

Summary of Discussion
Broward County Charter Review Commission
Transportation Subcommittee Meeting No. 3
Thursday, May 03, 2007- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Annex - Room A-200
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Members Present:

Michael Buckner, Esq., Chair
David Esack
Petey Kaletta
Commissioner Ted Mena, Vice Chair
Jodi Jeffreys-Tanner

Members Absent:

Bruce Rogow, Esq.

Others Attending:

Tommie Dawson, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Roger Del Rio, Staff Acting Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC
Yolanda Grooms, Administrative Specialist, CRC
Maria Gross, Assistant Director, CRC
Dan Glickman, Resident, City of Deerfield Beach
William Howard, A.T.U Local
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting
Ms. Lisa Vondrak, News-Abstracts.com
Patricia G. West, Executive Director, CRC

(A copy of the sign-in sheets identifying those present is filed with the supplemental papers to the summary of this Subcommittee Meeting.)

A meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Transportation Subcommittee “Committee, Subcommittee, or TSC”, was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 03, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center Annex – Room A-200, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair Mr. Ted Mena called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. The Vice-Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum and explained his absence from the April 18 meeting of the TSC.

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED and Mr. Esack SECONDED that the minutes reflect Mr. Mena's absence from the April 18 TSC meeting for business reasons.

II Approval of Summary of Discussion for the April 18, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, Mr. Esack SECONDED, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Transportation Subcommittee April 18 Summary of Discussion.

The Chair invited Mr. Roger Delrio, Director, Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization to begin his presentation.

III Presentation: Overview Metropolitan Planning Organization - Roger Delrio, Acting Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization – [10:06 AM – 11:22 PM]

Mr. Delrio presented an overview of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process; he presented multiple handouts to the dais. He advised that the MPO is a coalition of various members and policy makers in the metropolitan area; he spoke of the primary goal of the MPO Board, which is to guide the expenditures of Federal, State and Local transportation dollars.

Mr. Delrio's presentation addressed how the MPO process enables local transit operators to receive Federal funds. He advised that the MPO recently completed its Federal recertification, and both the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) gave them high marks. Mr. Delrio advised that the Federal Agencies review several matters. They determine if the MPO is following the **Three "C" Process**, which is Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive. He added that they also look at whether the MPO is addressing the 8 Planning Factors required by Federal Legislation. Mr. Delrio explained that they also look at how the MPO develops their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Responding to a question from Mr. Mena, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO budget is \$2.3 million which covers staff salaries and planning studies. The MPO Board consist of 19

members including 14 Municipal members, 1 School Board Member, 1 representative from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and 3 County Commissioners.

Mr. Delrio explained that the MPO has three Advisory Committees, and a Community Involvement Roundtable, which is an appointed group of 42 members.

Responding to a question from Ms. Tanner, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO officials decide their length of term on the Board, however each year a new Chair is selected; he added that the current Chair is Mr. Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill.

Michael Buckner Entered [10:20 AM]

Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO's primary product is the Unified Planning Work Program, which outlines and identifies the different agencies that the MPO works with during the fiscal year. Responding to a question from Ms. Tanner, Mr. Delrio explained that the LRTP is a 20-30 year plan, which was approved by the MPO Board in December of 2004; The MPO is required to update the LRTP every 5 years.

Responding to a question from Ms. Kaletta, Mr. Delrio advised that they report to the MPO Board, which is a Federally Mandated entity. The MPO also approves the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); he added that they certify the MPO process every 4 years.

Mr. Esack asked about the projections for 1999 and 2004. Mr. Delrio indicated that the last plan was approved in December 1999. This was the 2025 plan. The process includes a great deal of public involvement; a consultant is hired to validate the specific model.

Mr. Esack wanted to know about the accuracy of the projections in the five-year plans. Mr. Delrio advised that the projections are as accurate as the computer model can be within 1% margin and from the demographic information entered.

Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO does not validate Countywide; he explained that there is an unfunded projects' list in the LRTP. Mr. Delrio explained that the LRP is a fiscally constrained document and the LRTP budget is \$600 million through 2030.

Responding to a question from Ms. Kaletta, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO only deals with Broward County.

After a brief discussion took place relevant to the Congestion Management Process, Mr. Delrio explained that the MPO looks at ways to improve different corridors i.e. (timing, remodifying, and configuration of intersection, improving or updating the equipment of the intersection etc.)

Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO works closely with municipal partners to make sure that the enhancements target the improvements they want to see in their municipalities.

Responding to a question from Ms. Kaletta, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO deals mostly with State and County roads. He explained that local roads do not qualify for federal funding. Mr. Delrio explained that the MPO assists municipalities with roadway enhancement projects, and can utilize funds up to \$3 million dollars.

There was a discussion on Mast Arm traffic lights; Mr. Delrio explained how Miami-Dade system hangs their traffic lights horizontally for wind resistance.

Mr. Delrio offered the use of his conference room for future Transportation Subcommittee Meetings.

Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO is looking at developing a method to prioritize the regional process; he added that the MPO has a State funding source, which is called Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) from which the MPO receives \$13 million dollars. He advised that the three MPOs have contributed \$6 million to the FEC Railroad Study.

In response to a question from Mr. Mena, Mr. Delrio explained that a Federal certification is conducted to ensure that products of the MPO are enabling the concept of Continuing, being Cooperative and having a Comprehensive process. The MPO is required to bring everyone to the table to discuss the issues. The MPO is the policy board that directs how things will be resolved. He added that on the technical side, it is up to the MPO planners and engineers to bring the technical issues to the board that would hamper a project. He advised that the MPO decides how the plan should be developed and the MPO staff takes direction from the Policy board.

Responding to a question from Mr. Mena regarding roadway expansion and home rule, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO can not dictate to a municipal government or a local government how to develop their plan. He advised that the MPO is an Advisory Group.

Mr. Dawson mentioned the Title 6 Rule, which allows a small group of people to advise that they are being unduly treated; he gave an example of Sistrunk Blvd.

Mr. Delrio and Mr. Dawson advised Ms. Kaletta that the Eminent Domain rule has been changed. Mr. Dawson advised that it would take lobbying the legislature to allow Eminent Domain enforcement.

Mr. Delrio referred to the Unfunded Priorities listed on page 142 in the LRTP.

Responding to a question from Ms. Kaletta, Mr. Delrio advised that Broward County Transit (BCT) is different because they have their own program to address issues relevant to the conditions on or around the public bus stops. He added that the MPO helps with Pedestrian Inventory Reports, Bus Stops, efficiencies (bench, lighting, shelters etc.) and makes recommendations to improve the bus stops.

Responding to a question from Ms. Kaletta, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO has a program called Fast Bus. He explained that BCT is utilizing the new articulated buses that look like accordions, they accommodate more passengers. The next evolution of that system, is to run it to the FAU Campus in Boca, create stations 1 mile apart, and identify one lane of SR7 dedicated only to Transit.

After a brief discussion regarding Public Transportation, Mr. Delrio advised that the MPO is federally mandated and created through State Statute, which makes it different from the Planning Council.

Mr. Delrio advised that the Broward County MPO is the only MPO in Florida that has 14 municipal policy makers and in addition to those 14, our system allows alternates to sit on the dais and vote if a member does not show up. Mr. Delrio stated that Broward County is lucky to have the system where we have representation of the entire area and all municipalities have a voice.

In response to a question from Mr. Mena, Mr. Delrio explained that the MPO did a study regarding the structure of other MPOs; he added that the unique thing about the MPO is that it is a federally mandated program. Mr. Delrio advised that the Planning Council's main job is to develop a Land Use Plan, which is a County task.

The Chair thanked Mr. Delrio for coming. ***[End of Speaker]***

IV Public Comment

Mr. Dan Glickman resident of Deerfield Beach read from a Memorandum from the CRC General Council regarding MPO format and advised the dais that the MPO is having their attorney review the memorandum, and that the CRC members should receive a revised memorandum from the General Counsel regarding this matter.

V Old Business

None

VI New Business – Future Speakers

The Chair asked Ms. West to go over the future speakers for the TSC.

Ms. West replied in this order:

May 17th – Phil Allen – Port Everglades

June 7th – Mayor Eggelation

June 21st – Vice Mayor Wexler (Not confirmed)

The Chair advised the dais that he asked Ms. West to invite other County Commissioners for input concerning transportation issues.

The Chair reminded the dais that the TSC recommendation's draft due date is September 1st.

In response to a question from Ms. Tanner, Ms. West explained the feedback would be forthcoming from a memo she will submit to all 9 Commissioners. A brief discussion took place relevant to the future speakers.

Responding to a question from The Chair, Mr. Mena advised that there is nothing wrong with the way the MPO is set up. Mr. Mena expressed that he sees no changes coming in the setup of the MPO.

A discussion ensued regarding the Public Transportation system.

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, SECONDED by Mr. Esack to extend the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Delrio explained the breakdown of the MPO. He spoke of why the setup is so unique. He advised that the power has shifted from the County to a Municipal base. A discussion took place regarding the attendance of the MPO members. Mr. Delrio advised that there have been no problems with attendance.

VII ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion and no additional comment the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-TSC CD # 5.03.07 (BCGV CTR)