

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
DECEMBER 12, 2014**

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County: Commissioner O'Bryan
 Commissioner Zorc (Alternate)

Martin County: Commissioner Haddox
 Commissioner Scott (Alternate)
 Commissioner Krauskopf
 Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch (Alternate)

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Mowery
 Commissioner Johnson (Alternate)
 Councilman Bowen

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Valeche
 Commissioner Burdick
 Commissioner Taylor
 Councilwoman Gerwig
 Mayor Ferreri
 Mayor DuBois
 Councilman Hmara (Alternate)
 Councilman Szerdi (Alternate)
 Councilman Guyton (Alternate)
 Councilmember Tinsley (Alternate)

Gubernatorial Appointees: Douglas Bournique
 Michael Davis
 Tobin Overdorf
 Reece Parrish
 Peter Sachs
 Steven Weaver, Sr.

Ex-Officios: Larry Hymowitz, Florida Department of Transportation
 Lynda Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
 Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District
 Jill Creech, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Council Staff: Michael Busha
 Phyllis Castro

Kim DeLaney
Anthea Gianniotos
Liz Gulick
Stephanie Heidt
Peter Merritt
Greg Vaday

Council Attorney: Roger Saberson

The Executive Director announced a quorum is present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman O'Bryan asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Councilmember Weaver asked why an update on All Aboard Florida (AAF) is not on the agenda, because this is to be a standing item. Staff indicated an update would be provided under Announcements. Councilmember Parrish moved approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Burdick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff indicated Council comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were sent to the state and federal agencies on December 2, 2014 and included additional comments from the public, local governments, and agencies. Staff also noted a letter was sent to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) representatives requesting a face-to-face meeting. FRA staff has indicated they are working on a written response. Staff has also forwarded the letter to Congressman Murphy for his staff to assist Council with the arrangements for this meeting.

Staff noted Council's comments on the marine navigational survey, which is focused on bridge impacts at the Loxahatchee River and St. Lucie River bridge crossings as well as the New River Bridge, were transmitted to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on December 1, 2014. The USCG has emphasized the survey is focused on the current operations of the bridges. However, impacts from the AAF project are not a consideration at this time, because they cannot be evaluated in advance of the project. The USCG further noted the AAF issues are being handled by the FRA as part of the EIS process, so that agency will be reviewing those impacts. The USCG indicated comments and other data are presently being reviewed and anticipates completion of their review by the end of January. Following the review, the USCG will determine whether or not operational changes are necessary. If appropriate, the agency will publish a notice of proposed rule-making that will include any operational changes recommended in the Code of Federal Regulations, which controls the bridge openings and closings. A rule-making notice will include a 90-day public comment period, which can also include public meetings at the discretion of the USCG. Based on the acceptability of any new rules, the USCG will then publish a final rule that will be followed by another 30-day public comment period.

Staff announced Mayor Ferreri is leaving Council after 16 years of service. Staff thanked Mayor Ferreri for his support to both Council and staff through his professional development, good

counsel, and guidance. Mayor Ferreri stated that being on Council has given him an opportunity to serve his community better, and he wants to give someone else the opportunity to learn the importance of regional planning.

Staff thanked Chairman O'Bryan for serving as chairman for the past two years. Staff recommended Council make a donation to the American Cancer Society on behalf of Chairman O'Bryan and his wife Susan. Councilmember Bournique moved approval of the recommendation. Commissioner Haddox seconded the motion. Under discussion, it was determined the amount of the donation will be at the discretion of the executive director. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Staff provided the meeting schedule and holiday calendar for 2015 to all Council members. Staff noted that under Public Comment, there will be a short presentation by Mr. John Walker, which relates to a transportation issue.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman O'Bryan thanked Mayor Ferreri for his leadership. He also thanked Council for allowing him to serve as chairman for the past two years. He noted that he is pleased Palm Beach County is going to remain with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), and congratulated the county for going through the process.

He indicated that one of the things that have been implemented in the last year is Council's legislative priorities. He stated that these priorities are very important, because they provide a package of what is important for the entire region that can be brought to our legislators. He stated that it speaks to the strength and unity of Council for all the municipalities and counties to come together under this process. He thanked Councilmember Weaver for serving as the chairman of the Gubernatorial Committee.

Chairman O'Bryan stated he also hopes Council's next chairman will continue the Council Member Updates. He indicated it has been his honor to represent the regional planning council and he looks forward to many more years of continued service.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

Chairman O'Bryan announced the U.S. Navy Blue Angels will be coming to the Vero Beach air show in 2016.

Commissioner Valeche indicated there was a Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting earlier in the week regarding the U.S. 1 bridge to Jupiter, which was scheduled to be modified to expand the bike lanes, but is now considered unsafe and will need to be replaced. He noted that this will delay the entire project for several years.

Commissioner Burdick stated the county is still in discussions to locate another baseball team in Palm Beach County. She wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Commissioner Johnson indicated St. Lucie County will be working with the City of Fort Pierce regarding the activities at the port, and he is looking forward to a continued relationship with the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie.

Commissioner Zorc noted that he is excited about the Blue Angels coming back to Indian River County, stating his son Chandler is their number one fan.

Mayor DuBois stated he had not attended the recent MPO meeting, but indicated there is currently a struggle to get the State Road 7 (SR 7) extension completed. He announced that their Town Manager, Dale Sugarman, is retiring in January and complimented him on an outstanding job.

Commissioner Szerdi announced the City of Lake Worth planning department recently received the International Economic Development Council award. He noted that this fits with the vision of the city and has been guided by principles from Council. He noted the city supports the county staying with TCRPC, and wished everyone a happy holiday. Chairman O'Bryan congratulated the city on its award.

Councilwoman Gerwig shared her concerns about the SR 7 completion date. She noted the Western Communities Council is meeting to address that issue. She also invited everyone to attend the Winter Equestrian Festival, which begins on January 9, 2015. The event runs for three months and is free except for parking. Chairman O'Bryan asked her to send information to staff on the festival. She also noted she attended the National League of Cities conference in Austin, Texas. She stated she got a lot of ideas and input from other communities about ways to do things differently, and hopes some of those principles can be applied to her community.

Councilmember Tinsley thanked Mayor Ferreri and Chairman O'Bryan for their leadership and service to Council. She noted Mayor Ferreri did a wonderful job at the Palm Beach County Commission meeting in discussing why the county should stay with TCRPC. She indicated there is a lot of growth being proposed in the City of Palm Beach Gardens. She noted that in November there were two ballot initiatives that passed, one was for six-year term limits, and the other to make the term limits retroactive. She stated that the retroactive component is unprecedented in the county and will eliminate four out of the five current council members within the next two years.

Mayor Ferreri wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilman Hmara expressed his disappointment on the delay of the SR 7 extension, noting that the first time this delay from 2016 to 2020 was presented by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was at the MPO meeting. He indicated the rationale that was given is there are priority shifts and additional costs that had not been anticipated. He stated that this extension is very important to the western communities. He noted the good news is that it is not a done deal, because FDOT's work plan has several more stages to go through before it is finalized, and there could be solutions at the state level through the budgeting process. He noted another important reason for this extension is the Minto development, and other developments that are coming to the western area.

Councilman Guyton echoed the sentiments for Mayor Ferreri and Chairman O'Bryan. He thanked them for their service and wished them continued success. Councilman Guyton indicated Council

staff is working on revising the land development codes for the City of Riviera Beach. He also noted staff is working on the Broadway Corridor master plan that is related to the city's marina development, which is in the first phase of development and progressing well.

Councilman Bowen indicated Crosstown Parkway extension, a six-lane, divided highway linking I-95 to US 1 in the City of Port St. Lucie, is in the final stage of building a bridge over the north fork of the St. Lucie River. He indicated the anticipated completion date of the bridge is August of 2018.

Commissioner Krauskopf noted this is the City of Stuart's last meeting and Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch from the Town of Sewall's Point will be the regular member and Secretary-Treasurer for Council in 2015. Chairman O'Bryan thanked Commissioner Krauskopf for his participation.

Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch noted during high tide parts of south Sewall's Point are under water. She indicated this has been occurring since the hurricanes of 2005. She announced a workbook by River Kidz will be going into all Martin County schools next year. She stated that the mission statement of River Kids is to speak out, get involved, raise awareness, and have a voice in the future of our rivers. She wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked Chairman O'Bryan, Mayor Ferreri, and all the Council members who all serve so willingly.

Commissioner Sachs thanked the Palm Beach County Commission for voting to stay with TCRPC. He noted there are many things we can accomplish if we work together as a region to achieve common goals. He also noted that the legislative committee meetings will start the first week in January.

Councilmember Bournique indicated the tree assistance program was approved with funding for new trees to be planted by growers anywhere in the state. He stated there will be a resurgence of trees going back into the ground, which is the beginning of a strong employment stream. He noted the Secretary of Agriculture announced the state is going to purchase \$10 million worth of grapefruit juice with Section 32 bonus funds, which will stabilize the price for our growers and keep them in the game. He noted that he attended a meeting at the St. Johns River Water Management District where they announced they will be funding water farming projects. He noted they are in the process of identifying sites in Indian River County east of I-95, which will directly impact the Indian River Lagoon. He stated that although the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) did not release any water down the C-44 Canal, the lagoon is still brown. He stated that this is caused by the local runoff from the cities and urban areas.

Councilmember Davis thanked Chairman O'Bryan for his phenomenal leadership over the last two years. He concurred with Councilmember Sachs' comments regarding Palm Beach County's decision to stay with TCRPC. He stated that is the correct decision and thanked Commissioner Taylor for starting that dialogue. He stated he believes that because the cities rose up and passed resolutions, this evolved from a discussion of geography to a discussion of the great value of regional planning.

Councilmember Overdorf thanked Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Mowery, and Mr. Busha for working with all of the municipalities within Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County for their decision to stay with TCRPC. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Weaver stated due to the hard work of St. Lucie County and Congressman Patrick Murphy, the county is ahead of the curve on beach renourishment funding. He noted the SFWMD has broken ground on a water farming project in western St. Lucie County. He stated he concurs with all the appreciation for the support of our leaders.

Councilman Parrish thanked Chairman O'Bryan and Mayor Ferreri for their service.

Ms. Creech indicated Governor Scott has appointed Jon Steverson to the position of Secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection effective December 29, 2014. She noted that the southeast district offices have been relocated to the SFWMD headquarters on Gun Club Road. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

Ms. LaMartina updated Council on the district's cooperative funding program. She indicated the solicitation for requests for proposals is over and the district received about 220 applications for stormwater, alternative water supply, and water conservation projects, with a total funding request of about \$220 million dollars. The projects are being ranked and will go before the governing board in January of 2015.

Commissioner Valeche noted that the Pal Mar Water Control District straddles the Martin/Palm Beach County line and the government, through SFWMD and Martin and Palm Beach counties, has been buying private land for water restoration, but there are no longer funds available. He noted that he recently heard about a new initiative between Martin and Palm Beach counties to acquire land, joining with the Florida Forever program and perhaps through funds from Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Initiative. He stated there is a lot of contention on the value of this type of program and whether or not the land can be developed. He stated that in his view, the only acceptable future is for the government, through various entities, to acquire as much of that land as possible.

Mayor Ferreri noted the City of Greenacres was featured as a question on *Jeopardy*.

Staff announced Greg Vaday of Council staff will be taking a job with Palm Beach County. Staff noted Mr. Vaday has been instrumental in obtaining a lot of funding for the cities and counties for various projects such as the Glades Utility Authority water plant and the VGTI building in Port St. Lucie. Mr. Busha thanked Mr. Vaday for his sixteen years of service.

Staff stated that if Council members want to know more about the work programs of Council, the audit report provides descriptions of the various programs and highlights of Council's work.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Alex Larson noted that she grew up in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. She stated that she is not picking on the City of Fellsmere, but she is concerned when she sees growth go from

1,144 units to 13,000 units. She stated she believes that is one of the mistakes that has been made in the counties to the south. She stated that the builders are moving up the coast of Florida with all their development and the tax payers, not the developers, have to pay for the ramifications of that development. As an example, she noted that on Singer Island there are 24-story condominiums and recently the residents did not have water for three weeks, because the pipes had been eroded by the saltwater. She stated that water is precious and we are losing it. She stated in her county the SFWMD did the L-8 Reservoir project, which sucked out the water from the homes nearby. She stated that Florida Power and Light Company is required to use reclaimed water, but the water pipe has been shut down and she asked where they are getting their 21 million gallons per day. She stated up and down the coast and in the central part of Florida water is a problem, because there are sink holes. She stated that developers should have to buy surety bonds so if something goes wrong the tax payers will not be responsible. She asked Council members to think about water and our future. She stated that knowing the problems that have occurred to the south, we need to start holding the builders' feet to the fire.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman O'Bryan requested that Consent Agenda Item 8D, City of Fellsmere Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 14-2ESR, be pulled for discussion. Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the amended Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mowery seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Items remaining on the Consent Agenda were: 8A, Annual Audit Report – Fiscal Year 2013-2014; 8B, Financial Report – October 31, 2014; 8C, Minutes – November 21, 2014; and 8E, Village of Tequesta Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 15-1ESR.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the City of Fellsmere amendment is related to another large annexation, noting that a couple years ago the city annexed 18,000 acres for the Fellsmere Joint Venture property. He stated that this amendment is for 8,800 acres of property. He stated that Indian River County feels that the city is being optimistic on the projected population growth rates, which they obtained from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). He noted that in the past, the county has found that BEBR has overestimated the growth rate for the county. He stated that the city is using these rates and actually added another 19,000 people, which is overly optimistic for what has historically been the trend. He noted in the past the city has captured about five percent of the population growth in the county, but the current reports indicates they will capture 42 percent going forward. He stated the county also has concerns about the proposed commercial and industrial square footage that is being proposed. He indicated that the entire county, including all of the municipalities, has only 20 million square feet (SF) of non-residential space. He stated that the city's other annexations have over 30 million SF, and this project proposes 12 million SF, which the county believes is a bit high due to the significant lack of infrastructure. He stated that the city's report indicates there is a connection between the county water system and the city. However, this is for emergency use only, and is not designated to provide normal water and wastewater services. He stated the county does not have sufficient water capacity for this development, and a lot of their capacity is earmarked for potential growth within the county's urban service area, not for these large annexations. He stated that he fully supports the staff comment contained in the report that the city should coordinate with the county to make the necessary

corrections and address any further revisions based on the county's comments related to water and wastewater issues, transportation, and other issues contained in the county's letter.

Mark Mathes, Community Development Director for the City of Fellsmere, stated he agrees with the comments from the county and it is their intent to continue a positive dialogue with the county. He stated the City of Fellsmere has a very strong comprehensive plan and land development regulations to assure these issues are adequately addressed prior to development occurring. He indicated the city is a strong supporter of concurrency and working with their partners in the region, and will continue the ongoing dialogue with the county and others to ensure all concerns are addressed.

Commissioner Mowery moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Valeche **Motion** seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Under discussion, Mayor Ferreri stated he did not see any mention of coordination with Brevard County. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the proposed property is not adjacent to Brevard County. Mayor Ferreri stated that his concern is that part of regional planning is to look beyond the borders. Mr. Mathes indicated that they have been in contact with the City of Palm Bay and Brevard County.

COUNCIL ORGANIZATION – MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

In accordance with the rules and regulations of Council, the Executive Director read the following names of the new Councilmembers for 2015 into the record, and asked the Chairman certify they have been duly appointed:

PALM BEACH COUNTY

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| Regular Members: | Commissioner Hal Valeche
Commissioner Paulette Burdick
Commissioner Priscilla Taylor |
| Regular Member Alternates: | Commissioner Melissa McKinlay
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams
Mayor Shelley Vana |
| Municipal Members: | Councilwoman Anne Gerwig (Wellington)
Commissioner John Szerdi (City of Lake Worth)
Mayor Karen Golonka (Town of Jupiter)
Council Member Marcie Tinsley (City of Palm Beach Gardens)
Mayor James DuBois (Town of Lake Park) |
| Municipal Alternates: | Councilman Jeff Hmara (Village of Royal Palm Beach)
Councilman Bruce Guyton (City of Riviera Beach)
Councilman David Norris (Village of North Palm Beach) |

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Regular Members: Commissioner Peter O’Bryan
Commissioner Bob Solari

Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Joseph Flescher
Commissioner Tim Zorc

Municipal Members: Vice Mayor Jerome Adams (City of Sebastian)
Mayor Brian Barefoot (Town of Indian River Shores)

Municipal Alternates: Councilmember Pilar Turner (City of Vero Beach)
Councilmember Robert Gibbons (Town of Orchid)

MARTIN COUNTY

Regular Members: Commissioner Ed Fielding
Commissioner John Haddox

Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Anne Scott
Commissioner Sarah Heard

Municipal Member Commissioner Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (Town of Sewall’s Point)

Municipal Alternate Commissioner Charles Falcone (Town of Jupiter Island)

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Regular Members: Commissioner Tod Mowery
Commissioner Paula A. Lewis

Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Kim Johnson
Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky

Municipal Members: Councilman Ronald Bowen (City of Port St. Lucie)
Commissioner Thomas Perona (City of Fort Pierce)

Municipal Alternates: Council Member Shannon Martin (City of Port St. Lucie)
Commissioner Reginald Sessions (City of Fort Pierce)

**GUBERNATORIAL
APPOINTEES:**

Tobin Overdorf, Martin County
Michael Houston, Martin County
Michael Davis, Palm Beach County
Peter Sachs, Palm Beach County
Kelly Smallridge, Palm Beach County
Reece Parrish, St. Lucie County
Steven Weaver, Sr., St. Lucie County
Douglas Bournique, Indian River County

EX-OFFICIOS:

Ann Benedetti, St. Johns River Water Management District
Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation (Alternate)
Lynda Kompelien Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation
Authority
Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District
Jill Creech, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Chairman O'Bryan certified the membership as read have all been duly appointed. Councilwoman Gerwig moved approval of appointments. Mayor Ferreri seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

**BUDGET/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REVIEW OF
COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chairman O'Bryan indicated the committee had met prior to the Council meeting. He stated the budget that had been approved in July contained \$305,000 in projected revenue. He noted that this is from numerous contracts that were in the process of being negotiated, but had not yet been signed at the time the budget was adopted. Since the adoption of the budget, staff has secured \$386,000 in new contracts, which exceeds the projected revenue by \$81,000.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated the Budget/Personnel Committee also reviewed the evaluation forms that had been submitted for the annual review of the executive director. He stated the reviews were favorable and did not reflect any areas of concern. He noted due to the economic downturn, there have not been any salary increases for the last several years. He noted that last year Council did approve a one-time bonus for staff. He indicated a lot of counties and cities are going back to some type of merit or Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for their staffs. He stated the Budget/Personnel Committee is recommending to Council that there be up to a four percent salary increase for both the executive director and staff, with the allocation of that being determined by the executive director. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that this would take effect on January 1, 2015.

Commissioner Haddox moved approval of the Committee recommendation. Commissioner Valeche seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Councilmember Davis stated that he would like to ensure that the executive director get the four percent increase as well as the staff, and he should not be permitted to use his discretion to turn down the increase for himself.

Commissioner Zorc stated that in the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) report it shows TCRPC has the highest 2013-2014 budget, with the smallest staff, if the two smallest counties, Apalachee and Withlacoochee, are removed. He stated that independent contractors may be the difference in the budgets. He asked if TCRPC looks at how the other regional planning councils compensate their employees and if it is competitive for the scope of services being provided.

Chairman O'Bryan recommended Commissioner Zorc read the audit report and the highlights of all the contract work undertaken in the past fiscal year, including the additional \$386,000 in new

contracts. He stated that a significant amount of the contracts are pass-through funding. He explained to Commissioner Zorc that there have been extensive discussions during the past few meetings that focused on how almost every city in Palm Beach County has spoken out about how much work Council staff has done for the various cities in the region. He noted that Council also gets contracted work outside the region, because of staff's expertise. He asked staff to get a breakdown from the other regional planning councils of how much of their total budget is allocated for salaries. Commissioner Zorc stated he has been following the discussion of Palm Beach County leaving TCRPC. He stated that the FRCA report shows that TCRPC has the highest rate per capita. Staff noted that Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's rate is higher. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that Council's per capita rate has been frozen for the last six to seven years. Staff noted that this rate freeze has saved the counties over \$100,000.

Councilwoman Gerwig asked how long it has been since there has been an across the board COLA increase for Council staff. Chairman O'Bryan stated that it has been five years, noting that the bonus received last year by the staff was not part of their base salary, but a one-time payment.

Councilmember Bournique indicated that he served on the original Palm Beach County area planning board, and he believes the current executive director is the best Council has had. He stated that on behalf of agriculture Mr. Busha has been fair, and has done a tremendous job of leading Council through difficult times. He stated he wished more than four percent could be given to the executive director and staff, because the pressure they are under has been tremendous and they have always done a great job.

Councilmember Weaver stated that he has life experience that includes a lot of municipal staff predisposing what they think is best for their communities. He believes the executive director handles that very well and he supports the four percent increase.

Mayor Ferreri stated that with the current changes in the economy, and the recent loss of staff members, if Council does not approve this increase more staff will leave. He stated that when that happens you lose a lot of connectivity to the communities as well as institutional knowledge. He indicated that there have been times when there have been cuts to the staff salaries and benefits, and he believes this increase is fair and the right move.

Under public comment, Ms. Larsen stated that Mr. Busha and the staff have always been kind and supportive to herself, Rosa Durando, and Drew Martin through the years. She stated that she recently watched the Solid Waste Authority give their employees a ten percent raise, and the county employees also received a three percent wage increase. She stated that she is glad Council is giving the executive director and staff this increase.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that during discussions with the auditors and in the past, Council has discussed starting an operating reserve account. He stated that the auditors have recommended that, because interest rates on savings accounts are very low, and the current mortgage on the Council office building will have a balloon note coming due in three years, the money would be better spent paying down the current mortgage. He stated the committee would like to recommend that Council

target \$2,500 a month to the principal balance on the loan. He stated that this could be done at the discretion of the executive director as a monthly payment, or a lump sum at the end of the year based upon cash flow. Additionally, the committee is recommending the executive director work with the bank to see if the loan can be renegotiated now before interest rates increase.

Mayor Ferreri moved approval of the committee recommendation. Commissioner Valeche seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chairman O'Bryan thanked staff for their great work and dedication.

Motion

***ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW* CAMPAIGN – PRESENTATION BY
BILLY HATTAWAY, P.E., DISTRICT ONE SECRETARY OF THE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Secretary Hattaway provided an overview of the District's campaign to improve the safety on our existing corridors and change the way we design our streets and highways. He noted that in the 2014 report by Smart Growth America, *Dangerous by Design*, four of the state's regions were listed in the top most dangerous places in the country for pedestrians and bicyclists. He indicated the current initiative is focused on the top 15 high priority counties to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and will benefit not just those counties, but the entire state. He stated the plan will drive a cultural change not only in terms of the highway systems, but also in terms of the planning community at both the state and local levels. He indicated the Department is in the process of implementing policies into all planning and design guidelines the state uses for designing streets and highways. The Department will be driving the cultural change through complete street policies and implementation; context based bicycle/pedestrian facilities; promotion of modern roundabouts; guidance for road diets on the state system; and updating traffic laws. The Department intends to support this cultural change through training, engineering, education, and enforcement. Secretary Hattaway provided several examples of design and development measures that have been implemented throughout the state.

Commissioner Zorc stated that when we look at concurrency we have to look at peak travel.

Commissioner Valeche noted Palm Beach County is currently doing a road diet project in the Village of Tequesta that will reduce US 1 from six to four lanes and improve walkability.

Commissioner Burdick thanked Secretary Hattaway for his presentation. She indicated the county is expanding a roadway from two to four lanes that is within 1,000 feet of an intersection that serves three schools. She stated that the area is higher density, with lower income residents that will be doing a lot of walking, so the county needs some help with creative solutions for that intersection. Secretary Hattaway noted that one of the things the Department is proposing for downtowns is there be wider sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

Councilman Hmara asked if narrowing the lanes on a four-lane road resulted in a slower inclination on the part of drivers. Secretary Hattaway stated that it does not reduce the speeds. Councilman Hmara noted it is unfortunate, because that has been one of the thoughts about controlling speeds. Mr. Busha noted that when narrowing roads, the lane edges need to include things like on-street

parking, trees, and wider sidewalks that will close that driver's view a little bit. Secretary Hattaway stated land development patterns play a huge role in driver behavior.

Councilman Davis stated he is encouraged that the Department is taking a leadership role on this issue. He noted that currently there is a minimum requirement for the Department to spend 1.5 percent of construction cost on landscape design. He stated he believes this is very important, noting that there has been a run in the legislature for a few years to reverse that to not being able to spend more than 1.5 percent of costs on landscaping. He stated that in terms of making it inviting and encouraging for people to walk and ride bicycles, landscaping is very important. Secretary Hattaway indicated he is working with the state landscape architect, because based on context, landscaping needs to be done differently between low speed urban environments and higher-speed suburban corridors. He stated his philosophy and the culture of the Department is that when a project is built through a community it should contribute to the community, so the Department is looking at ways to design things such as retention areas to improve the curb appeal of the state. He noted that we have 100 million tourists coming here every year and we want our citizens and tourists to be attracted to what it is we build.

Councilmember Tinsley asked how often the thermoplastic striping of the roadways is inspected, maintained, or replaced. Secretary Hattaway stated that he does not know the schedule for restriping and he could not speak for how local governments are handling that. He noted the Department is changing its approach to striping intersections, directing Council members to the Alert Today Florida website for a list of all the things that are being done. Councilmember Tinsley stated that on Military Trail arrows and striping are missing on a big part of the roadway. Secretary Hattaway indicated that ninety percent of the Department's maintenance activities are done through asset maintenance contracts with private sector companies. He stated those companies should be inspecting the corridors regularly and fixing any problems. He stated that if there is a need identified, individuals should call their District office and report the problem.

Councilwoman Gerwig stated that at the National League of Cities meeting she attended some complete street working groups where much of the same information had been presented. She stated that because her suburban community is so spread out, she is finding it difficult to apply these ideas locally. She stated that one of the things that is being done is excluding parking in the codes, which will not work in her community. She asked if there are any plans for refuge shelters. Secretary Hattaway indicated the Department provides grants to transit agencies for bus shelters. Councilwoman Gerwig stated that buses do not run in her community, because it is so spread out, which makes it hard for them to encourage biking and walking. She noted that although Wellington does have bike paths, bicyclers in her community ride on the road, because the cross drives on the bike paths are a problem. She asked how to fix this. Secretary Hattaway stated this is a problem, because there is a wide range of abilities with bicyclists. He stated he is interested in getting the bikes off the sidewalk and into bike lanes. He noted that bicycles are vehicles in the State of Florida and they have the right to be on the roadway, but for less experienced bicyclists, they may be more comfortable riding on the sidewalks. She asked if they should be educating the bicyclists, noting she recently did a public service announcement on cycling safety and was surprised at how much she learned. She stated there is a lot of good information being provided, but it is a challenge for the more suburban communities. Councilwoman Gerwig asked what would make a roundabout fail. Secretary Hattaway indicated that like a signalized intersection it is a function of volume.

Commissioner Szerdi noted that Dixie Highway has been a real challenge for the cities along the edge, and there are a lot of commercial entities that would love to make the roadway two lanes with on-street parking. Secretary Hattaway indicated he should work with the Department on this, because in his experience they have historically been the most progressive on doing these types of projects. He indicated that there have been some road diet projects approved within FDOT District 4 within the last six months. Staff indicated that Council is already working with the City of West Palm Beach to do this and there have been discussions to go further down Dixie Highway into Lake Worth. Staff suggested getting with the Palm Beach MPO executive director and the city's representative on the MPO to submit a lane elimination application. Secretary Hattaway noted that most of the Department's road diets are being driven by economic redevelopment and involve installing on-street parking.

Councilmember Bournique indicated he is pleased we are going in this direction. He stated that he has watched the changes occurring in Florida and believes that malls are a cancer we do not need. He stated he likes the idea of mixed use, and having bicycles indicates a healthy community. He stated people should not have to get into their cars and drive, and we should return to historic designs where people live above their shops. He stated that people should be able to stay within their communities for all their needs, with walking and bicycling being a key component.

Commissioner Valeche indicated Secretary Hattaway had provided statistics on pedestrian fatalities at various speeds and asked if he had comparable statistics for bicyclists. Secretary Hattaway stated that the statistics are basically identical, because both are vulnerable users.

Mayor Ferreri stated that as a bike rider, he is interested in double-striping the bike lanes. He noted that through the Palm Beach MPO they attempted to get a different paint color for the bike lanes, but they were not successful. He noted that there are also a lot of guardrails with curbs throughout the county and it is dangerous when riding a bicycle in these areas. Secretary Hattaway noted that some corridors are more constrained than others, but generally there should be a six to seven foot bicycle lane. With respect to the different colors in the roadway, he noted that there has been a lot of discussion on this, however they have not been able to find any data that shows colorizing the pavement makes a difference, because it is the visibility of the bicyclists that is the issue. He stated that one of the benefits of having a wider bike lane is the bicyclist can be positioned further out and will be more visible to the drivers. He noted that a lot of work still needs to be done with respect to the move over law that requires drivers give bicyclists a three-foot buffer, such as how law enforcement is going to enforce the law. He stated rules need to be enforceable or they will not be followed.

Chairman O'Bryan thanked Secretary Hattaway for his presentation. Secretary Hattaway thanked Council for the invitation to speak, and noted that from his perspective TCRPC is the best regional planning council in the state.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2015

Staff indicated the draft legislative priorities agenda item provides Council members with the recommendations that the Gubernatorial Committee and others have been working on for the

region. Staff noted Council also worked with economic development organizations, leagues of cities, and each of the counties to ensure that the issues are regional in nature and can be supported by the entire region. The priorities have been categorized into the following: developments of regional impact; the Florida Enterprise Zone program; conversion of septic to central sewer systems; state funding of regional planning councils; sober homes/recovery residences; restoration of the region's rivers, estuaries, and waterbodies; transportation; economic development; energy and climate resilience; and unfunded mandates. Staff noted that Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch had requested more specificity in the environmental and restoration of the waterways, so staff added restoring historic flows to the Everglades National Park as a priority. Staff also noted that under economic development, support for the establishment of a task force or an organization to offer Southeast Florida as a venue to host future Olympic games; and an increase in the presence of the State University System for post graduate opportunities in the region were added. Staff recommended that Council approve the legislative priorities for distribution.

Additionally, staff requested authorization to be a host sponsor of the Joint Professional Societies' 2015 legislative breakfast, which is scheduled for January 16, 2015 in Palm Beach Gardens. Staff noted that this is also the date for Council's January meeting and suggested moving the Council meeting to Palm Beach Gardens. Staff indicated that there has been the suggestion that the meeting venues should be moved around the region. Staff noted that a lot of what FDOT and Council are doing is a huge cultural change from what has been occurring in the last thirty years, and it is not only about cars and safety, but about economic development for towns, cities, and the unincorporated portions of the counties. Staff noted that this is one of the reasons why so many municipalities support Council and the work that it does for the communities. Staff indicated that moving the meeting locations around will allow Council members to see some of the work Council has done in the region.

Councilmember Weaver asked if staff would be amenable to reordering the priorities to what he believes are the most consistent throughout the region and are the primary concerns for all the members. He asked that economic development, restoration of rivers and waterways, and transportation categories be moved to the front.

Councilwoman Gerwig stated that Wellington has a unique culture in their agricultural community and it has been difficult for them to maintain an exurban lifestyle with some of the agricultural classification rules. She stated she believes this would come under the economics of the region and the need to preserve our exurban lifestyle with our agricultural classifications. Staff noted that what is currently in the priorities applies specifically to supporting the citrus industry. Staff indicated that the equestrian industry is also common throughout all the counties, so it would be appropriate to add efforts to support the equestrian industry as well.

Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch Jacqui thanked staff for making her changes to the priorities, but stated she did not believe what was added mentions moving water south. Chairman O'Bryan noted that flow refers to moving water, and the historic flow was moving the water south. She asked that this language be reworded. Staff indicated it could be changed to indicate historic flows south to the Everglades.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that staff is recommending that we approve the legislative priorities with the following amendments: Councilmember Weaver's request for prioritizing; Councilwoman Gerwig's request to include the equestrian community; Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch's request to clarify the flow of water to the south; and authorization for staff to host the Joint Professionals Society's legislative breakfast. Mr. Saberson also asked for authorization to move the January Council meeting location.

Councilmember Bournique moved approval of the staff recommendation as amended. **Motion** Commissioner Burdick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Larson stated that narrowing lanes is a stupid idea, because she witnessed a driver on I-95 texting with no hands, and narrowing the lanes will not work. Staff noted that FDOT is not proposing to narrow lanes on I-95. Ms. Larson stated that in Hollywood Beach there is an asphalt boardwalk that has lanes for both pedestrians and bicyclists. She stated that the accidents in Martin County are horrific and they have less traffic. She stated she was at an FDOT meeting and there were only two people there. She stated that people are not attending the meetings and not aware of what is occurring, so we should get rid of FDOT, not ten foot lanes. With respect to the legislative priorities, she stated she hopes Council will look at the sewers. She stated that deep well injection is not sanitary. She stated that FPL is now lobbying to not do solar. She stated that with respect to public comment, she hopes the new chairman will consider moving the public comment back to the beginning of the agenda. She stated that is the reason Rosa Durando has stopped coming to the meetings and she knows more about water than anyone. She stated she and Rosa have always done their best to defend Council and give it credibility.

Anne Kuhl stated she agrees the public comment should be in the beginning so they can provide information and research on items that Council will be voting on, and they should have the input of the public. She indicated that she downloaded the *Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Safety Plan* so she would be prepared for the meeting. She stated she is concerned because the top ten highest priority counties in the plan are the top ten population counties and the ones that have the highest fatalities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and accidents. She stated that density is the problem, but we keep piling people into these areas and encouraging bicycling. She stated that in Florida it is very dangerous in the high urban areas. She stated putting in bike lanes on SR 7 is not a good idea. She stated we need to educate people to have a little common sense. She stated that if someone is an avid bicyclist, then they know the risks. With respect to the legislative priorities, she stated that she thinks the agricultural enclave legislation needs to be clarified. She indicated there is currently a lawsuit resulting from Palm Beach County's recent decision to approve the Minto west project, and that is going to cost the tax payers money to dispute that decision. She stated that the use of new urbanism and having five-mile wide developments with all the commercial in one area is not good if we want people to walk and bike more and not drive their cars. Staff noted that the master plan proposed for Minto should not be considered New Urbanism. Ms. Kuhl stated that if land is set aside, it should in some way be deeded to an environmental organization so that it cannot be developed in the future.

John Walker complimented Commissioner Valeche on his recent article in the *Palm Beach Post* with respect to the bridge issues over the Loxahatchee River. Mr. Walker stated that he is planning to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) for funding to develop a plan for implementing increased participation in the American Marine Highway program, especially along the Atlantic coastline in Florida. The study would look at both the M-95 and M-10 marine highways, and M-4 as a possible maritime highway designation for the Okeechobee Waterway. He indicated he will be applying for funding in the amount of \$100-200,000, but the money needs to go to a governmental entity. He stated MARAD is set up to work with MPOs, and in his discussions with MARAD they believe the regional planning council makes sense as a partner in this project. He indicated that Council would be the umbrella organization to receive the funding, but would not be committed to having to spend the money. Mr. Walker stated that he will need Council staff expertise and participation in the freight summit that has already been proposed and some other public forum meetings. He indicated he has the support of the MARAD director for south Florida and faculty from Florida Atlantic University for this project. He noted that we could partner with other regional governments such as MPOs, because each local entity knows their particular areas and issues best. He stated all he requires from Council today is a letter of support indicating Council would be willing, should the funds be awarded, to serve as the umbrella organization and is interested in the concept.

Chairman O'Bryan asked Mr. Walker when he needed the letter. Mr. Walker stated that he would need the letter by December 31st of this year in order to submit it with his grant application. Mr. Saberson stated that under the Administrative Procedures Act, Council cannot add to the agenda after it is advertised unless good cause can be shown as determined by the Chairman.

Chairman O'Bryan stated he is not sure how comfortable Council members would be putting out a letter with only a brief introduction. Mr. Saberson indicated that Mr. Walker is requesting Council accept grant money, which would mean Council is accepting whatever requirements and contractual commitments there are for the grant. Mr. Busha stated that he has contacted the Marine Highway office to get a better understanding of this grant proposal. He noted that this does affect the region because there are the Ports in Fort Pierce and Palm Beach, the inlets, and the waterway that goes across Lake Okeechobee between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Additionally, the waterways plans that Council has done for Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties will get a leg up on funding if we are recognized as a marine highway region. He noted this will also help expand the capacity of freight movement along the coast and the intracoastal waterway. Mr. Busha stated that if in fact we are successful with obtaining the grant, he will read the fine print and bring any concerns to Council before accepting the terms.

Chairman O'Bryan stated that he would be more comfortable with having staff review this proposal and bring a draft letter back to Council at the January meeting for approval. He noted that although this will be after Mr. Walker's submittal deadline, he could indicate in his application that a letter will be forthcoming from the regional planning council. Chairman O'Bryan stated that discussion regarding freight and the waterways is very sensitive and he hesitates to put anything on Council's letterhead without a more comprehensive review by staff. Mr. Walker stated that he would include that in his cover letter if that is acceptable to Council, and will use Mr. Busha as his point of contact for further discussion. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that as long as it is clear Council is not committing to anything, he can say he is in discussions with Council staff. Commissioner Johnson

asked how the grant money will be dispersed. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that will be in the details provided by staff.

STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Busha wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked everyone for another great year.

Commissioner Szerdi offered the beach casino hall meeting room in the City of Lake Worth for a future meeting.

Chairman O'Bryan wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and a happy and safe New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman O'Bryan adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the December 12, 2014 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature