

**ISLAND TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING
CITY OF ANNA MARIA
NOVEMBER 20, 2006
3:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER (3:38 p.m.)
PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fran Barford (Anna Maria), Mayor John Chappie (City of Bradenton Beach), Sandy Haas-Martens (Holmes Beach), Mike Howe (Executive Director, Sarasota / Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO))
Also present: Bradenton Beach Commissioner Bill Shearon
Press: Sun

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Sandy Haas-Martens moved to approve the July 17th, 2006 meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor John Chappie.
Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Fran Barford expressed pleasure at the opportunity to serve on this board. She noted that she had served on MPO in Hillsborough County for fourteen years, and chaired the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

MPO / MEMBER UPDATES

MPO Executive Director Mike Howe gave a summary of actions that occurred at the September 25th, 2006 and October 23rd, 2006 MPO Meetings.

Mike Howe reported that Representative Bill Galvano gave a presentation at the September 25th MPO Meeting. Mr. Howe recalled that Representative Galvano had been a co-sponsor last year of a regional transportation authority idea that ran out of time to pass the legislature. The MPO Executive Director noted that Representative Galvano planned to re-introduce the legislation this year. Mike Howe said that the Representative's presentation had already been before the Chair's Coordinating Committee (composed of six MPO's representing the Tampa Bay area). He said that the basic concept of the bill was that a transportation authority board would be formed, composed of MPO representatives of the eight counties of the Tampa Bay, including the Sarasota and Manatee MPO, along with some citizen appointments and perhaps some business appointments. Mr. Howe said that it was not yet known if the main purpose of the authority would be more transit oriented, (i.e., bus and rail), road oriented, or both. The MPO Executive Director indicated it would be necessary to monitor the new authority to make sure local plans are not ignored and vital funding is not intercepted.

Mike Howe said that another piece of information from the September 25th meeting was that completion of funding for the seven projects emanating from the Sarasota / Manatee MPO area would take another forty-three years at current funding levels. He explained that these were projects that were already currently underway, and did not include another twenty-five projects on the MPO priority list, or the forty-five projects in the MPO's long-range transportation plan. Mike How noted that in Sarasota County, thirteen projects would take another ninety-seven years to complete.

The MPO Executive Director reported that some projects from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) were rolled forward. He noted, in general, that if delays occur at the local level, because of tight funding, FDOT will be scrutinizing the projects to be rolled over year after year.

Also at the October MPO Meeting, Mr. Howe said there was an excellent presentation made by the Project Manager of Southwest Florida 511. He noted that the new 511 system, initiated throughout Florida, would provide information on demand by phone relative to roadway conditions for any given stretch of roadway.

December 4th, 2006 MPO Agenda

Mike Howe indicated that this would perhaps be the most significant meeting of the year. He referred to the draft agenda, approved by the Chair, Mayor Bussell of Palmetto, and noted that the meeting date had been changed to Monday, December 4th, 2006 at 9:30 a.m., due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The MPO Executive Director said that this meeting was significant because this was when the FDOT Five-Year Program would be received. He said that the MPO's Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees would be meeting on November 29th, 2006 to take a look at the Five-Year Program, and the Board would be reviewing it on December 4th. Mike Howe reminded everyone that last year had been a terrible year for priority funding, perhaps the worst in twenty years. He said that word he had from FDOT was that they intended to at least stabilize the funding in District 1 from last year.

Sandy Haas-Martens confirmed with Mike Howe that there would only be one MPO Meeting in December.

In response to a question from Mayor John Chappie, Mike Howe noted that there had been a gap in trolley service from Coquina Beach to Longboat Key and Sarasota. He said that the Manatee and Sarasota County boards of transit had worked out an agreement, in the last couple of months, that would streamline service to about half an hour. Mike Howe said that this was not an extension of the trolley program, it was simply filling in the gaps in traditional bus service.

Mr. Howe noted that it had been discovered that FDOT awarded Manatee County \$370,000 from a grant to Manatee to extend the trolley program from the tip of Anna Maria down to St. Armands Circle. He said that the only problem with this is that it requires a 50% local jurisdiction match. Mr. Howe said that it would take approximately \$750,000 to extend the program. He said the issue Commissioner Joe McClash proposed to determine at the meeting was the level of interest by Sarasota, Longboat Key, and Manatee, to cooperate and contribute to the local match to draw down the dollars to extend the trolley program, and to determine whether there should be 20 minute service or 30 minute service.

Haas-Martens asked why MCAT could not go to Longboat Key if it could go from the Island clear over to Highway 41. Mike Howe responded that this involved reciprocity agreements to allow one system's busses to go into another system, a matter which, he noted, had now been worked out.

OLD BUSINESS

ITPO Appointment to MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee

Mike Howe explained that the ITPO was a sub-organization of the MPO, with rotating membership, and that in the late 1990's, a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), as well as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), had been created to assist the Island Transportation and Planning Organization (ITPO). He noted that there had been a nine-month vacancy on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which was one that reported to the full MPO. He noted that former Commissioner Don Maloney of Holmes Beach had applied for the position, as did another gentleman.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of changing the by-laws to require only one Island representative to the MPO.

Mayor Fran Barford noted that Anna Maria was not being represented and that it was important for them to fill the position. She said she did not think transportation issues were so different between the three Island cities that this would preclude proper representation by one person.

MOTION: Mayor Fran Barford moved to have one representative from each Island city on the CAC, seconded by Mayor John Chappie.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Mike Howe confirmed that he would have the draft by-laws written up accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

Anna Maria – Discussion: Policy associated with the number of representatives per city and/or per the entire Island; Meeting Attendance

Mayor Fran Barford indicated that she felt the previous discussion had taken care of these topics.

Bradenton Beach – Appointment of TAC representative Tom Woodard, Public Works Director of the City of Bradenton Beach

Mayor John Chappie indicated that Mr. Woodard had previous transportation experience in his work for Manatee County, and felt that this background could be useful to the Committee.

MOTION: Sandy Haas-Martens moved to approve Tom Woodard as representative to the TAC, seconded by Mayor John Chappie.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Holmes Beach – Update on Bridge Openings

Sandy Haas-Martens acknowledged that all the cities had received the same memo, and Mike Howe said that he had additional copies available. Mike Howe noted that the new opening schedule was now in the thirty-day comment period. He said that on approximately December 7th or 8th, the Coast Guard would be able to publish the Final Rule, and once this had been done, the waiting period would be over. He said that it would take a while to get the Final Rule approved, and there would follow a thirty-day implementation period. Mr. Howe expressed confidence that the new opening times would become effective this season, possibly by the end of January.

Mike Howe reported that the stretch of Cortez Road from Gulf Drive to the bridge decking would be re-paved. He said that a new lens cap would be installed on the light there, and new can signs would be added to indicate the new street intersection. *Mayor John Chappie asked Mike Howe to double check to confirm that mast arms were also included in this project.*

Relative to the four permanent automated traffic information signs approved several months ago, Mr. Howe said that the project was 95% complete, and should be completed by August 2007.

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORT

- **TAC Report** – No report.
- **CAC Report** – No report.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Bradenton Beach - Mayor John Chappie asked about the possibility of a new, higher bridge at Cortez.

Mike Howe responded that the spokesperson for FDOT had said that as much information as possible was being currently gathered regarding use of the bridges to determine life span relative to an \$8 million upgrade that was being planned for the bridges, because they did not put in a new high rise bridge. He said that they wanted to make sure they had the best data relative to the type of weight that was crossing the Cortez Bridge to make sure the bridges would fulfill the promised 20-year increase in life span.

Mayor Chappie indicated that he in no way wanted to see a high rise bridge replace the draw bridge.

Mike Howe asked if citizens had been complaining about the signs on Cortez. Mayor Chappie said that he had not received any complaints, however, they were generally not liked and it was hoped that they were not becoming permanent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Fran Barford expressed appreciation for former Holmes Beach Mayor Carol Whitmore's attendance.

Mark Alonzo of Anna Maria discussed parking problems and expressed appreciation for the trolley service, which, he recommended, should extend around Bean Point via North Shore Drive, instead of running along Pine Avenue.

Sandy-Haas Martens said that the problem, back when the original route was devised, was that the trolley could not get over the hump-backed bridge or into some pull-off areas.

Mike Howe said that this would be examined from a technical standpoint and confirmed to Mayor Fran Barford that this would be brought back to the next meeting.

Doug Copeland of 408 North Bay Boulevard said that he would be against the North Shore trolley route, because this is a very narrow, dirty street. He said that in general, he would not like to see the trolley run through a residential neighborhood.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

January 15th, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. at Anna Maria City Hall.

Mike Howe noted that the ITPO meeting would move to Bradenton Beach in April 2007, with the first meeting there to be held in May.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Sandy Haas-Martens moved to adjourn the meeting and her motion was seconded by Mayor John Chappie.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.