



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY MPO



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

The Indian River County MPO will develop and maintain a safe, efficient, and accessible transportation system which promotes the mobility of all residents and visitors by providing alternative modes of travel.



FROM THE MPO CHAIRMAN



Commissioner Bob Solari

Dear Citizens,

As Chairman of the MPO, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the community and I'd also like to remind you of the importance of transportation in our daily lives. Many of our current residents and businesses chose to relocate to Indian River County because of our outstanding overall **quality of life**. Transportation is a major component of that. Residents and businesses alike enjoy the advantages of **safe** and **well-maintained** highways, **easy access** to destinations, quiet residential streets, and an excellent public transportation system.

The quality of the traveling experience goes hand-in-hand with efficiency. With respect to transportation, I believe that one of our primary obligations to the taxpayer is to operate a **cost-effective** transportation system. I take particular pride in the efficiency of the County in this regard. Our transit system, for example, has become the **lowest-cost provider**, per passenger mile, in the State of Florida.

Looking forward, there are a number of ways we can improve things in the county and strategically position ourselves for the future. We can work with FDOT for better access to the Interstate Highway System. We can improve upon our bicycle and pedestrian safety record. Most importantly, we can all work together. The MPO offers many opportunities for you to weigh in with your ideas. Please visit our website at www.irmpo.com or call MPO staff at (772)226-1672.

Sincerely,

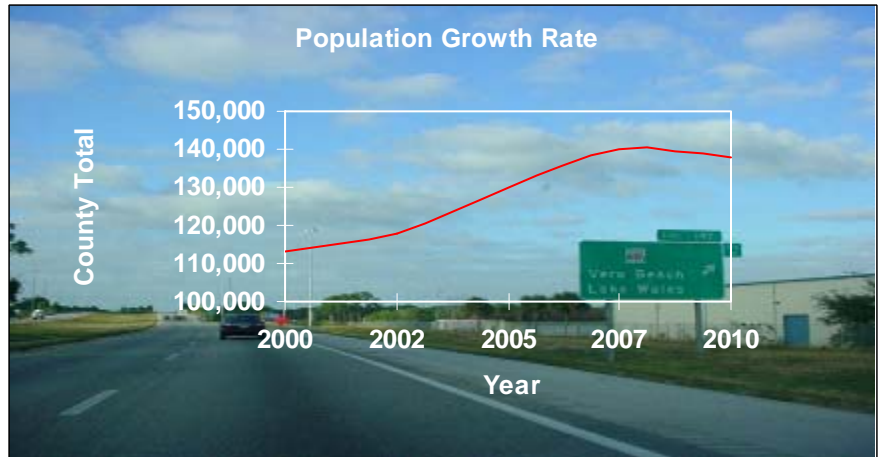
Bob Solari



STATE OF THE SYSTEM

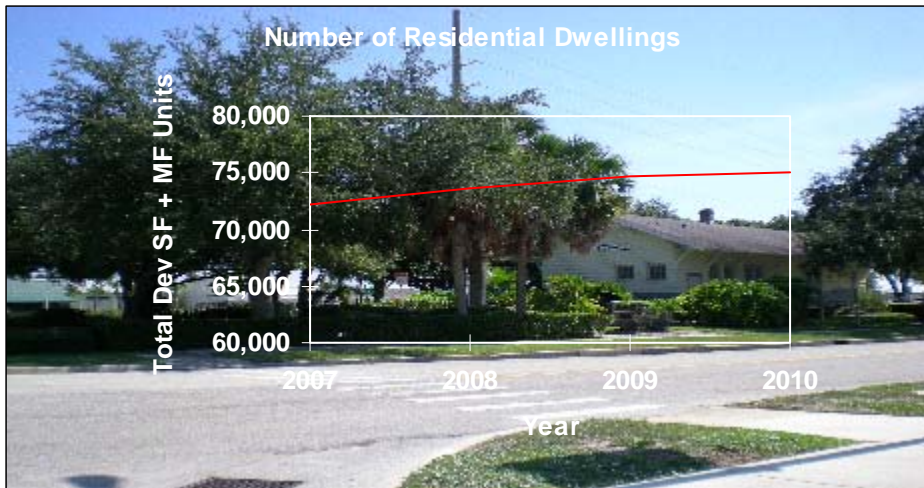
On a continuous basis, the Indian River County MPO analyzes demographic and transportation trends in the county. This analysis is incorporated into the County's **Congestion Management Process**, a systematic approach to addressing the County's most congested corridors. The key findings of this year's analysis are as follows:

- After years of growth in excess of 2% per year,



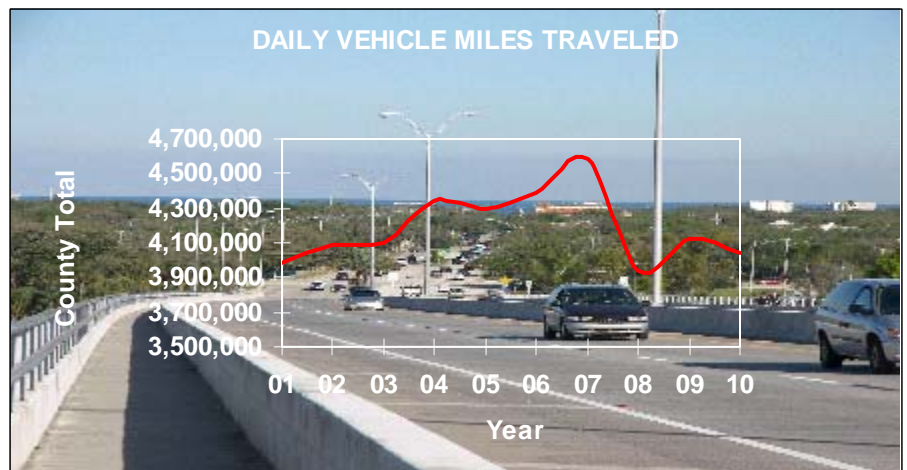
growth in population continued to slow in the last year, according to the latest Census population figures.

- New housing permits continued at recent low levels, resulting in a relatively stable number of residences in the county.



- Overall, travel in Indian River County rebounded from the lows observed in 2008 but are substantially below 2006 peak levels.

- Recent declines in overall travel in the county have resulted in a smaller number of congested corridors, or roadways that have volumes of traffic which exceed available capacity.



STATE OF THE SYSTEM (Cont.)

The Congestion Management Process

Each year, the MPO reviews and ranks the most congested corridors in the County as part of the Congestion Management Process (CMP). Performing an annual CMP analysis is a federal requirement for MPOs. The purpose of the CMP is to identify low-cost alternatives to major construction to relieve congestion on major roadways.

The following are the priority CMP corridors for 2011. Priority CMP corridors are the most congested corridors in the County, excluding corridors that are scheduled for major widening in the near future.

1. **Indian River Boulevard / Miracle Mile to 37th Street**
2. **12th Street / Old Dixie Highway to 27th Avenue**
3. **Old Dixie Highway / 8th Street to 12th Street**

Congestion Management Process Priorities

To complete the CMP analysis, MPO and Public Works staff identified strategies for CMP priority corridors. 2011 Priority Corridors and Strategies are listed in the table below:

2011 CMP Corridor	Priority Strategies
Old Dixie Highway from 8th Street to 12th Street	Add paved shoulders and turn lanes on Old Dixie Highway
	Complete bus stop facility improvements
27th Avenue/12th Street	Add Left Turn Lanes on 12th Street
Indian River Blvd (Miracle Mile – 37 th Street)	Connect 5 th Avenue to the Miracle Mile Shopping Center
	Add turn lanes on 37th Street

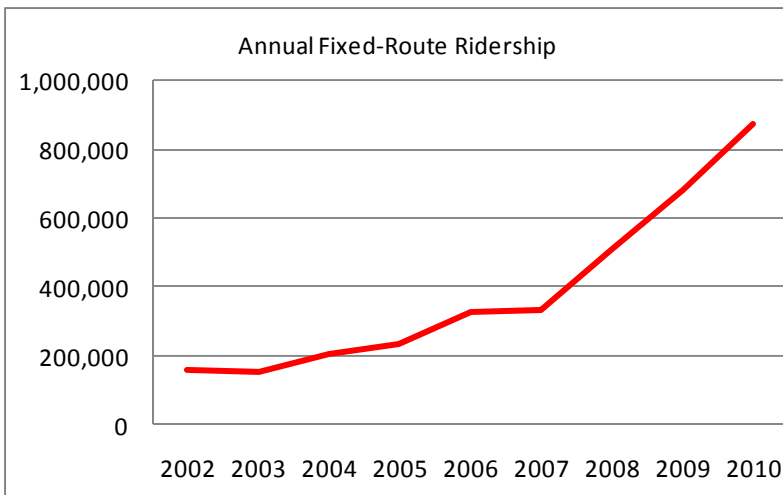
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Record Growth in Ridership

In February of 2010, Indian River Transit unveiled a series of new routes and system changes. Through these changes, residents became able to access GoLine in the 20th Avenue, 17th Street, Indian River Boulevard, Old Dixie Highway and Oslo Road Corridors, roadways which are among the most congested facilities in the County.

The results of these changes are reflected in 2010/11 ridership. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, Indian River Transit's GoLine Fixed Route Public Transit System reported **895,000 annual riders**, a new record for the system and an increase of 12% over the previous fiscal year. While ridership grew substantially on virtually all routes, the routes serving the Fellsmere, Sebastian, and West Vero/Indian River State College areas exceeded overall systemwide growth. Due to the growth in ridership, GoLine expects to improve upon its cost per passenger trip of \$1.94.



Transit Facts

Overall Customer Satisfaction with the System: **4.55 (5-Point Scale)**

Driver Courtesy, Competence: **4.57 (5-Point Scale)**

Cost per Fixed Route Trip: **\$1.94**

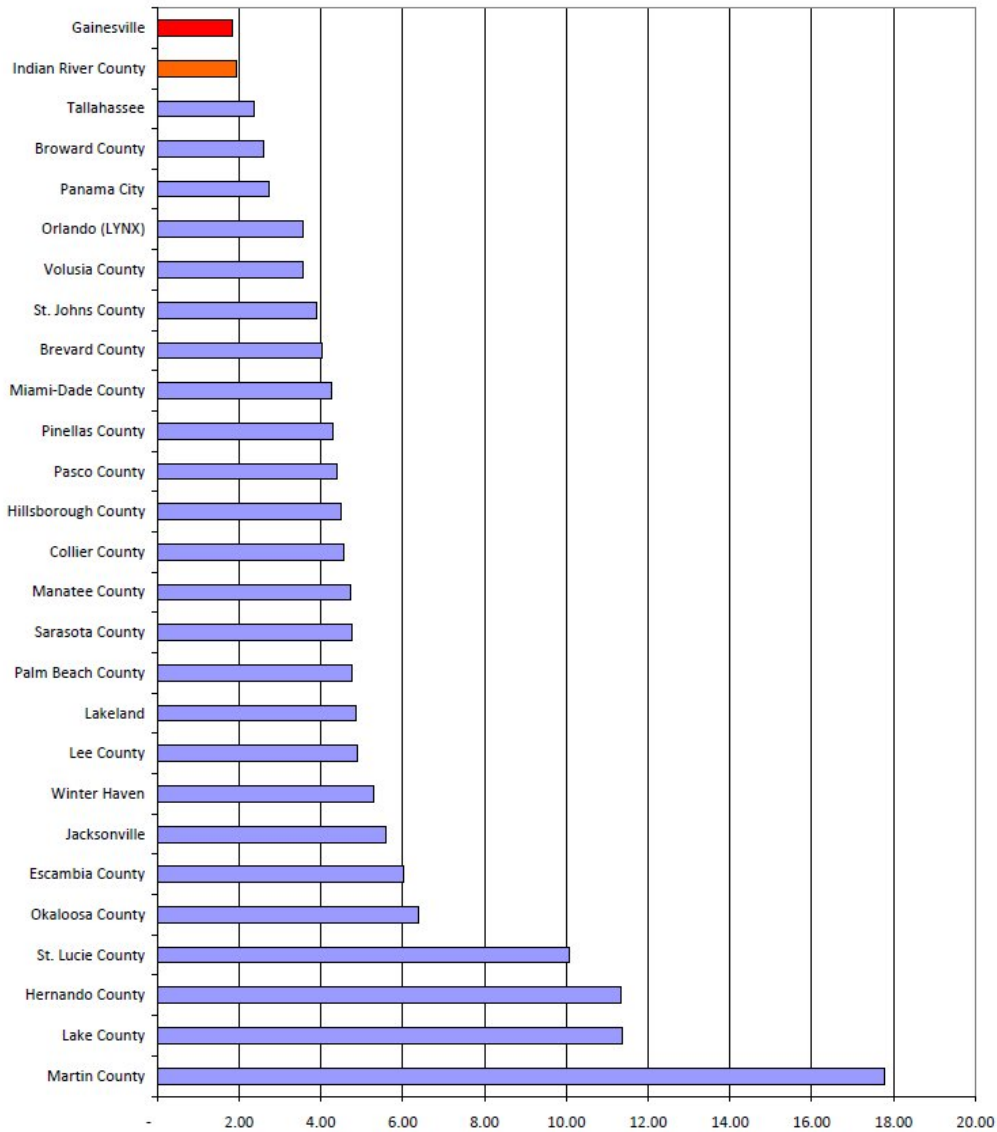
Average Cost per Trip, Other Small Transit Systems: **\$4.49**

Source: Indian River County Transit Development Plan, 2008, 2010

COST EFFICIENCY—INDIAN RIVER TRANSIT

Each year, transit systems throughout the State of Florida are required by Federal Law to report transit operating statistics through the National Transit Database (NTD) program. That program, which standardizes reporting techniques for ease of comparison, enables the MPO and the County's transit operator, the Senior Resource Association, to provide comparisons and self-evaluate system efficiency. The results of the most recent NTD comparison yielded some positive (and encouraging) trends with respect to cost efficiency. In 2009, Indian River County ranked **first** in lowest cost per passenger mile and second in lowest cost per trip in the state.

Operating Expense per Passenger Trip -
Fixed Route (2009)



Source: National Transit Database, 2009

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Safety Day in Fellsmere



Barber Street
Groundbreaking



Sustainable
Living Expo

In accordance with the MPO's Public Involvement Plan (PIP), the MPO maintained an active schedule of public outreach activities throughout 2010/11. The MPO sent out over **1,000** newsletters each quarter, received **87,000** annual web hits, and provided participation opportunities for **641 citizens** through its public meetings, interviews, and surveys.

Some of the major activities undertaken in the last year were the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Workshops; first ever Bike/Ped Safety Rodeos; and presentation displays at community events like the Sustainable Living Expo and Fellsmere Police Safety Day.



Bus Shelter Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
in Fellsmere and Vero Beach



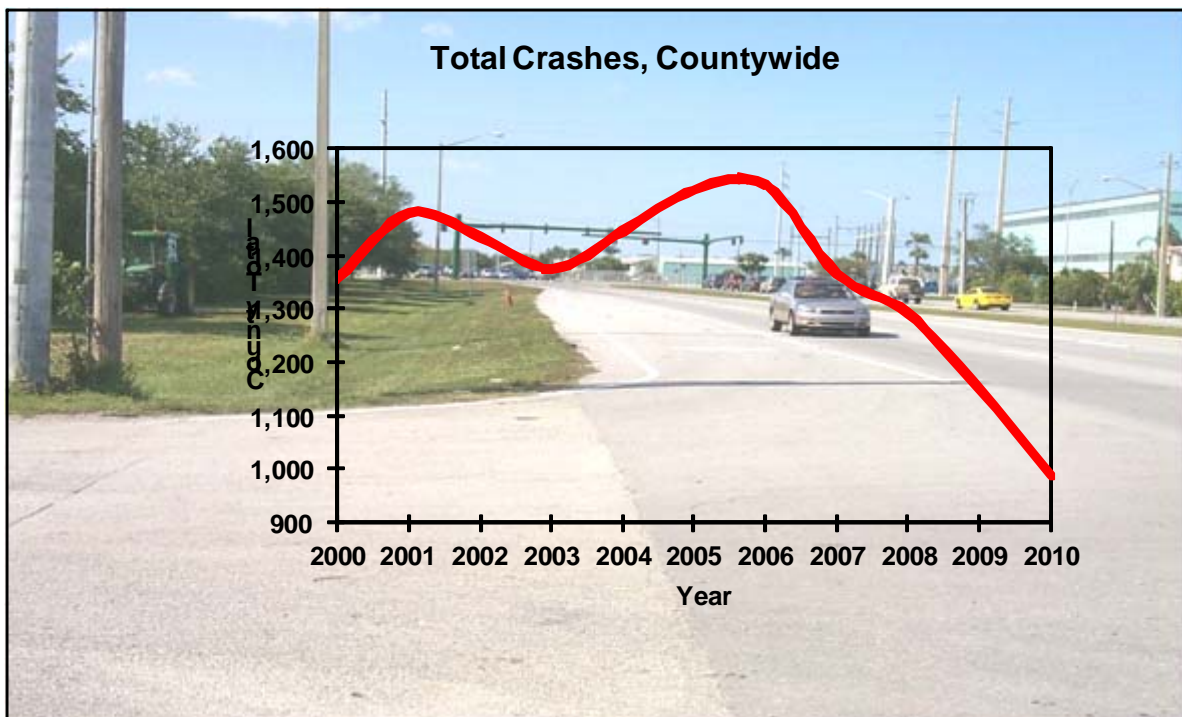
SAFETY

Significant Crash Rate Improvement in 2010

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the number of crashes in Indian River County declined from 1,153 in 2009 to 990 in 2010. That corresponds to a 14.1% drop in the Crash Rate in Indian River County (per million vehicle miles traveled). Statewide, the crash rate remained unchanged over that same period. Although traffic fatalities increased from 23 in 2009 to 26 in 2010, alcohol-related crashes, bike/ped crashes, and motorcycle crashes all declined during that time.

Bike/Ped Crash Rate Shows Improvement, Remains a Problem

Although the bike/ped crash rate improved in 2010, the rate still remains above the state average. In 2009, a widely circulated report authored by the Surface Transportation Policy Partnership characterized the Vero Beach-Sebastian Urbanized Area as the second most dangerous urbanized area in the State of Florida for Bicycles and Pedestrians. In response, the County, MPO, Local Law Enforcement, and Municipalities in Indian River County took a proactive approach to Bike-Ped Safety throughout 2010/11. Those efforts included an educational program (see the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning* section) and physical improvements such as new sidewalks, greenways, and signalized crossings.



MPO WORK PRODUCTS

Funding for MPO staff activities and studies is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through federal highway and transit planning grant funds. To qualify for these funds, MPO staff must, throughout the year, complete a number of work products in fulfillment of its obligation to maintain a “Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive” planning process.

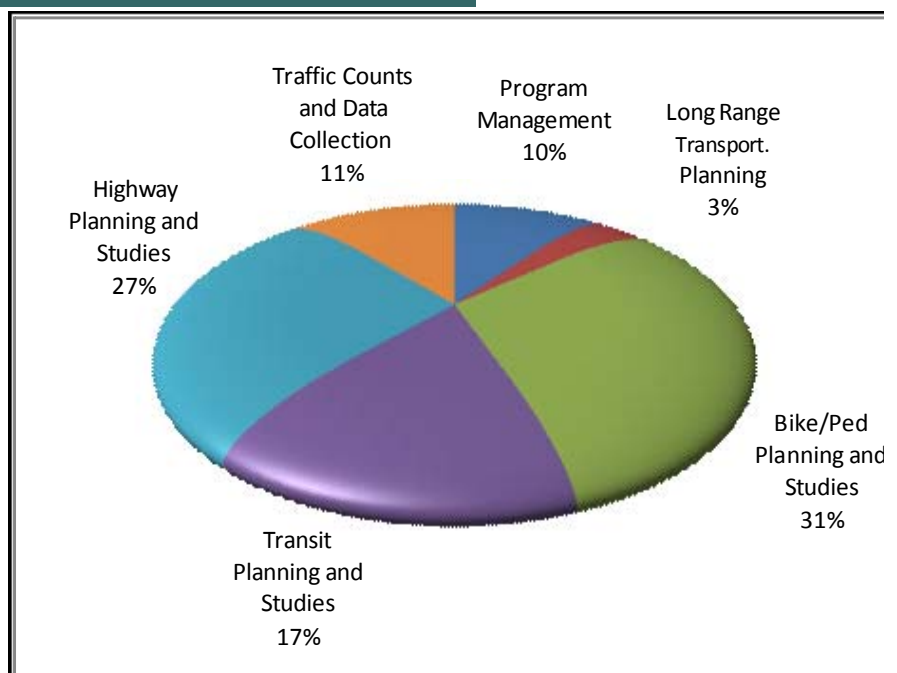
In so doing, the MPO maintains the right to prioritize transportation projects funded by federal and state gas taxes in the county.

Some of the work products undertaken in the past fiscal year include:

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP identifies the MPO’s proposed planning activities and budget over a two-year period. Some of the major projects completed in the past two years include an update of the County’s 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Triennial Review of the Transit System.

Major tasks contained in the current year of the UPWP include updating the MPO’s Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and preparing a Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update. For fiscal year 2011/12, the principal UPWP tasks are shown on the attached chart.



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a comprehensive, five-year listing of federal and state funded transportation projects. A listing of locally-funded transportation projects is also included for informational purposes.

Total Federal and State funding for Transportation in the most recent (2011/12—2015/16) TIP is \$221 Million, a 17% decrease from the five year total in last year’s TIP (\$267 Million).

Transportation Improvement Program (Cont.)

The decrease in funding is primarily due to the acceleration of the construction of I-95 between the St. Lucie County Line and the Brevard County Line. That project was accelerated by FDOT into FY 2010/11 and therefore is not included in the new TIP.

Major projects in the 2011/12— 2015/16 TIP include:

- **Widening US 1, Oslo Rd—Highland Drive (4 Lanes—6 Lanes)**. Construction funded 2012/13 (\$11 Million)
- **Widening US 1, Highlands Drive—St. Lucie County (4 Lanes—6 Lanes)**. Construction funded 2013/14 (\$19 Million)
- **Trans-Florida Rail-Trail Construction North County Park— 102nd Ct**, Construction funded 2012/13 (\$500,000)

Trans-Florida Rail-Trail



Project Priorities

Each year, the MPO submits to FDOT a set of priorities for highway, transit, bike/ped, congestion management and aviation projects for FDOT's consideration in developing its five-year work program. Usually consisting of large, multi-year projects, many of the MPO's highest priorities have been implemented over the past decade and have aided the flow of traffic tremendously in the county.

Current top priorities in Indian River County include:

Arterial Highways: 82nd Avenue, 26th Street—CR 510; Oslo Road, 58th avenue to I-95.

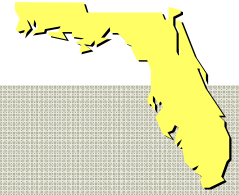
Strategic Intermodal System (Freeways): New Interchange at Oslo Road.

Transit: Expand Operating Hours (7 am—7 pm); Construct Transit Shelters.

Enhancements: Trans-Florida Rail Trail Greenway.

Congestion Management: Turn lanes on 12th Street at 27th Avenue

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION



To further its mission of improving safety and mobility in Indian River County, the MPO coordinates with agencies and organizations both in the region and throughout the state. These partnerships have resulted in improved regional plans and technical capabilities as well as millions of dollars in grant monies for project implementation. Some of these efforts include:

- Formal establishment, with the Martin MPO and St. Lucie TPO, of the Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC). The three-county committee has jointly developed a regional long-range transportation plan as well as a project priority list, and has obtained a commitment of funding from FDOT for regional roadways, including CR 512 and Oslo Road.
- Membership on the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), a statewide transportation planning and policy organization created by the Florida Legislature to augment the role of individual MPOs in the cooperative transportation planning process
- Participation with the Space Coast TPO and FDOT in the development of the Greater Treasure Coast Regional Planning Model (GTCRPM).
- Participation with Indian River County School District representatives and state and local law enforcement officials on the Indian River County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST).

The “Walking School Bus”

Since 2005, the MPO has taken a key role in the activities of the Community Traffic Safety Team. One result has been the formation of Walking School Buses. A walking school bus is a group of children walking to or from school in an organized manner with one or more qualified adults accompanying them. The benefits of the program include reduced traffic congestion, reductions in costly pupil transportation expenses, and an additional exercise opportunity for children. In 2010 and 2011, the MPO assisted the Indian River Health Department, School District, and various local law enforcement agencies in establishing Walking School Buses at Fellsmere, Vero Beach, and Dodgertown Elementary Schools and also led International Walk to School Day activities at six Elementary Schools throughout the County.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning

In a survey conducted in 2010 as part of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 update, over **38%** of county residents indicated that sidewalks and bike paths should be the County's highest transportation priority.

During 2010/11, a number of MPO Bike/Ped Plan Priorities were under construction or completed in Indian River County. Some projects, such as the **12th Street Sidewalk Project** (27th Avenue to 43rd Avenue) and the **Indian River Boulevard Sidewalk Project** (17th Street to 8th Street); are provided to address deficiencies on existing roadways while other projects (such as **Oslo Road** between 27th Avenue and 43rd Avenue and **53rd Street** between 58th Avenue and US 1) are being provided in conjunction with roadway construction projects.

New sidewalks and/or bike lanes are anticipated in the coming fiscal years on a number of roadways, including **66th Avenue** (SR 60—49th Street), **43rd Avenue** (18th Place to 26th Street), **Aviation Boulevard** (43rd Avenue to US 1), **Old Dixie Highway** (38th Street—65th Street), **Oslo Road** (43rd Avenue—58th Avenue), and in **Vero Lake Estates** (on 106th Avenue and on 91st Street).

Bike/Ped Safety and Educational Programs

The MPO believes that bike/ped safety is for all citizens and that educational efforts should begin with its youngest citizens.

Throughout 2010/11, the MPO established a proactive bicycle/pedestrian safety education program. During the Spring of 2011, the MPO arranged certification training for PE Teachers, Boys and Girls Club Officials, and MPO Staff.

In so doing, the MPO developed a local knowledge base of trainers who can integrate safety in a fun meaningful way into their daily educational activities. The MPO plans to assist Public Schools and other organizations with events such as Safety Rodeos in the coming year.



GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

In 2010 and 2011, the County advertised for bidders for the construction of the **Trans-Florida Rail-Trail** corridor through the Sebastian Crossings Subdivision. Funding for this project came about through the MPO's first successful Recreational Trail Program grant, awarded in 2009. Additional funding through the SAFETEA-LU enhancement program will enable the county to construct a western segment of the trail in 2012.

Additional Greenways and Trail segments are proposed in other locations around the County. In 2011, the County received funding for the 43rd Avenue and Aviation Boulevard segments of the Airport Greenway at the Vero Beach Airport. The Indian River Land Trust and Indian River County also began construction of the Indian River Lagoon Greenway in south Indian River County.



2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)

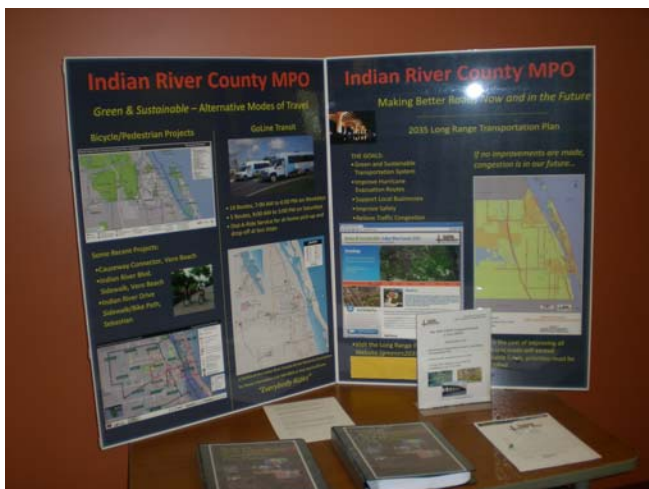
Every 5 years, MPOs are required by federal law to update their Long Range Transportation Plans. Consistent with that requirement, the MPO adopted the **2035 LRTP (LRTP) update** in December of 2010. The LRTP is the blueprint that guides transportation system improvements in Indian River County through the future. It is intended to serve as the guide for the expenditure of transportation funds in Indian River County, especially transportation funds received from the federal government and FDOT.

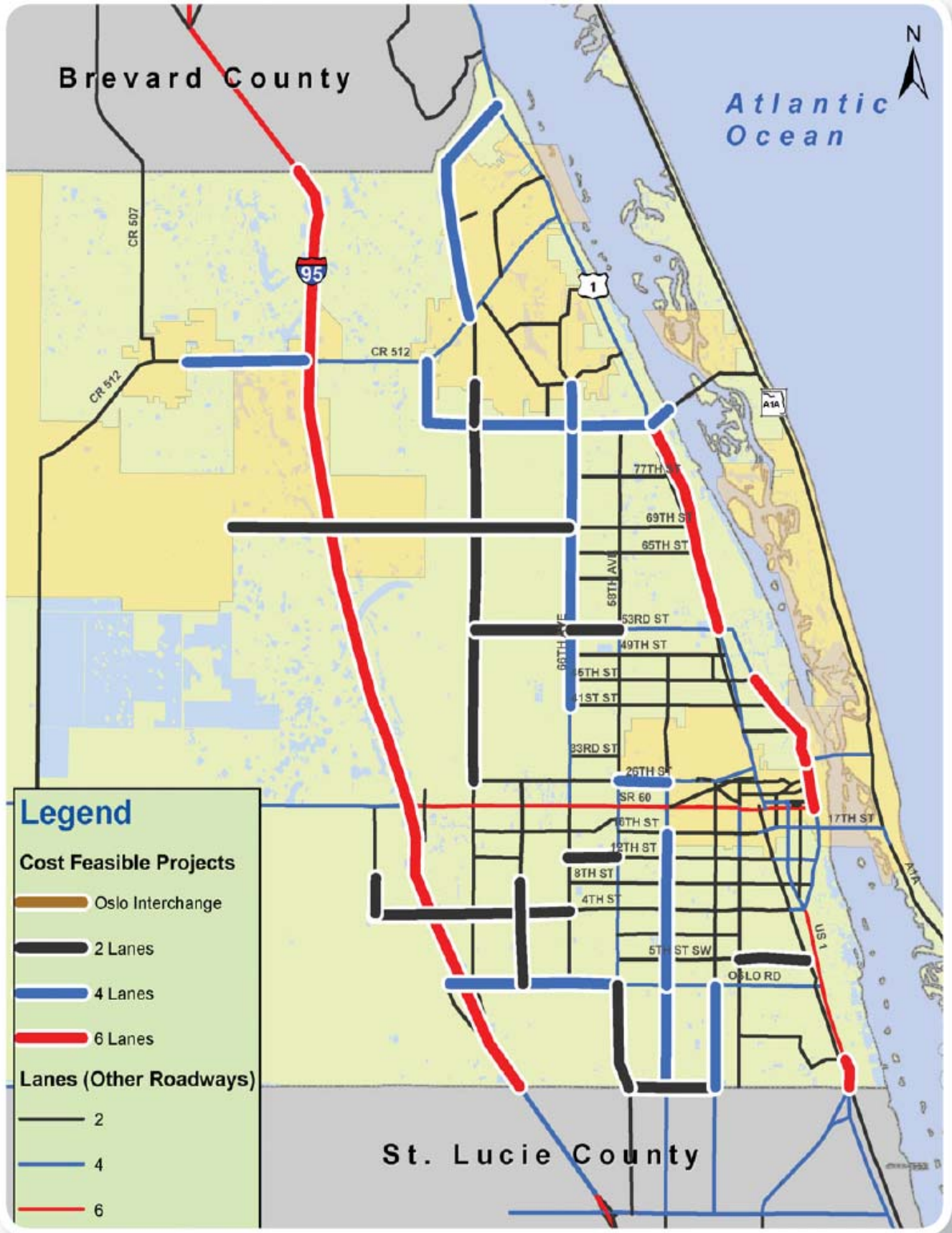
Adoption of the LRTP concluded an approximately 2-year effort that included a land use visioning process, travel demand forecast, and financial resources assessment.

2035 Cost Affordable Plan

The 2035 LRTP contains over 50 separate roadway projects costing in excess of \$550 Million in actual Year of Expenditure (YOE) dollars. Major projects in the plan include the widening of US 1 from 53rd Street to CR510; the widening of CR 510 from US 1 to CR 512; the widening of Indian River Boulevard from SR 60 to 45th Street; and a new I-95 interchange at Oslo Road. A map of all LRTP Cost Affordable Plan projects appears on the following page. The LRTP also contains bicycle, pedestrian, transit, intermodal, and other transportation projects that will improve mobility conditions through 2035.

Despite the large number of projects, the 2035 Plan marked the first time that the cost of the projects needed to achieve the County's future adopted Level of Service (LOS) standard exceeded available financial resources. That is primarily due to declining transportation revenues at all levels of government. Even so, the number of roadway links in 2035 that will actually exceed the adopted LOS standard are relatively few. Consequently, funding is included in the LRTP to address congestion problems through alternatives to traditional road widening such as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies and intersection improvements. Also, Congress is currently debating the reauthorization of the Federal Highway Bill. When approved, the reauthorization will dramatically impact future revenue streams available for priorities.





MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan—Cost Affordable Plan

HONORS AND AWARDS



Throughout the year, members of the MPO both individually and collectively were acknowledged by their peers for outstanding service. Some of the acknowledgements include:

- **2011 Community Transportation Coordinator of the Year**, awarded to the **Senior Resource Association** by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.
- **2011 Transportation Disadvantaged Volunteer of the Year**, awarded to **CAC Member and TDLCB Vice-Chairman William "Lundy" Parden** by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.
- **2010/11 Florida Public Transportation Association Marketing Award—Honorable Mention**, awarded to the Indian River Transit **"GoLine"** for its innovative media campaigns.

MPO STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

www.irmpo.com

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MPO Staff Assistant –

Sharon Schalm
sschalm@ircgov.com
(772) 226-1672



*Indian River County MPO
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32967*

THE MPO BOARD

The MPO Board consists of twelve voting members representing the local governments within the County, two non-voting representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and a non-voting representative from the Town of Orchid.

The 12 voting members include: (5) County Commissioners, (2) City of Vero Beach Council Members, (2) City of Sebastian Council Members, (1) Town of Indian River Shores Council Member, (1) City of Fellsmere Council Member, (1) School Board Member- Total of 3 ex-officio non-voting members: (1) Town of Orchid Council Member; (1) FDOT District 4 Secretary; (1) FDOT State Transportation Planner. Term of office 4-years.

Two advisory committees provide direction and recommendations to the MPO Board. These are the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

The TAC provides technical expertise to the MPO Board regarding matters to be considered by the MPO and on planning issues being undertaken by MPO staff, while the CAC provides citizen input into the MPO planning process and ensures a high degree of public involvement in that process.

Another advisory committee, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, meets on

County Commissioner

Wesley S. Davis

County Commissioner

Joseph E. Flescher

County Commissioner

Gary C. Wheeler

County Commissioner

Peter D. O'Bryan (**Vice-Chairman**)

County Commissioner

Bob Solari (**Chairman**)

Vero Beach Representative

Council Member Craig Fletcher

Vero Beach Representative

Council Member Tracy Carroll

Sebastian Representative

Council Member Richard Gillmor

Sebastian Representative

Council Member Bob McPartlan

Indian River Shores Representative

Council Member Dick Haverland

Fellsmere Representative

Mayor Susan Adams

County School Board Representative

Jeff Pegler

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

THE MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The TAC consists of 19 Members: (1) IRC Public Works Department; (1) IRC Community Development Department; (1) IRC Traffic Engineering Department; (1) Office of Management and Budget; (1) Vero Beach Engineering Department; (1) Vero Beach Planning Department; (1) Vero Beach Municipal Airport; (1) Sebastian Engineering Department; (1) Sebastian Planning Department; (1) Sebastian Municipal Airport; (1) IRC Sheriff's Department; (1) IRC School Board; (1) IRC Council on Aging; (1) Town of Indian River Shores; (1) City of Fellsmere; (1) Town of Orchid; (1) FDOT District 4 Planning; (1) FDOT District 4 Public Transportation Office; (1) Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Members serve a 1-year term.

Meetings are held on the fourth Friday of every month at 10:00 AM in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

Indian River County Community Development Department

(1 representative)
Robert M. Keating, AICP - Director
(Vice-Chairman)

Indian River County Public Works Department

(1 representative)
Chris Mora, PE – Director

Indian River County Traffic Engineering

(1 representative)
Jeanne Bresett

Indian River County Budget Office

(1 representative)
Jason Brown, Budget Manager

City of Vero Beach Planning Department

(1 representative)
Tim McGarry, AICP - Director

City of Vero Beach Public Works and Engineering Department

(1 representative)
Monte Falls, P.E. - Director

Vero Beach Municipal Airport

(1 representative)
Eric Menger - Director

City of Sebastian

(2 representatives)
Al Minner, City Manager
Jerry Converse, Public Works Director

Sebastian Municipal Airport

(1 representative)
Joseph Griffin, Airport Manager

City of Fellsmere

(1 representative)
Jason Nunemaker, City Manager **(Chairman)**

Town of Indian River Shores

(1 representative)
William Schauman, Public Safety Director

Town of Orchid

(1 representative)
Deb Branwell, Town Manager

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

(1 representative)
Sgt. Albert Iovina

Indian River County School Board

(1 representative)
George Millar - Transportation Coordinator

Senior Resource Association.

(1 representative)
Karen Deigl– President, SRA

Florida Department of Transportation - District Four Planning Office

(1 representative)
Nancy Ziegler
Marjorie Hilaire (alternate)

Florida Department of Transportation - District Four Public Transportation Office

(1 representative)
Gustavo Schmidt or Stacy Miller (Alternate)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

(1 representative)
Patrick Washington

THE MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Total of 13 members: (5) County representatives appointed by the BCC, (2) Sebastian Representatives; (1) Indian River Shores; (2) Vero Beach, (1) Fellsmere, (2) Members-at-Large, one representing the racial minority interests and one representing the transportation disadvantaged community - 1-year term.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

County Representative

Juliana E. Young, **Chairman**

County Representative

Chuck Mechling, **Vice-Chairman**

County Representative

Robert Johnson

Transportation Disadvantaged Representative

William Lundy Parden

Vero Beach Representative

Herb Whittall

Vero Beach Representative

Vacant

Sebastian Representative

David DeVirgilio

Indian River Shores Representative

John Warner

County Representative

Walter D. Wright

Fellsmere Representative

Clarence Korker

Citizen Advocate Representative

Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer

County School Board Representative

Mike Durwin

Minority Representative

Freddie Woolfork

Sebastian Representative

Deryl Seemayer

THE MPO BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The BAC consists of six voting members: (1) County Representative, (1) City of Vero Beach Representative, (1) City of Sebastian Representative, (1) Town of Indian River Shores Representative, (1) Town of Orchid Representative and (1) City of Fellsmere Representative.

Meetings are held quarterly, on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 2:00 PM in Conference Room B1-501, County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL

County Representative

Libby Harrow, **Chairman**

Sebastian Representative

Chris McCarthy

Town of Orchid Representative

Hank Dieffenbach

Indian River Shores Representative

George Sharpe, **Vice Chairman**

Fellsmere Representative

Lt. Scott Melanson

Vero Beach Representative

Terry Goff



Indian River County MPO
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

