

**Palm Beach
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
Transportation Planning for the Palm Beaches



Regional Palm Beach-Martin County Meeting Set for June

The Palm Beach and Martin County MPOs will hold a joint meeting to discuss regional transportation projects affecting both counties. The meeting focus will primarily target greenways and trails, and State Road 710.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) representatives will address the expansion of SR 710 in the two counties. Other representatives from PBC departments such as Environmental Resource Management, MPO and Parks and Recreation staff will participate in the greenways and trails discussion. Impacts on Jonathan Dickinson State Park will be evaluated as part of the overall examination of creating intra-county greenway connections.

The Northeast Everglades Natural Area (NENA) incorporates natural resources indigenous to southern Martin County and northern Palm Beach County. The area extends from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Okeechobee and includes approximately 150,000 acres of publicly-owned lands.

The meeting is set for June 23, 2008 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Jupiter Community Center.

Any questions may be directed to Laura Beaupre, Special Projects Coordinator, with the Martin County Commission Office, Bret Baronak, Greenways/Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator for the Palm Beach MPO, or Patricia Masterman, Public Information Officer, also with the Palm Beach MPO. The meeting is open to the public and invites public comments.



Historic Jupiter to Indiantown Road Greenways Trail



Check out our webpage: www.pbcgov.com/mpo

Intracoastal Waterway Becomes Focus for Water-Based Transportation Corridor Study

The MPO is always looking for ways to utilize what is already in place to enhance Palm Beach County's transportation venues. The Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) stretches the entire 43 miles of the county's coastline reaching beyond the expected recreational use.

A team of planners with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) are exploring new and innovative ways to encourage the general population to utilize the ICWW for general transportation needs.

The ICWW was constructed along the Florida coast between 1881 and 1912 by a private company and operated as a toll canal. By 1927 the corridor had been widened and was placed under the Florida Inland Navigation District's oversight.

During World War II, the waterway became a safe haven for US Naval ships from German submarines. It was during this period of time the waterway was widened to 125 feet and a depth of 10 feet.

Today the ICWW in Palm Beach County is home to 37 public marinas, 15 public boat ramps, boardwalks and waterfront public parks. It is also an economic life-line to the Port of Palm Beach boosting the County's economy. The Port of Palm



Beach has more than 30 tenants, provides 3,660 jobs and provides an economic output of \$503.8 million annually.

Through public meetings and charrettes, the TCRPC has gained insights as to the wants and needs of the public. A final report is due later this year.



Kayaking and sail boats are recreational favorites in the ICWW and ocean coastline

I-95 HOV Expansion Projects Scheduled

This June, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4 Palm Beach Operations, will begin the I-95 Expansion Projects between PGA Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens and Indiantown Road in the Town of Jupiter. This work consists of three separate projects including:

- SR 9A / I-95 from PGA Boulevard to Donald Ross Road
- SR 9A / I-95 from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road
- SR 706 / Resurfacing a portion of Indiantown Road from the Florida Turnpike to Chasewood Plaza.

These projects are the last of several designed to ease congestion and improve mobility along the I-95 corridor in Palm Beach County. Work includes widening I-95 from six to 10 lanes; the addition of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction; new drainage, lighting, signs, traffic signals and modifications to the existing I-95 on and off ramps. The anticipated construction schedule for these projects is as follows: *(Please note that this schedule is tentative and might change because of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances.)*

- Project One - Indiantown Road between the Florida Turnpike and Chasewood Plaza will begin on or around June 16 and last approximately seven months. The resurface project will extend the pavement life of Indiantown Road.
- Project Two - I-95 from PGA Boulevard to Donald Ross Road will begin this summer and end in winter 2011
- Project Three - I-95 from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road will begin this fall and end by spring 2012

In order to complete this work safely, it will be necessary to close travel lanes at various times and locations. ***Please use caution when traveling through the various work zones.*** Electronic Message Boards will provide advanced notification of major lane closures, traffic shifts and ramp closures. Motorists are encouraged to visit the project Web site: www.95info.com for the latest lane closure information or call **511** before they drive to get current travel conditions. For more Information, please contact Alicia De Fago, Public Information Officer, at 561-718-4709 or via email 95info@pbfdot.com.

Did You Know?

- To save time, money and the environment, South Florida Vanpool will help your employees find a viable transportation alternative. Contact the MPO office at 561.684.4170 for information.
- Information about safe bicycling can be found at www.sharetheroad.org
- An energy-saving transportation alternative is to car-pool. South Florida Commuter Services offers valuable tips on their website www.1800234RIDE.com.
- Keeping vehicle tires properly inflated will improve fuel economy, less wear on the tires and provide a safer ride.
- Every gallon of gasoline you use results in approximately 20 pounds of carbon dioxide being produced in the atmosphere.
- Clean air filters can save 15% in fuel usage.
- Erratic and irresponsible driving habits such as speeding, rapid acceleration and heavy braking can reduce your mileage by one-third.
- Every pound of excessive weight carried in your vehicle reduces mileage.

MPO News in Brief...

- The MPO selected Orlando-based Leftwich Consulting Engineers to update its adopted Long Range Transportation Plan to the year 2035. The update will include a Needs Plan and a Cost Feasible Plan with interim plans at five year intervals.
- The MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was approved by the MPO Board. Check the MPO webpage to see the report.
- Review the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects for FY 2009–2013 on the web page and at public libraries in July.
- The MPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was approved at the May 15, 2008 Board meeting.
- Speakers from the MPO are available to civic, homeowner associations, and other agencies for presentations on transportation related topics. If you wish to arrange for a staff member to speak on the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Greenways and Trails Plan, bicycle riding laws and safety issues, or specific projects affecting your community, contact the Public Information Office at 684.4170.
- Workforce Alliance Transportation Subcommittee members include representatives from various social service agencies and transit system employees, is spearheaded by MPO staff. The Subcommittee's focus is viable transportation in the Glades Area for residents of the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

Regional Transportation Updates

The annual Regional Citizens Advisory Committee (RCAC) is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) office in Pompano Beach. Presentations for projects of a regional nature will include updates on the South Florida East Coast Transit Corridor Study, Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC), Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP), and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)'s Funding situation.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate providing comments and questions regarding these regional projects. SFRTA's Administrative Offices are located at 800 NW 33rd Street, Suite 100, Pompano Beach. Start time is 4:00 p.m. with a projected ending time at 7:00 p.m. Any questions may be directed to the Public Information Office at 684.4170.

The University Drive Core Working Group selected seven alternatives divided into three categories to

serve as potential cross county connections or regional traffic mitigation alternatives, including transit. The Core Working Group meets monthly in an effort to develop alternatives acceptable to the broader community.

A draft of the South County Greenways and Trails Plan was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its June meeting. MPO staff has worked with County Parks and Recreation and Environmental Resource Management Departments to identify a regional network of greenways, blueways and trails for Southern PBC connecting with Broward County. Public workshops have been held over the past several months to gain input from citizens regarding a future network. The network will support non-motorized transportation and recreation.



Long Range Transportation Plan Development Underway

The MPO has initiated preparation of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Palm Beach County. The Plan will estimate future travel demand and develop a transportation system to meet the demand within fiscal and physical constraints. The Plan will use existing land use and future land use and comprehensive plans adopted by the municipalities and the County to estimate the travel demand for the future. The process will include a series of public meetings held throughout the county. The meetings will include exercises to produce a vision of future transportation in Palm Beach County. Since future revenue estimates are decreasing while construction and operating costs are increasing, the meetings will be used to gather input on the use of these limited resources. The meetings will be conducted at different phases of the study. The MPO has retained a consulting team to assist in development of the 2035 Plan. The plan will consist of a Needs Plan for roadways and transit services without regard to costs or constraints and a Cost Feasible Plan reflecting available and anticipated revenues and resources. Work on the Plan is underway and scheduled for completion and adoption by the MPO in December 2009. The Plan will be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for review and comment by March 2010. This process will allow the MPO to maintain a minimum of a 20-year planning horizon as required by Federal transportation planning requirements.

Southeast Florida to Create A Regional Transportation Plan For The Future

The MPOs in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, through the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC), have agreed to prepare a transportation plan that encompasses the three-county region. The Plan will begin with current conditions and extend to 2035 to address regional travel demands for movement of people and goods. All modes of travel will be included with a focus on regional corridors within individual counties and crossing county lines. The Regional Plan will be coordinated with local long range planning efforts to 2035 currently underway in each county and strategic transit planning activities by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. Opportunities for public input to the regional plan will be coordinated with local public outreach efforts. The planning process will include development of a Needs Plan without regard to project costs and a Cost Feasible Plan constrained by available and anticipated revenues. The Regional Plan will be used to allocate regional State transportation funds and to support grant applications for Federal transportation funds. The study began in May and will be completed by December 2009.



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