

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023

Daytona Beach International Airport, Airline Room

700 Catalina Drive

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Members/Technical Appointees Physically Present:

Doug Hall
Terry Lodge, Vice Chairperson
Ted Wendler, Chairperson
Luis Leal
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Jason Aufdenberg
Chris Daun
Maggie Ardito
Emery Jeffreys
Eileen Sharp

Members/Technical Appointees Virtually Present:

Mark Oebbecke
Nancy Epps
Gwen Perney (non-voting)

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Candice Cornelissen
Jauxniece Palmer
Patrick McCallister (excused)
Danielle Anderson
Christy Gillis
Timothy Grigsby
Adam Mengel (non-voting)
Trevor Martin (non-voting)
Stephanie Moss (non-voting advisor) (excused)
Sean Castello (non-voting)
Meghan Lindsey (non-voting)
Lisa Divina (non-voting)
David German (non-voting)
Jacob Lunceford (non-voting)
Andrew Dodzik

Others Physically Present:

Pamela Blankenship, Recording Secretary
Stephan Harris
Colleen Nicoulin
Mark Trebitz
Kia Powell
Jonathan Scarfe
Jesse Blevin
Elizabeth Bonds
Steven Waterston

Representing:

Daytona Beach
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County Chair
Volusia County District 1
Volusia County District 1 Alternate
Volusia County District 2

Representing:

Ponce Inlet
Ponce Inlet
Large City, Port Orange

Representing:

Flagler Beach
Flagler Beach Alternate
Lake Helen
Palm Coast
South Daytona
Volusia County District 4
Flagler County Traffic Engineering
Flagler County Transit Alternate
FDOT
Volusia County
Volusia County Alternate
Volusia County Schools Alternate
Volusia County Schools
Volusia County Transit Services
Flagler County Alternate

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
Consultant to FDOT
Volusia County Chair
HDR

Others Virtually Present:

Bob Cunningham
Robert Barto
Hamid Tabassian

Representing:

Citizen
East Coast Greenway
Flagler County Transit

Others Virtually Present:

Omar Atallah
Chris Cromer

Representing:

Volusia County
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 2:00 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 thirteen voting and one non-voting member physically present, and two voting and one non-voting member virtually present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Recommend Approval of the September 13, 2023 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Hall to approve the September 13, 2023 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously.*

Mr. Harris called attention to the third bullet on page 88 of the BPAC agenda and read it into the record, "The TPO Board approved Consent Agenda Item D, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Report, with discussion of the BPAC's request to draft correspondence expressing their concerns at not being consulted prior to an alternative on the Nova Road Coalition Corridor Improvement Project being selected; approved a motion to report to the BPAC the TPO Board's discussion respectfully acknowledging their concerns but declining the drafting of correspondence." He stated there is not an item on the agenda that addresses the correspondence previously requested by BPAC for that reason.

B. Review and Recommend Approval to Amend the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects

Mr. Tim Baylie, Director of Volusia County Parks, Recreation, and Culture gave a PowerPoint presentation requesting an amendment to the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects. Mr. Baylie began by giving a SUN Trail update that included Senate Bill 106 which was signed by the Governor on April 11, 2023. The new bill increased SUN Trail's recurring funding from \$25 million to \$50 million and added \$200 million in non-recurring funds allocated to the SUN Trail program for trails in the SUN Trail network. This allows for the development of trails in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Mr. Baylie gave in-depth details of Senate Bill 106 and its requirements for SUN Trail projects. The bill allows for paved trails such as asphalt, concrete, or other hard-packed surfaces on disturbed lands in the corridor but that does not include conservation land. He is proposing a Wildlife Corridor Connection to the Coast-to-Coast Trail and the use of articulated concrete in the areas of conservation land.

Mr. Baylie answered BPAC members' questions regarding what they could do to help get the trail built; what would keep the articulated concrete pavers from offsetting; how many miles that type of surface would be needed; and who owns the land.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Lodge to approve amending the List of Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Storke and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the LPGA Blvd. Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from US 92 to Williamson Blvd.

Mr. Mark Trebitz, FDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the LPGA Boulevard Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, from US 92 to Williamson Boulevard. He reviewed the project's purpose and need. He showed the alternatives that were evaluated, and the corridor improvements being proposed. He also reviewed the Tomoka River Bridge improvements along with many of the I-95 improvements. He noted that the improvements would include three roundabouts and reviewed the benefits of those. He discussed the environmental evaluation and presented the preferred alternative.

Mr. Trebitz answered BPAC members' questions regarding the timeline of the project; pedestrian crosswalks at the roundabouts and between US 92 and Tomoka Farms Road; accessible pedestrian signals at crossings; shared-use paths being ADA accessible; bicycle/pedestrian traffic on both bridges; and if there will be bike lanes included in the roundabouts.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Bike/Walk Central Florida's Best Foot Forward Pedestrian Safety Program

This item was postponed until the November meeting.

C. Presentation and Discussion of River to Sea TPO FY 2022/23 Public Outreach Summary

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on the TPO's FY 2022/23 Public Outreach. She gave statistics on the attendance of all the advisory committees of the TPO; the TPO's website; and social media platforms. She mentioned that the TPO's monthly newsletter goes out to an average of 675 different organizations. Last year, the TPO attended 31 outreach events which is a 29% increase over the previous year. She provided highlights of some of the different outreach events the TPO participated in during the last year and noted that the TPO partnered with FDOT for many of those events.

Mr. Aufdenberg noted that he used to write letters to the editor of the News-Journal; however, they no longer accept letters to the editor.

D. Presentation and Discussion of the River to Sea TPO's Guiding Resolutions and Project Applications for the Call for Projects

Mr. Harris gave a presentation on the TPO's Priority Project Process. He reviewed the three guiding resolutions in detail. He discussed the local match guidelines and project policies for cost increases, project categories, and ranking, and allocated TPO set-aside funding. He noted that the TPO reaffirms these resolutions every year with minor changes. He discussed the three different types of project applications and the schedule of the priority process. The BPAC Project Review Subcommittee met on September 29, 2023, and recommended improvements; the TPO Board will meet on December 6, 2023, to approve the resolutions and applications. The call for projects opens in early December and will remain open until late February. The BPAC Project Review Subcommittee will meet soon after that to review and score the applications received. The TPO should have a draft List of Prioritized Projects to present by May of 2024 and the adoption of the List of Priority Projects will occur in June of 2024. Once the list is adopted by the TPO Board, the TPO staff will submit it to FDOT no later than June 30, 2024. Mr. Harris reviewed the changes recommended by the BPAC Project Review Subcommittee, noting that there were no changes for the guiding resolutions, only recommended changes for the General Instructions and Application for Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects.

Discussion ensued regarding incomplete applications and the policies/procedures followed for those incomplete applications.

Mr. Harris noted that every year, the TPO holds a workshop at the TCC meeting (as the TCC members are often the ones completing the applications) to answer questions regarding the applications. TPO staff is always available to help with the applications.

V. Staff Comments

- Lexington Boulevard Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities
- Mobility Week/White Cane Awareness Events
- River to Sea TPO Reapportionment Plan/Urban Area Boundary

Mr. Harris stated he received verification from Volusia County staff that aside from a narrow-paved shoulder along Lexington Boulevard there are no other bicycle/pedestrian facilities and no plans to incorporate any facilities anytime soon.

Ms. Blankenship provided detailed information for the Mobility Week events.

Ms. Nicoulin gave an update on the Apportionment Plan/Urban Area Boundary. She reviewed the current TPO boundary and announced that the TPO is looking at incorporating all of Flagler County, adding one additional Flagler County representative and splitting the Small City Alliance into a Flagler County Small City Alliance and a Volusia County Small City Alliance. Doing that would make a twenty-one-voting-member board versus a nineteen-voting-member board. The weighted vote structure being proposed is one vote per member instead of weighting by population. She presented the Apportionment Plan to the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, and they are in favor of incorporating all of Flagler County. It will be mid-year of 2024 before it goes into effect.

Ms. Nicoulin also provided an update on the TPO Board's discussion on September 27, 2023, regarding the BPAC correspondence requested to be drafted at last month's meeting on the Nova Road Coalition Project. She explained that the reason the presentation was not provided to the BPAC earlier was due to the timeframes not lining up as there were no committee meetings in the month of July. The TPO Board discussed and acknowledged the concerns of the BPAC but concluded that they respectfully declined draft correspondence. The TPO Board does not want the committees' schedules to delay FDOT's processes and projects. She noted that the BPAC does have representation on the TPO Board as a non-voting advisor. She added that the TPO appreciates the BPAC's input on all things.

Ms. Nicoulin noted that the TPO recently went through their Federal Certification and one of the best practices identified in the report was that the TPO proactively assessed transportation systems for vulnerabilities and incorporated safety and resilience factors into their priority transportation projects. The TPO truly appreciates all the time and effort that the BPAC members and other committee members provide.

Ms. Belin stated that she had spoken with Mayor Partington about this since the last TPO Board meeting.

Mr. Daun asked who made the motion not to provide correspondence on the Nova Road Coalition Project.

Ms. Nicoulin and Mr. Harris stated that they would find out and get that information back to Mr. Daun.

Mr. Leal stated that the issue is not the correspondence, the issue is the communication with FDOT and their lack of consultation with BPAC.

Mr. Mostert asked if there is any way for small communities to pull together to fund projects, considering the small cities can't always afford the \$250,000 minimum amount for funding.

Ms. Nicoulin stated that FDOT does allow bundling of projects but that is for individual cities. The challenge is that staff resources are limited in the smaller municipalities.

VI. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Daun stated that he was disappointed to see that Mr. Baylie did not address the Volusia County Trails Master Plan at the BPAC meeting. He mentioned the danger of bicyclists in the bike lane wearing dark clothes with flashlights on LPGA Boulevard and suggested an off-road shared-use path. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve on BPAC and introduced his replacement member, Ms. Elizabeth Bonds.

Ms. Bonds stated that she is a nurse practitioner at Halifax and has worked in the Emergency Room for many years and that she wants to be part of fixing the problems. She noted that she is active in bicyclists' groups and a run group and loves the outdoors.

Mr. Storke reminded everyone of the Port Orange Family Days and encouraged the members to volunteer.

Ms. Ardito announced the Florida Bicycle Association Summit as well as the Ride, Walk, and Roll event being held the day after Thanksgiving in Green Springs Park; she passed out a flyer.

Mr. Lodge mentioned the location in DeBary where three main trails cross: the Heart to Heart, Coast to Coast and River to Sea Loop trails. He added that the location is the most dangerous intersection to cross on a bicycle.

Mr. Coletti stated that he attended the pedestrian bridge ribbon cutting in Flagler County a couple of weeks ago. There is a new trailhead that is almost completed near Belle Terre Parkway and the Lehigh Greenway Trail. He added that there have been three bicycle deaths recently in Flagler County. He noted that he is still the only representative from Flagler County on the BPAC.

Mr. Hall thanked Ms. Blankenship for mentioning the White Cane Day and noted that they plan to add disability awareness this year.

Mr. Aufdenberg stated that time falls back before the next meeting which means it gets dark an hour earlier. He announced that he and BPAC Chair Mr. Wendler will be giving out bike lights at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and noted that the members can do this in their own communities as well. He also stated that the Publix at Clyde Morris Boulevard and Beville Road hasn't had any bike parking in two months, but they are working on adding it. The southern end of the Daytona Beach River Esplanade is now open, which means the East Coast Greenway is now completely open in Daytona Beach from the southern border to the northern border.

Ms. Sharpe noted that there are no bikes allowed on the paths nor are pets allowed inside the new park south of International Speedway Boulevard.

VII. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Meeting Summary
- Central Park Bike Rodeo and Ride News Release
- FDOT Tentative Five-Year Work Program Public Hearing FY 2024/25 – 2028/29
- TPO Board Report
- TPO Outreach & Activities
- Upcoming Events Flyer

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization



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 October 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 8th day of November 2023.



Donna King, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

**** A recording of the November 8, 2023 BPAC meeting is available upon request.**