

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021**

Members Physically Present:

Terry Lodge
Paul Eik
Tom Ryan
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Andrew Dodzik
Mark Oebbecke
Chris Daun
Roy Walters
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
Melissa Winsett (non-voting)

Representing:

DeBary
Flagler Beach
Holly Hill
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County Council Chair
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County At-Large Alternate
Volusia County

Members Virtually Present:

Doug Hall
Patrick McCallister
Nancy Burgess-Hall
Tim Grigsby

Representing:

Daytona Beach Alternate
Volusia County, District 1
Volusia County, District 2
Volusia County, District 4

Non-Voting Technical Appointees Virtually Present:

Gwen Perney
Terri Bergeron
Stephanie Moss

Representing:

Port Orange
Volusia County Alternate
FDOT

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Larry Coletti (excused)
Adam Mengel
Nic Mostert (excused)
Christy Gillis (excused)
Rob Brinson
John Cotton

Representing:

DeLand
Flagler County
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
South Daytona
Volusia County School Board
Votran

Others Physically Present:

Stephan Harris

Representing:

TPO Staff

Others Virtually Present:

Pam Blankenship, Recording Secretary
Richard Hamilton
Emily Nice

Representing:

TPO Staff
Citizen
CAC

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 nine voting and two non-voting members physically present and four 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 take a vote to allow virtual participation due to "extraordinary circumstances".

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

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of September 8, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Daun referred to his comment under "Member Comments" and asked that the date of the Volusia County Council meeting he referenced be added.

Ms. Belin referred to her comment under "Member Comments" regarding the trail in Ormond Beach and asked that "within Tomoka State Park" be added.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Eik to approve the September 8, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodzik and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-## Adopting the R2CTPO FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary

Mr. Harris stated a presentation was given last month on the FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary; the draft Resolution and link to the report are provided in the agenda.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to recommend approval of Resolution 2021-## adopting the R2CTPO FY 2020/21 Public Involvement Activities Summary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously.*

C. Review and Recommend Support for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application for the Black Bear Scenic Trail

Ms. Nicoulin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant and explained that it is a cyclical grant that is available to Florida every few years. The Black Bear Scenic Trail runs along SR 40 and is on the TPO's List of Priority Projects (LOPP) as well as the Lake-Sumter and Ocala Marion TPO's priority lists; it is also on the Regional List of Priority Projects through the MPOAC. All three MPOs are providing letters of support to proceed with the grant application; letters of support from local agencies are also being obtained. The deadline for the application is December 15, 2021; the Lake-Sumter MPO is spearheading this application and putting the information together. The R2CTPO will be providing backup and support.

Mr. Lodge asked if an MPO can sponsor a project.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that is something staff is exploring; it is her understanding that if a letter of support is provided from the maintaining trail agency, they can submit the application on their behalf. The Lake-Sumter MPO will be completing the application.

Mr. Daun asked if the State of Florida has a similar program.

Ms. Nicoulin replied she does not know but will find out. The Lake Sumter MPO contacted this TPO and the Ocala Marion MPO regarding this opportunity. This is another source of funding for the TPO.

Mr. Harris added that the state has a similar program; the State Recreational Trail Program which provides federal funding for trails in Florida.

Mr. Eik asked who would write the letter of support requested by the Lake Sumter MPO and if the BPAC would have the opportunity to review it before it is submitted.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the letter will cover all three MPOs involved; it is currently being written. It will be presented to the TPO Board later this month. Today, staff is asking if the BPAC supports proceeding with the grant application.

Mr. Eik stated he would like to see the letter before voting on it.

Mr. Lodge asked if the TPO is encouraging letters of support from the cities.

Ms. Nicoulin replied yes.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Daun to recommend support for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant application for the Black Bear Scenic Trail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Storke and carried with one opposing vote.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of Recommended Changes to the R2CTPO Guiding Resolutions and Project Applications for the Annual Call for Projects

Mr. Harris stated the BPAC Project Review Subcommittee met on September 30, 2021 to discuss the guiding resolutions, priority process schedule, instructions and project applications for the annual Call for Projects; feedback was received and changes were made. The TIP Subcommittee met on October 6, 2021 and provided recommended changes to the guiding resolutions as well as the priority process schedule.

Ms. Nicoulin reminded members the priority process is reviewed by the subcommittees each year to identify areas for improvement. She reviewed the proposed changes to the resolutions recommended by the TIP Subcommittee and the priority process schedule.

Mr. Daun referred to the resolution reaffirming the policy for establishing and maintaining transportation priority projects and the new bullet point added regarding Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Urban Attributable (SU) current year funds that may be reallocated for other projects; he asked if it would be prudent to tighten the language to have it be the same type project such as moving funds from a pedestrian project to a pedestrian project, etc. He noted that the way it is written, funds could be moved to any project.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that is the intent; to allow maximum flexibility. She gave an example of a bicycle/pedestrian project last year that received traffic operations funding.

Mr. Daun suggested adding language that the funds should go to a like project and if one is not available, it would then go to the next project.

Ms. Nicoulin replied that is the TPO's practice but that language can be added.

Mr. Daun referred to the first page of the same resolution and the deletion of the words "annual set aside" and the addition of the word "goals" for the percentages of funding; he asked if this proposed change has been taken to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) yet or if input was received from Volusia County staff.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the recommendation for the changes to the resolution language came from the Volusia County Traffic Engineer; the new language provides the TPO more flexibility.

Mr. Daun referred to the resolution defining the local match requirements for local governments and the possibility of eliminating the percentage which would give the Executive Director carte blanche; he is not happy with that and thinks the language needs to be tightened up; if the cost increase is over 30% then the project would need to be readdressed.

Ms. Nicoulin replied this resolution will go before the TPO Board and this discussion can be brought up to them.

Discussion continued regarding the proposed changes to the guiding resolutions, instructions and project applications.

Ms. Nicoulin reviewed the changes to the schedule for the priority process; the Call for Projects will open December 3, 2021 and the deadline for project sponsors to submit project applications will be February 11, 2022.

Discussion continued.

B. Presentation and Discussion of Zipper Bicycle Safety Systems

Mr. Harris explained that zipper bicycle safety systems protect cyclists and prevent vehicles from invading the bike lane; they are modular and allow for multiple configurations. They are adaptable to any road surface, highly visible and resistant to impact and weather conditions. He introduced Ms. Stephanie Moss, FDOT, to give the presentation.

Ms. Moss gave a PowerPoint presentation of the zipper bicycle safety systems and stated FDOT District 5 is going to pilot the zipper system on Oakridge Boulevard in Daytona Beach which is currently under construction and will be the first zipper system in the state. The original design for Oakridge Boulevard was a buffered bike lane which was originally going to be two painted stripes on the roadway; but once the project went to construction they were able to add the zipper system. Once the project is complete, FDOT will be counting the number of cyclists and pedestrians that will use the bike lane as well as utilizing video observation to see how the system performs.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if the side of the zipper facing the roadway is vertical and the side facing the bike lane is sloped.

Ms. Moss replied it is more like a half-circle. She will get the guidelines on the spacing of the system and find out how it adheres to the pavement.

Mr. Daun commented that a median could have been installed along Oakridge Boulevard with the amount of concrete installed along the curbs; he asked why that was not done in the design phase.

Ms. Moss replied she posed that question to the Project Manager, Mr. Steven Buck, and was told that there is less right-of-way and a concrete median could have been done for only about three blocks so they decided to try the zipper system and see if it works; if it does not work, they will try something else. She noted the corridor is part of a larger safety study that is part of the Daytona Beach Coalition; as that study progresses, more changes to Oakridge Boulevard are possible. They received a lot of input at the public meeting held at the Plaza Hotel a few months ago and she announced another public meeting will be held in the near future; she does not have a date for that yet.

Ms. Nice stated she is very interested in the zipper system and asked if FDOT had any safety studies they could share; she is concerned because of tourists in the area as well as disoriented cyclists. She is concerned about the benefits versus the risks and would like to see studies done in a similar city.

Ms. Moss replied she would send the information to the BPAC to share.

Discussion continued regarding the zipper bicycle safety system.

C. Presentation and Discussion of Mobility Week 2021

Ms. Blankenship showed a video promoting Mobility Week 2021 and announced it will run from October 29, 2021 through November 5, 2021. FDOT will be hosting a virtual conference center where the TPO will have a booth. She gave an overview of events scheduled for Mobility Week including the Love to Ride Challenge.

Mr. Storke asked for a date and time of the House Next Door helmet fitting event.

Ms. Blankenship replied November 3, 2021 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Mr. Daun asked how the pop-up safety event held in Daytona Beach went.

Ms. Blankenship replied it went well; there was a good turnout. She announced another pop-up safety event will be held Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Andy Romano Beachfront Park in Ormond Beach from 8:00 am to noon; the TPO is partnering with FDOT for this event.

V. Staff Comments

→ Update on Funding/Work Program

Mr. Harris stated information has not yet been received from FDOT so there are no updates on funding or the Work Program this month.

→ Update on Transportation Legislation

Mr. Harris stated Congress is still drafting the federal transportation bill so there is no update yet.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- BPAC Project Review Subcommittee Report
- FDOT Bicyclist & Pedestrian Safety Outreach Events
- TPO Outreach and Activities
- TPO Board Reports

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Daun thanked Mr. Ben Bartlett, Volusia County's Public Works Director; he mentioned some safety concerns he had to Mr. Bartlett on County Road 4040, Dunn Avenue, George Ingraham Parkway and Main Street. Mr. Bartlett addressed issues that have been there for 16 years and did so quickly. His other concern is that the mast arm signals that can withstand hurricanes are not yet being installed on county roads in East Volusia County. He thanked the county and FDOT for the adopt-a-highway and adopt-a-road signs that are being installed again.

Ms. Belin commented that she met with Mr. Shawn Finley, Public Works Director, and Mr. Robert Carolin, Leisure Services Director, of Ormond Beach regarding her concerns about the lack of trails and safe bike paths in Ormond Beach. She went to the public meeting to review the Master Plan update for Leisure Services and was dismayed that even though the survey results showed that residents are most concerned about the lack of safety and bike trails, it was not a recommendation of what should happen next; even though people spoke out about the lack of connectivity and the need for safe bike paths. She followed the meeting up with a letter to Mr. Carolin and Mr. Finley asking what the plan is; the residents want safety and bike trails but that was not the recommendation from the survey. She gave them four pages of funding possibilities for trails when she met with them.

Mr. Lodge stated he has a plan for an environmental bike trail for DeBary; the city is trying to purchase an island on the St. Johns River, keep it natural, and construct a bike trail. He noted that one of the first things he learned about here at the BPAC was regarding the Connect 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and its goals; the project application for this trail was written around those six goals which he reviewed. These are definite goals that a municipality can follow and prove when applying for project funding and should be awarded points for doing so.

Mr. Hall announced Friday, October 15, 2021 is National White Cane Safety Day; it promotes the pedestrian safety needs of the blind and all pedestrians who use accessible aids. Today, October 13, 2021, the State Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and the Conklin Center are doing a pedestrian street crossing at Dunn Avenue and White Street; the Daytona Beach Police Department will be participating. Also, there will be a series of outreach activities throughout the year to educate people about pedestrian safety needs which Ms. Moss has offered her assistance for.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated that since the leading pedestrian interval (LPI) signal was installed on Clyde Morris Boulevard and Embry Riddle Drive, there have been no close calls for pedestrian or bicyclists. He attended the League of American Bicyclists legislative update and if the bipartisan bill passes, there will be a 60% increase in Transportation Alternative (TA) funding; also, there is Highway Safety Improvement Program funding in which states like Florida with high rates of fatalities will be required to spend 15% of the funding for bicycle/pedestrian safety. Currently, the state spends a much smaller percentage of that money. He reminded members that Daylight Savings Time will occur on November 5, 2021 and he and Mr. Wendler will be handing out bike lights to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University students.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

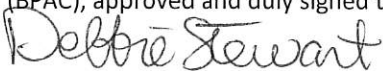
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization



**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 13, 2021 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 10th day of November 2021.



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