

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JULY 17, 2020**

Chairman Houston called the virtual meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call. Thomas Lanahan, Council's Executive Director, took roll and announced a quorum was present.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:	Commissioner O'Bryan Councilmember Renick Mayor Dodd, Alternate Councilman Foley, Alternate
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Hetherington Commissioner Townsend
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Mitchell Commissioner Johnson
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Valeche Commissioner Bernard Commissioner Weinroth Commissioner Weiss, Alternate Mayor Gerwig Vice Mayor Hmara Mayor Brennan Mayor de Haset, Alternate Vice Mayor Gottlieb, Alternate Vice Mayor Marino, Alternate Commissioner Bohlen, Alternate
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique Michael Davis Michael Houston Reece Parrish Peter Sachs
Ex-Officios	Lois Bush, FDOT Jason Andreotta, FDEP

* **This meeting was conducted virtually through the GoToMeeting platform pursuant to Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-69, as extended, authorizing use of communications media technology to conduct meetings.**

Council Staff: Thomas J. Lanahan
Kathryn Boer
Phyllis Castro
Kim DeLaney
Liz Gulick
Stephanie Heidt
Sarah Kammel
Dana Little
Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

Agenda Item 3: Agenda Approval

Council Action: Commissioner Johnson from the City of Fort Pierce moved approval of the Agenda. Mayor Brennan from the Village of Tequesta seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

Council Action: Commissioner Weinroth from Palm Beach County moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Items on the Consent were: 4B1, Financial Report – May 31, 2020; 4B2, Minutes – June 19, 2020; 4B3, Lake Worth Beach Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Transit-Oriented Development FLUM); and 4B4, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log.

Agenda Item 5, Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Mr. Lanahan indicated that at the June meeting Council reviewed and approved the mid-year amendments to the current fiscal year budget. He noted that according to the interlocal agreement, Council’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year must be adopted no later than the end of July. He indicated that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which will begin on October 1, 2020, reflects a 14.3% revenue decrease of \$356,455 from the prior year’s budget, which is primarily related to the completion of several contracts. He discussed changes to the Revenue and Expenditure tables and highlighted differences from the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. He also explained that the per-capita dues rate remains the same, but total dues collected will increase by 1.3% due to a 1.3% increase in population in the Region. Mr. Lanahan indicated the Budget and Personnel Committee reviewed the proposed budget at a meeting on July 6, 2020 and recommended approval.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the budget shows Council’s Brownfields revolving loan fund program separately, because that is a restricted fund. He noted that staff is anticipating less revenue from interest income, because the rates have dropped dramatically over the last few months. He indicated that the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund has \$1.7 million to clean up brownfield sites and

recommended contacting Stephanie Heidt, Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Programs Director, for additional information about this program.

Council Action: Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, moved approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented. Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Hurricane Shelter Planning Approaches During the coronavirus Pandemic

Kathryn Boer, Council's Emergency Programs Director, briefed Council on the status of shelter capacity in the region, current emergency management approaches to ensure safe use of public and special needs shelters, safe conduct of point of distribution sites for supplies, and preparedness activities. She presented approaches each county in the Region is taking to ensure the safety of residents and visitors during and immediately after a hurricane or other emergency during this Coronavirus Pandemic.

Chairman Houston and Mayor Gerwig thanked Ms. Boer for her presentation.

Agenda Item 7: Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization – Complete Streets: Access to Transit Study Overview

Kim DeLaney, Council's Director of Strategic Development and Policy, and Jessica Seymour, Council's Regional Planner, provided an overview of the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) *Complete Streets: Access to Transit Study* that was developed by Council staff and approved by the MPO Board in June 2020. The study provides an overview of Complete Streets, a catalog of illustrative examples of potential improvements, a methodology to identify and prioritize locations for improvements, and recommended implementation strategies by the MPO and its partners. Ms. Seymour provided an overview of the public engagement process and showed examples of how the concepts contained in the report would improve important corridors throughout the County. Dr. DeLaney noted the illustrative materials that were provided are just suggestions in different ways interventions can be combined to make a safer roadway network. She noted that the MPO recently adopted its 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and this study was integrated into that planning document to begin its journey of implementation.

Ricardo Vazquez, Project Manager for the Martin MPO, noted the majority of the content in the Complete Streets plan was implemented into the Needs Assessment of the Long Range Transportation Plan and a section was developed from the study that prioritized projects for when funding is eligible. He noted that the study has already been used on one of their current projects. He thanked Council staff for their diligent and thorough work on all the concepts and all the public involvement.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the before and after illustrations on this project are particularly powerful and closely replicate the existing circumstances of what is being considered versus the reality that is out there today.

Under public comment, Drew Martin with the Sierra Club thanked Dr. DeLaney and Ms. Seymour for their presentation. He noted that he uses public transportation and rides a bike. He stressed the importance of canopy trees that provide shade, especially at bus stops, and he appreciates that was included in the report.

Agenda Item 8: Traditional Planning Principles: 4. Streets, Blocks, and Alleyways

Dana Little, Council's Urban Design Director, presented "*Streets, Blocks, and Alleyways.*" This is the fourth presentation in Council's series on traditional planning principles. Mr. Little discussed how vital an interconnected street system is in creating a functional urban area and what the detriments are from not having such a system. He indicated that the next presentation in the series will be "*Public Open Spaces: Creating Memorable Infrastructure.*"

Mayor Gerwig noted that she was not offended by the use of an intersection in her Village as an example of an "ugly" intersection. She indicated she first heard of problems there from a resident who was hit trying to cross the intersection. She stated she would like to engage in a conversation on how to make this intersection safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Vice Mayor Hmara stated that he finds these presentations very helpful. He noted that he has spoken with Mr. Lanahan about the potential of alleyways when thinking about more compact, multi-use downtown development. Mr. Little noted that alleys can be a problem if they are not monitored, well-lit, or utilized. However, when they are taken care of they can provide great traffic relief and even a more unique experience for a community.

Commissioner Smith from Martin County noted that neighborhoods and roadway grids in Martin County date back to the fifties and sixties when there was less population and traffic. He stated that what is happening now is that people are using the interconnections to drive through neighborhoods, even when they do not live there. He stated that they frequently receive complaints from the residents in the older neighborhoods about the speeding traffic, because many of the residents there are younger families with children. He stated that it would be helpful to come up with different models for roadways that can be transferable to different neighborhoods. Mr. Little indicated that through Council's efforts with the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency, a street section was developed called a "yield street." He stated that the greater amount of friction that can be provided for through traffic, the more drivers will slow down.

Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, noted that there are a lot of negative myths and bad information circulating about complete streets and lane eliminations. He stated that it would be very helpful, and a perfect role for the Regional Planning Council to capture peer-reviewed and technically sound information about the true value of complete streets, both in terms of the obvious things such as traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety, and promoting the health, as well as the economic benefits. He stated that we are seeing too many cases where a few very vocal individuals or business owners in a corridor can kill a really good project. They will promote myths about how these projects will ruin businesses and the associated neighborhoods or adjacent neighborhoods. He stated that there is a need to create informational materials that will advocate and promote these types of changes to provide elected officials and the policy makers with better information. Mr. Little agreed that this would be very helpful when doing these types of projects.

He also noted that through his experience working on the South Dixie Highway project in West Palm Beach that it is important to have the local government on board and maintain momentum, because a lapse can result in changes to the metrics and analysis that has been done. Mr. Lanahan stated that having built examples creates an opportunity for more education. He noted that there is a natural hesitancy to be the first one, but once there is a great example to show, people will begin to see the advantages.

Agenda Item 9: Announcements

Mr. Lanahan made the following announcements:

The Communication Package has the May unemployment data, which shows that unemployment is declining in all the sectors except Education, which had a slight uptick. He noted that the June numbers have just been released. Staff will provide a summary for the Region to Council members when available.

The first virtual Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board meeting went really well with participation from around the state.

Council has a new interlocal agreement with the Village of Wellington for as study of the Mall area at the corner of Forest Hill Boulevard and State Road 7.

Staff continues to work on a proposal to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to obtain funding for a revolving loan fund for Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties, which will require a match. St. Lucie County's Board of County Commissioners approved their portion of the match on July 7th; Martin County will review the proposal at its July 28th meeting; and Indian River County will review the proposal on August 18th.

Mr. Lanahan noted the next Council meeting is scheduled for August 21st; however it has been the custom to cancel the August meeting. After Councilmember discussion, it was decided that the August 21st meeting would be canceled.

Agenda Item 10: Chairman's Comments

Chairman Houston thanked staff for their presentations, noting that there will most likely be a lot of follow-up from the presentations.

Agenda Item 11: Council Member Update

Commissioner O'Bryan noted that the Indian River Board of County Commissioners met to consider a mandatory mask ordinance. He stated that although it was unanimously acknowledged as fact that we have an emergency regarding the Coronavirus, after a couple of hours of testimony from protesters, three commissioners voted against the mask ordinance. He noted that many of the major retailers like Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Publix, CVS, Walgreens, and Target are all implementing their own mandatory mask policy. He stated that it is a shame that the CEOs of these companies are doing the right thing where three elected commissioners failed to do the right thing.

He did note that they have masks with the county logo on both sides; a white one for during the day, and a black one for use in the evening.

Chairman Houston commended everyone for all the amazing work being done by the elected officials to continue public hearings.

Agenda Item 12: Public Comment

Drew Martin, representing the Loxahatchee Group Sierra Club, noted that people have stopped bringing their reusable bags to the grocery store and stopped using reusable cups. He stated that studies have shown that there is no risk to using reusable items in terms of COVID-19. He also noted that many people are discarding their gloves and masks in parking lots, which he believes reduces Florida’s image, especially as a tourist destination. He asked if Council could do a presentation on the importance of doing away with single-use plastic. He stated he understands that the Legislature has pre-empted local governments on a number of items, but there are things that can be done, such as eliminating single use plastic straws. He also noted that when people get take-out, they can ask that plastic silverware not be included, which will also save the restaurants money. He stated that reducing litter and waste is an important way to improve our economy and make our areas more attractive to visitors.

Agenda Item 13: Staff Comments

Tom Lanahan thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item 14: Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Houston adjourned the virtual meeting at 11:59 a.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 July 17, 2020 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature