Engineering
FDOT

Representing:

Lake Helen
Ponce Inlet
Ponce Inlet Alternate
Volusia County District 4
Flagler County Transit
Large City, Port Orange

Representing:

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Alternate
DeLand
Flagler Beach
Flagler Beach Alternate
Palm Coast
South Daytona
Volusia County District 1
Volusia County District 1 Alternate
Volusia County
Volusia County Alternate
Volusia County Schools

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff

Representing:

Scenic A1A Byway
Citizen

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 2:01 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Terry Lodge. 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 six non-voting members physically present, and four voting and two non-voting members virtually present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Recommend Approval of August 9, 2023 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Daun to approve the August 9, 2023 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the FDOT Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Dashboard

Ms. Stephanie Moss, FDOT Advisor, gave a PowerPoint Presentation providing updates on the Vulnerable Road User Assessment (VRU). She mentioned that the FDOT receives funding from the federal government through FHWA for various projects and support from NHTSA for education and enforcement programs. She discussed the changes in the Highway Safety Plan (HSP) requirements which included going from an annual HSP to a 3-year triennial HSP (also known as the 3HSP), a change in the due date of the annual grant application, three-year performance targets, public participation, and a Safe Systems Framework. She presented the key components of the 3HSP and its approach to include demographics within high-risk areas. She highlighted the previous and current VRU requirements and discussed the VRU Safety Assessment and the VRU Analysis Methodology in detail. She noted the importance and expansion of their Community Engagement Plan. Ms. Moss ended her presentation by giving a timeline of all the processes and stated that a final report should be available in November. She finished by demonstrating the ease of using the VRU Dashboard and how to navigate it.

Members asked several questions such as, how broad are the demographics, do the top 25 counties include Flagler County, and if any of the grants go towards additional bike lanes. Ms. Moss answered all the questions from members stating that she would share the methodology with members on the demographics, the top 25 counties does not include Flagler County and FHWA funding can go towards additional bike lanes if it is safety related. Ms. Moss also announced a Cycling Savvy Class being held on October 4th, 2023, and asked members interested in attending to let her know.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Florida Sunshine Law Refresher

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on Florida Sunshine Law. She discussed the four basic requirements of the Sunshine Law and explained the purpose of the law. She gave detailed examples of general violations and noted the penalties for unintentional and intentional violations.

Members asked a few questions regarding what is and isn't okay to discuss in private and in public, things that might be considered personal gain, and things that might be considered a conflict of interest. Ms. Blankenship

answered all the questions members had regarding Florida Sunshine Law and referred them to contact the TPO directly with any further questions or concerns.

C. Presentation and Discussion of the Nova Road (SR 5A) Coalition Corridor Improvement Project

Mr. Harris stated this item was a result of last month's meeting regarding the Nova Road (SR 5A) Coalition Corridor Improvement Project and the different alternatives.

Ms. Nicoulin gave a brief overview of the project's alternatives, followed by the feedback that was received from the other committees and the TPO Board. She explained how the project had gone through all the necessary processes with FDOT and stated that there was a Project Advisory Group formed which the TPO participated in, as well as public meetings held to gather input and comments. The presentation was given to the BPAC, CAC, TCC, and the TPO Board. She added that the comments received from each committee were presented to the TPO Board, with Council Member Reinhart presenting the concerns from the BPAC regarding alternative 1 that was selected prior to being presented to the BPAC. Ms. Nicoulin summarized the comments from the CAC and TCC and presented them to the TPO Board. She stated that the Board did not elect to act on a particular alternative. The city of Ormond Beach, who was the applicant for that project indicated they were fairly satisfied with the selected project alternative apart from the width of the shared-use sidewalk. They would like it to be wider, 10'-12' wide. She stated that this project is not designed yet and is still conceptual. The project will have to go through the design process with input from the cities of Ormond Beach and Holly Hill as well as the TPO. She made note of the balancing of all the factors such as pedestrian movements, slowing traffic, and safety.

Ms. Belin stated that part of the issue for the BPAC was that this was presented as if it were a done deal, and it was about bicycle and pedestrian safety, yet the BPAC was not consulted prior to the alternative being selected. One of her questions for FDOT was, why was the project not extended out to US 1; FDOT stated they didn't see that area as a problem. Ms. Belin stated that there is a school in that area with over two hundred children. She gave an example of her car almost being hit in that area. She stated that she feels like the project was done in a way that wasn't inclusive of the BPAC.

Ms. Nicoulin explained that there were challenges with the timing of the presentation since the committees do not meet in July. She noted that FDOT has letting dates to meet and that additional coordination between the TPO and FDOT could have been beneficial.

Ms. Belin expressed her dissatisfaction with the process and the lack of consultation from the BPAC; a committee that stands for bicycle safety; Alternative 1 does not improve bicycle safety.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that Ms. Belin's point is well taken and stated that the BPAC also looks at pedestrian safety.

Mr. Leal stated that he made the motion at the last meeting which was approved by the BPAC to send correspondence to FDOT. The purpose of the correspondence was to let FDOT know the position of BPAC in that they felt their input was not being taken into consideration for this project and the hope that it will have an influence on future projects.

Mr. Lodge stated that there is a process to follow in sending correspondence; the letter needs to be written for the BPAC to review and vote on it.

Ms. Belin stated that the TPO was supposed to create a draft letter.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that BPAC is an advisory committee to the TPO Board. The BPAC makes recommendations to the Board and the Board votes on whether to send correspondence. She thought that the request was to request Alternative 2.

Mr. Leal agreed but stated that the BPAC can send something to the board stating what their position is.

Ms. Nicoulin apologized and stated that she wasn't present at last month's meeting and that was not her understanding of what the request was. Her understanding was that the BPAC wanted to see the other alternative, but that wasn't the desire of the Board.

A discussion ensued regarding requesting the names of the entities/key partners/private stakeholders that were involved in the Nova Road Coalition and that the list of names be provided at next month's meeting. BPAC members suggested that the TPO staff be more transparent with their committees.

Mr. Mostert stated that Mr. Daun and Mr. Leal weren't speaking for him, and the BPAC is an advisory committee whose members have been appointed. To send a letter two months out stating that the BPAC didn't receive this information will not be beneficial to the relationships that we currently have. He agreed with Ms. Belin in saying to support Alternative 2. He wanted to be on the record and say that an adversarial letter is not a good idea.

Mr. Leal stated that he doesn't consider it adversarial. The correspondence would provide input from the BPAC.

Mr. German stated that he does not believe that Alternative 1 represents a safe option for students. There will be a rezoning of some of the schools in that area and he is not sure the plans will take that into consideration. There is a new school being built and he hopes FDOT considers the transportation of students. Nova Road is a very dangerous road for students.

Mr. Daun asked how Alternative 1 supported Complete Streets.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that the analysis done by FDOT looked at future traffic volumes and didn't warrant six lanes of traffic north of Granada Boulevard. She noted that the TPO doesn't review those studies.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Daun to draft correspondence for the BPAC to consider at their next meeting which expresses their concern for not being consulted prior to an alternative being selected.*

Mr. Leal pointed out that a new motion is not needed as a motion was already approved at the last BPAC meeting.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that a letter can be drafted for the BPAC's review and approval and then it can be presented to the TPO Board.

V. Staff Comments

Mr. Harris stated that the BPAC Project Review Subcommittee meets in the Spring and Fall. HE shared some potential dates and added that he would reach out to the subcommittee members individually to schedule a meeting later this month.

VI. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Aufdenberg talked about having a Cycling Savvy class years ago on the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University campus and it was a great class. He mentioned the Hands-Free Florida Bill and asked that members sign the petition on Handsfreeflorida.org. He discussed a new law that also allows local jurisdictions to install speed cameras in school zones and noted that he would like the BPAC to think about how to make communities aware of this.

Ms. Sharp asked for an update on the new road across from the east gate at Pelican Bay along Beville Road.

Mr. Harris stated that he had contacted Volusia County regarding the road.

Mr. Williams stated that he will check with Mr. Travis Terpstra, the Project Manager, to find out where they are in the process.

Ms. Sharp asked if sidewalks should be included if they are building a new road. There is a new road called Lexington Boulevard that has no sidewalks or bike lanes because its primary purpose is commercial/industrial traffic, and it

might not be safe for bike and pedestrian traffic. Since that is a county project, could that be included in the correspondence that we are drafting for FDOT. She asked if every project came through the TPO.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that not every road project comes through the TPO, it depends on how its funded.

Mr. Harris stated that the TPO is working with their partners but has not received answers yet.

Ms. Sharp stated that the project is on the county website.

Mr. Leal apologized if he came across as rude or disrespectful. He stated that the cameras Mr. Aufdenberg referred to do not work; it would be better to put something that flashes to get people to slow down. Cameras are only revenue generators.

Mr. Daun stated that at the last BPAC meeting he attended, Mr. Tim Baylie presented the Volusia County Master Trails Program, and the BPAC did a resolution to hire a consultant to meet with locals on the east side of Volusia County to finish trails from Flagler County line to Edgewater. He would like a status update on the hiring of the consultant.

Mr. Harris stated that there was no resolution from the TPO Board or the BPAC regarding the hiring of a consultant.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that it was a motion, and she gave the history in detail.

Mr. Harris stated that he spoke with Mr. Baylie this morning and he said he was preparing his response.

Ms. Sharp spoke with Council Member Reinhart this morning and he stated that Mr. Baylie said it is out of Volusia County's hands now and the financing is up to the individual cities.

Discussion ensued on the Mason Avenue project.

Mr. Daun announced that the October BPAC meeting will be his last meeting.

Ms. Moss stated that she gives a report to FDOT District leadership, so the BPAC's voice is heard.

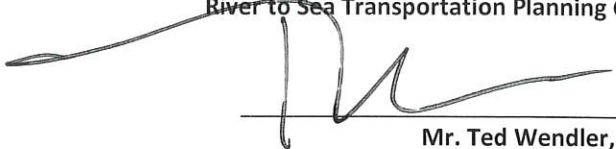
Mr. Coletti stated that on SR A1A, south of the Flagler County pier area where they reconstructed the road due to hurricane damage looks terrible; there are weeds everywhere. He announced that the grand opening of Flagler County Pedestrian Bridge is Tuesday at 3:00 pm.

VII. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- TPO Board Report
- TPO Outreach & Activities
- Upcoming Events
- Upcoming Cycling Savvy Classes

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.


Mr. Ted Wendler, Chairperson
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

10/11/23

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 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 11th day of October 2023.



Donna King, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**** A recording of the September 13, 2023 BPAC meeting is available upon request.**