

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

December 1, 2014

South Florida Regional Planning Council's Executive Committee met on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021. Chair Ritter called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and Councilmember Monestime led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Jean Monestime
Councilmember David Rice (via phone)
Chair Stacy Ritter
Councilmember Paul Wallace
Councilmember Sandra Walters (via phone)

Mr. Sam Goren, Legal Counsel was present.

Ex-Officio Member Ms. Aileen Boucle representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI, was present.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Motion was carried by a unanimous consent.

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Wallace moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Monestime seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Goren stated the approval of the minutes ratifies the actions taken place at the November Meeting.

B. Financial Report

Councilmember Monestime moved to approve Agenda Item III.B, Financial Report. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Murley, Executive Director, stated that all the County dues were received.

C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

- 1) All Aboard Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Project Draft EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation (IGR #14-0918)

James Murley, Executive Director, gave an overview of the All Aboard Florida (AAF) Passenger Rail Draft EIS. He explained the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railway Administration (FRA) is requesting an environmental review because of the AAF application is for federal financial assistance. He explained the comments and concerns from Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF). He stated there are four issues that the South Florida Regional Planning Council recommends addressing:

- 1) Land Use Area Transportation: comments from the Miami-Dade Transit regarding the development of a state-of-the-art Downtown Intermodal Terminal area to be located at the Rapid Transit Zone and downtown Intermodal Terminal Area. Broward County is concerned with the inadequate assessment of direct, secondary and cumulative impacts of the proposed project on existing traffic circulation. Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council comments address the issue of ensuring an interconnected, intercity service where benefits are shared and impacts addressed.
- 2) Marine Navigation: comments from the MIAASF regarding significant negative impacts to recreational vessel repair facilities up the river from the New River Bridge. He explained the bridge time limitations of staying open and the effects on river traffic.
- 3) Climate Change Adaptation: Broward County has concerns regarding the data on the flood plain maps used in the DEIS and recommends the use of the updated flood plain maps and documentation on future operations and rail improvements to adjust to sea level rise.
- 4) Public Safety: both Broward County and the TCRPC are concerned with the introduction of 32 high speed trains coupled with increased freight traffic that will impact public safety; another concern is the data used in the DEIS. He stated that there were specific concerns about the emergency response and care facilities with traffic delays.

Mr. Murley explained the following recommendations on these issues:

- 1) Recommendation was the FRA, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) should utilize the existing TriRail Coastal Link Steering Committee, created to coordinate the introduction of regional premium transit on the FEC corridor, to coordinate the mitigation measures needed to address the impacts identified as part of the DEIS. AAF should become active participants in the Steering Committee.
- 2) Recommendation was for an updated marine navigation of study should be conducted utilizing the most up to date data. The FEIS should update data describing the economic benefit of marine industries in South Florida. Operational measures to mitigate impacts should not jeopardize the viability and the projected growth of the industry. Consideration should be given to using an ongoing coordination mechanism to address future bridge operations and improvements. The Miami River Commission serves that purpose in coordinating the replacement of bascular road bridges and their operations during peak hour traffic in downtown Miami.
- 3) Recommendation was the FEIS should reflect the most recent data in flood elevations. The FRA should request that AAF maintain continuous coordination with the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact to insure future use of best available data
- 4) Recommendation was the FEIS should include an emergency response analysis, including a detailed analysis of impacts on emergency vehicle trips, route data, access to hospitals and critical infrastructure and key roadways and intersections to maintain timely emergency response. The FRA should consider using the three Local Emergency Planning Committees for Regions 11, 10, and 6 as a venue for resolving potential impacts from increased rail operation.

He stated that the Council supports the AAF with the staff recommendations included in the Memorandum. He stated he would like the Council to approve the report with staff recommendations and authorize transmittal to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Councilmember Monestime moved to approve Agenda Item III.C.1) All Aboard Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Project Draft EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation (IGR #14-0918). Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

There was discussion about the EIS process and the timeliness if there were comments. Mr. Murley stated that there has been a 60-75 day period for the various agencies to comment and all comments are due to FRA in December. He informed the Council that he had attended meetings and met with the parties mentioned and they know the nature of the SFRPC comments.

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated that there will be other agencies with comments such as the Coast Guard and Federal Transit Administration who are involved in this process. He stated that making the motion today is legally consistent with the time period.

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

- City of Fort Lauderdale 14-1ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 14-4ACSC
- City of Pembroke Pines 14-2ESR

Councilmember Monestime moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews -None

IV. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Murley announced Councilmember Monestime will become the Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission in January and Councilmembers Rice and Neugent have been reelected to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners. He recognized former Broward County Commissioner and Councilmember Gunzburger and thanked her for her participation at the Council.

Chair Ritter thanked former Commissioner Gunzburger for her years of service at the Council, Broward County and in government. She stated that former Commissioner Gunzburger's knowledge and expertise will be missed. Chair Ritter commented that former Commissioner Gunzburger had the quality of leaving the discussion on the dais and not making personal. Chair Ritter spoke of some personal interactions with former Commissioner Gunzburger and how former Commissioner Gunzburger never forgets those who have supported her through the years. Councilmember Wallace agreed.

Former Councilmember Gunzburger appreciated the kind words from Chair Ritter and all they have shared professionally and personally. She stated that she enjoyed her many years on the South Florida Regional Planning Council with Jack Osterholt, Carolyn Dekle and Jim Murley. She liked her involvement of being a representative in Seven/50, the seven counties and its importance. Former Commissioner Gunzburger stated she hopes some of the work from the Seven/50 would come to fruition and will not sit on a shelf and not be implemented. She stated this Board is one of the protectors of this Region and hopes this work continues.

Councilmember Monestime stated that when he becomes Chair in January at the Miami-Dade County Commission he will take with him the leadership experience from former Commissioner Gunzburger

and Chair Ritter. He appreciates their knowledgeable and understanding on items that were presented, as well, the respect they have for the people involved.

Mr. Murley informed the Council about the Palm Beach County Commission Agenda on December 2, 2014 and explained the history of the original South Florida Regional Planning Council and the creation of Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. He explained the Palm Beach County's pending request to rejoin the SFRPC and that it will be on their Agenda. He stated that he has attended meetings, and will attend this meeting, regarding the possible transfer and will update the Council after the Palm Beach County Commission (PBCC) Meeting. There was discussion regarding the position the Palm Beach County Commissioners are taking on this issue. Mr. Murley informed the Council that the PBCC may be contacting them for their opinion on the possible change in RPC. Mr. Murley stated that he was not comfortable commenting for the Councilmembers on this subject and asked the PBCC to reach out to the Councilmembers directly.

Chair Ritter asked the Executive Committee to give Mr. Murley authority to comment on behalf of the Councilmembers on this issue.

Councilmember Walters stated that something along these lines would work: the SFRPC Executive Committee is open to exploring the opportunity for Palm Beach County in rejoining the SFRPC. She stated this way there is an open dialogue. The Executive Committee agreed to this language.

Mr. Murley stated that he would bring updated information to the Council.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel, explained the history of the South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs, the Interlocal Agreements of the past and present, government approvals and the legal challenges that would be incurred if the PBCC rejoined the SFRPC.

Mr. Goren explained the ratification of decisions made from the November's Council Meeting regarding the Southeast Florida Community Development Financial Institute (SFCDFI) and that the loans discussed at the November meeting were not processed. He stated that the Council will be informed with the SFCDFI's progress.

Mr. Goren stated that the Nominating Committee consisting of Councilmember Weekley, Monroe County, Councilmember Kiar, Broward County and Past Chair Wallace will meet on January 5, 2015, along with the Election of Officers.

Mr. Goren thanked former Commissioner Gunzburger for her respect and challenging issues she addressed and that she was always fair to him and his law firm and appreciates her professionalism.

V. **Program Reports and Activities**

A. Council Mission

B. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

- 1) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
- 2) Smart Watts Home Energy Retrofit Loan Fund Status Report

C. Florida Regional Councils Association

1) FRCA Monthly Accomplishments

Mr. Murley stated that there is a Policy Board Meeting on January 9, 2015 and Councilmembers Bailey, Caplan and Rice are the SFRPC representatives.

VI. Announcements and Attachments

A. Correspondence and Attendance Form

B. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) January 5th, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC Office, Hollywood)
- 2) February 2nd, 10:30 a.m. (Executive Committee Meeting, SFRPC Office, Hollywood)
- 3) March 2nd, 10:30 a.m. (City of Miami Commission Chambers, Miami-Dade County)

VII. Councilmember Comments-None

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, and the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the December 1, 2014 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 5th day of January, 2015.

David Rice, Secretary

Date