

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022

Members Physically Present:

Doug Hall
Terry Lodge
Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Luis Leal
Larry Coletti
Tom Ryan
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Andrew Dodzik
Nancy Epps
Emery Jeffreys
Roy Walters
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
Chris Lessig

Members Virtually Present:

Patrick McCallister
Gwen Perney (non-voting)
Stephanie Moss (non-voting)
John Cotton (non-voting)

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Paul Eik (excused)
Adam Mengel
Mark Oebbecke (excused)
Christy Gillis (excused)
Rob Brinson
Maggie Ardito
Tim Grigsby (excused)
Chris Daun (excused)

Others Physically Present:

Stephan Harris
Anna Taylor

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Richard Hamilton
Robert Barto
Shelly Edmonson

Representing:

Daytona Beach Alternate
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Flagler County
Holly Hill
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Ponce Inlet Alternate
Volusia County District 1 Alternate
Volusia County At-Large Alternate
Volusia County At-Large Alternate
Volusia County Parks & Recreation

Representing:

Lake Helen
Port Orange
FDOT
Votran

Representing:

Flagler Beach
Flagler County
Ponce Inlet
South Daytona
Volusia County School Board
Volusia County District 1
Volusia County, District 4
Volusia County Council Chair

Representing:

TPO Staff
FDOT

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen
East Coast Greenway
Flagler County Tax Collector

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 13 voting and one non-voting member physically present; and one voting and three non-voting members virtually present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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 vote to allow virtual participation due to “extraordinary circumstances”.

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

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Recommend Approval of September 14, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to approve the September 14, 2022 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mostert and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of Recommended Changes to the River to Sea TPO Guiding Resolutions and Project Applications for the 2023 Call for Projects

Mr. Harris stated that every year at this time, TPO staff and the advisory committees evaluate the Call for Projects process and recommend improvements. The BPAC Project Review Subcommittee met on September 27, 2022 to review the bicycle/pedestrian project applications and guiding resolutions. There were no recommended changes to the resolutions or priority process schedule. There were a few minor recommended changes to the general instructions and project applications for feasibility studies and project implementation; he reviewed those changes. For the general instructions, the 2019 Bicycle Suitability Map was added to the documents project sponsors are asked to include their projects on and the local match requirement shall not apply to projects on the state highway system; that language was taken directly from the resolution defining the local match requirement. Also, a link to the Bicycle Suitability Map was added to the links of reference material on the last page of the general instructions.

Mr. Harris reviewed the one change to the feasibility studies project application which included adding the phrase “increase the comfort level of bicyclists and pedestrians” under the Purpose and Need Statement, Item 3. For the project implementation application, the same phrase was added under Criterion #3, Safety/Security. Staff will also update the dates for this year’s Call for Projects cycle.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Mobility Week 2022 Events

Ms. Blankenship stated Florida will be celebrating its 7th Annual Mobility Week from October 21 - 28, 2022. It is a cooperative effort by FDOT and their partner agencies to promote awareness of safe, multimodal transportation choices. During Mobility Week, cities, counties and transportation partner agencies host events and offer special promotions to encourage Floridians to try new transportation choices. This year the TPO will participate in a number of ways; staff will be at Port Orange Family Days on Saturday, October 29, 2022, along with FDOT from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm fitting bike helmets and handing out safety information and promotional items. We will also be participating in the Love to Ride Challenge; many members have already signed up and she encouraged others to do so. A flyer with a link and QR code are provided in the agenda. Members can participate by cycling for just 10 minutes, and encouraging others to ride; the TPO has been extremely successful with this challenge. New this year is the Bike Lane Design Contest that two elementary schools will be participating in; Wadsworth Elementary in Palm Coast and McClinnis Elementary School in DeLeon Springs. FDOT has worked with the schools to implement an art contest; the students will design a bike lane marking that will be judged; FDOT will install the top drawings in the bike lane at the schools. The TPO will also have a virtual table at the Mobility Week Virtual Conference to showcase some of our plans and projects.

Mr. Hall announced a White Cane Pedestrian Safety Activity is planned for Friday, October 28, 2022, from 9:30 am to noon at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind at 408 White Street. They will have safety information to give out and there will be a crossing at the intersection of White Street and Dunn Avenue around 10:00 am to educate drivers that they are supposed to stop when pedestrians are crossing the roadway. Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry will be there to deliver the proclamation as well as a number of other organizations such as the National Federation of the Blind, Halifax Council for the Blind, and the Conklin Davis Center. He invited members to come and participate.

Chairperson Aufdenberg commented he participated in the White Cane event a few years ago at International Speedway Boulevard and US 1 and crossed the intersection blindfolded; he recommended members participate.

Ms. Belin commented that if members would like to participate in the Love to Ride Challenge, they have a great app that shows not only your route but also how long you have ridden in distance and time; logging miles is automatic. Currently, it is only for I-phones but they are working on one for Android phones.

V. Staff Comments

→ National Pedestrian Safety Month

Mr. Harris announced that the US Department of Transportation marks October as National Pedestrian Safety Month; it celebrates the right of everyone to walk or roll safely and reminds drivers of their responsibility to stay alert for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users. He reviewed statistics of pedestrians killed in 2020. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is launching a new paid media campaign this month to educate drivers about the dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses and pedestrian safety for children boarding and leaving a school bus. This month spotlights a different aspect each week for pedestrian safety; Week 1, Safer People; Week 2, Safer Speeds and Safer Roads; Week 3, Safer Vehicles; and Week 4 Post-Crash Care. This month the TPO will do what we can to bring awareness to pedestrian safety including the White Cane Day awareness event which TPO staff will participate in.

Mr. Harris announced the TPO applied for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant; we have not yet heard anything back but expect to have news between now and the end of the year.

Mr. Harris stated the BPAC Project Review Subcommittee members received the BPAC Project Review Subcommittee meeting notice but that was the minimum; he recognizes that not all subcommittee members received any communication other than the meeting notice. Going forward, subcommittee members can expect to hear from him prior to scheduling the next meeting in order to get a good date and time that is mutually beneficial. We realize not all members can make it no matter the date and time chosen but we want to make it as convenient as possible for as many members to participate.

Ms. Blankenship introduced Ms. Shelly Edmondson, the Operations Manager for the Flagler County Tax Collector's Office, who is participating virtually today. She is going to discuss a new partnership between the TPO and the Flagler County Tax Collector.

Ms. Edmondson stated her office has worked with the TPO in the past with "buck slips"; they put them in with tag renewals several years ago. Tag renewals are mailed to Flagler County monthly; on average, approximately 5,500 each month. They are willing to do this again for a period of one year if the BPAC would like to design a new "buck slip". It is the size of one-third of a piece of paper and is printed front and back. She showed the one that was previously used which includes bicycle/pedestrian tips and the 3-foot law Florida Statue. She also contacted the Volusia County Tax Collector, Mr. Will Roberts, to see if they would be interested in doing the same in Volusia County. He agreed but would like more details.

Mr. Mostert asked if the BPAC needs to design a new one or if the previous one could be used.

Ms. Edmondson replied the information is still relevant but the only copy she has is the one in her hand; she does not have a digital copy. She showed a special license plate advocating to "share the road" and stated that funds collected for this plate are split 25% for marketing and promotion of the "share the road" concept and 75% is donated equally to Bike Florida and the Florida Bicycle Association for the use of promoting bike safety.

Flagler County is willing to pay the stuffing fee and additional postage based on any weight above and beyond the regular renewal notices if the TPO can provide the "buck slip". They are happy to do this for a period of one year as bicycle and pedestrian safety is very important and they are willing to start as soon as the "buck slips" are ready; there is no deadline.

Mr. Harris stated he worked on this project initially and does have a digital file; he will work with Ms. Blankenship on this project.

Mr. Ryan asked if Mr. Harris would follow up with Volusia County Tax Collector Will Roberts.

Ms. Blankenship replied she will work with Ms. Edmondson and Mr. Roberts.

Ms. Epps asked if a copy of the "buck slip" could be sent to BPAC members.

Mr. Harris replied yes.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Report
- TPO Board Meeting Cancellation Notice
- TPO 2023 Meeting Schedule
- TPO Outreach and Activities

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Walters stated he had to evacuate from his home on Stone Island; it used to be on Lake Monroe but is now an island in the lake. He had to evacuate because the county turned off the sewer system. He paddle-boarded in and out of there today; paddle boarding is another form of mobility.

Mr. Jeffreys commented he rode along Lakeshore Drive and was surprised at how high the water still is; it will take a long time for the water to go down and it will impact transportation in that area.

Mr. Walters added the water hit a record of nine-feet and is going down only a half-inch per day. He does not expect to be able to return to his home for another month.

Mr. Mostert stated his house was also flooded and everything on the east side of the road is devastated.

Mr. Lessig announced Volusia County's Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is now in the editing phase and should be completed within a week or two; it will be presented to the Volusia County Council, the public and the ECHO Board.

Mr. Mostert asked if they considered the massive amount of development that is going on.

Mr. Lessig replied he does not know as he was not involved in the project.

Mr. Hall reminded members of White Cane Awareness Day on October 28, 2022, and invited them to join him in helping to educate drivers and pedestrians; they will be crossing the roadway with the traffic signals.

Ms. Epps noted that Ponce Inlet was also impacted by Hurricane Ian; it was the worst damage in recorded history. The street flooded because of the rain and the tide came over the seawall through the inlet. The county park has re-opened but the city has ten-feet of bluff and the boardwalk is totally torn up; it is closed and gated off as it is dangerous.

Mr. Harris asked if they closed the bridges.

Ms. Epps replied the bridges are closed once the wind tops 39 miles per hour.

Mr. Dodzik stated that Flagler Beach is unrecognizable; they lost four-feet of sand.

Mr. Coletti thanked Mr. Eik for stepping up to chair last month's BPAC meeting.

Ms. Belin commented that Ormond Beach did not lose power, internet, or have significant damage; however, she has friends in Fort Meyers and they are no longer there.

Chairperson Aufdenberg thanked Ms. Moss for responding to his complaint that along Nova Road trees were down blocking the road and bike lane between Beville Road and Bellevue Avenue; someone cut up a tree and left it on the sidewalk which made it impassable.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

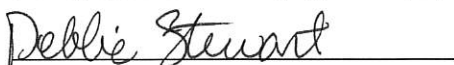
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization



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 October 12, 2022 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 9th day of November 2022.



Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization

***** A recording of the October 12, 2022 BPAC meeting is available upon request.***