

**ISLAND TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING  
CITY OF ANNA MARIA  
MAY 15, 2006  
3:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER (3:35 p.m.)  
PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Carol Whitmore (Holmes Beach), Mayor SueLynn (Anna Maria), Mayor John Chappie (City of Bradenton Beach), Mike Howe (Executive Director, MPO), Bob Herrington (MPO Planning Mgr)  
**Also present:** Commissioner Bill Shearon  
**Press:** Longboat Observer, Islander

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mayor John Chappie moved to approve the April 17th, 2006 meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Carol Whitmore.  
**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**MPO / MEMBER UPDATES**

**Review of April 24, 2006 MPO Agenda**

Mike Howe said an amendment concerning I-75 was approved, pertaining to the FDOT's reduction of Sarasota County's long-range planned increase in the highway lanage from River Road to Charlotte County, from ten lanes to eight. He noted the dilemma for the local jurisdiction is that to pay the massive costs associated with Interstate road projects, FDOT depends upon the legislature, and must go through a long, laborious procedure in order to secure State funding. Mr. Howe said discussion at the MPO meeting also dealt with topics such as future toll roads and the addition of multi-purpose lanes. The MPO Executive Director noted that to FDOT's credit, the center of I-75 is being preserved for alterative types of transportation in the future, such as bus rapid transit, rail systems, .and future toll 'Lexus Lanes', or express lanes.

Mr. Howe said the Sarasota / Manatee MPO's budget for next year was approved. He indicated that there are some additional funds still available from last year's program because they were able to get \$120 – \$150,000 additional funds for municipalities in the Sarasota / Manatee MPO district to do some planning studies.

Mike Howe credited Mayor SueLynn for asking FDOT for a Hurricane Report showing the evacuation plan for this area. Mr. Howe said that Secretary Cann said he would be providing such a report within the next month or two and would

present in at a meeting of the MPO. Mayor Carol Whitmore asked to receive a copy and Mike Howe agreed to provide her with one.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Decision / Coast Guard Bridge Opening / Coast Guard Meeting** – Mike Howe

Mike Howe referred to announcement he had sent the ITPO members; indicating that the Coast Guard decision did support going to ½ hr. openings from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. -- for only four months out of the year, with those months to be chosen by the Island mayors. He noted, however, that the Coast Guard did not support a rush hour restriction. There was consensus for January 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, which Mike Howe said would become effective next April 2007. Mayor Chappie stated that this choice would need to be put before his Commission.

**MOTION: Mayor Carol Whitmore moved, subject to approval by the City of Bradenton Beach Commission, that the annual four (4) months approved by the Coast Guard for ½ hr. bridge openings will commence at 7:00 a.m. on January 15<sup>th</sup> through 7:00 p.m. May 15<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Mayor John Chappie.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

Mayor Chappie said he would notify Mike Howe of the outcome, and Mr. Howe said that he would forward the information via E-mail to the Coast Guard, once confirmed.

Mayor SueLynn confirmed that if 15<sup>th</sup> of the month is not accepted, the Island mayors' choice would be to have period begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

- **Status / Interlocal Agreement Execution** – Mike Howe

Bob Herrington reported that the interlocal agreement had been approved. He noted that the Chair of the ITPO had signed it in fifteen places, and confirmed that the Island mayors would be receiving copies with original signatures. He thanked the mayors for their assistance in seeing this agreement through.

- **Report / MPO Meeting, April 24, 2006** – Mike Howe

Addressed earlier in the meeting

- **Preview / MPO Meeting, May 22, 2006** – Mike Howe

Mike Howe said that the agenda would include citizen appointments to the CAC. Mike Howe noted that Forrest Bogart had decided to stand by his resignation. Mr. Howe said he would be happy to send a sample

advertisement to post in The Islander and The Sun. Bob Herrington said he would also poll other Island city committees and boards and encouraged the mayors to do the same. Mayor Carol Whitmore confirmed that two additional members were required.

Mr. Howe said the upcoming MPO meeting would also address project priority dollars for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program. He indicated the mayors could apply for the 50% matching grant for Gulf Drive, which is the only roadway on the Island that qualifies for this program.

Mike Howe reported that the Manatee County Board of Commissioners would be appointing a new transportation coordinator. Bob Herrington said that by Florida Statute, a new Community Transportation Coordinator must be appointed every five (5) years. He said that the process requires the MPO, by Resolution, to appear before the TD Commission in Tallahassee, and make presentation. Mr. Herrington said he would be keeping the ITPO apprised of progress during the process.

Mike Howe reported that District One Secretary McCann had authorized funding for a Center for Transportation Research Study that had revealed that Manatee County was getting 55 cents of return on every dollar of gas tax paid. Mr. Howe indicated that the study opened equity issues statewide. He said that an additional study was now being requested, and its scope would include a \$49,000 additional study.

The MPO Executive director informed the mayors that the MPO's Principal Planner, Keith Drake, would be presenting his annual update at the next meeting of the organization. He said that copies would be made available to the mayors via Mayor SueLynn. Mr. Howe indicated that Drake's report provides a snapshot of the status of all MPO projects.

Referring to another agenda item scheduled for the upcoming meeting, Mike Howe said there would be an update on the Port Connector Road study to find an alternative way to get trucks to I-75 from the Port without requiring Hwy 41. He said there was also a turnpike study being done for a highway to the east coast as an alternative to I-4 and Route 80.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADVISORY MEMBER REPORT**

CAC Report – Nothing received from Dottie Poindexter

TAC Report – Mike Howe noted that Anna Maria Public Works Director George McKay had received a letter from MPO April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, this being

the annual letter that is sent out asking for projects regarding congestion management. Bob Herrington noted that this letter should have been addressed to Dottie Poindexter. He handed out another letter regarding enhancement projects. Mayor Carol Whitmore noted that she already had received a copy of the enhancement application, and that she was already in the process of filling it out. Mr. Herrington noted that June 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for both congestion management and enhancement project applications. Mayor John Chappie confirmed this was for funds that would be received in 2009.

Mike Howe reported that the Florida legislature had passed a local option rental car surcharge allowing counties to add \$2.00 to the tax on rental cars. Mayor SueLynn asked if the Island cities could get a cut, since the rental cars mostly visited the Island when they were rented. Mike Howe said funds would most likely be distributed through the 'trickle down' method. He distributed a list to the mayors showing the items that had been passed this year by the Legislature.

Mr. Howe referred to a letter he was copied on, dated May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 from Ben Walker. He noted that when Commissioner Whatmough was on the MPO Board, he was interested in doing something to the intersection of Gulf Drive and Cortez. He observed that a milling and resurfacing project is scheduled for this year for the Cortez bridge to Gulf Drive. Mike Howe announced that a new loop detector would be installed in the southbound left turn lane that would provide a cut-off so that the northbound traffic on Gulf Drive would not be backed up by traffic turning onto the bridge.

## **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Anna Maria: Mayor SueLynn indicated that the bid opening meeting, relative to the RFP for her city's roadwork, had taken place just prior to today's meeting.

Bradenton Beach: Mayor John Chappie said the suggestion was brought up at a Scenic Highway meeting to have trolley stops labeled, for instance with numbers so that people know where they are when they get, on and also when to get off. Bob Herrington noted that bus stops are currently labeled in the County according to the closest cross – street to the stop.

Holmes Beach: Mayor Carol Whitmore reported that her administration is in the process of writing the enhancement grant, relative to pedestrian safety near the shopping center, to be submitted to the MPO by June 19<sup>th</sup>. She noted she had forwarded requested information to the Mayor of Longboat Key regarding back-up to traffic lights. Mayor Whitmore indicated that her city had purchased four battery back-ups for traffic lights and had also bought two gas powered generators to keep the lights in operation during long-term power outages.

Mayor Carol Whitmore called attention to Amy Stein's presentations. She said that it made sense to build projects now, even when matching funds would only be available years from now, and not wait for the year in which the matching funds are to be disbursed. The Mayor of Holmes Beach pointed to the dramatic way that project costs rise from year to year, and said she thought it would be a good idea to figure out new methods for funding. Mayor Whitmore noted that Mayor SueLynn had secured a loan, and Mayor SueLynn pointed out that Anna Maria would not get reimbursed for the projects that are to be funded through its line of credit. She expressed the apprehension that grant funding could run out before the applicants are reimbursed.

Mike Howe noted that since two different counties were represented within the MPO, there were difficulties in administering funding. He said it was important to make sure, from year to year, that something waiting to be funded in the queue does not get bypassed.

Mayor SueLynn told members that after four years of trying and eventually getting a line of credit approved by the Commission, costs had risen \$100,000 on the proposed projects. Mayor SueLynn said that on a larger scale, after attending the last couple of MPO meetings, she was seriously concerned that the money would be there in the future for the projects that need to get done. She noted that times have changed, and circumstances are changing regarding supplies and labor.

Mike Howe observed, relative to the Federal Transportation Trust Program based on buying gas at the pump, that the actual taxes being paid are not going up and revenue was falling further behind in times when costs are going up, due in part to the use of ethanol and alternative fuels. He noted that the program was expected to begin to lose money in 2008.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None offered.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. – Mayor Carol Whitmore noted that the MPO normally takes June and July off. Bob Herrington indicated that enhancement grants would need to be addressed, since the application deadline is June 19<sup>th</sup>. Mike Howe agreed with Bob Herrington to check with Keith. Mayor SueLynn said she would assume that the ITPO might not meet in July and August.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor SueLynn adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.