

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
DECEMBER 13, 2013**

Chairman O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 Solari
 Councilmember Adams
 Councilmember Fletcher (Alternate)

Martin County: Commissioner Smith
 Commissioner Fielding
 Commissioner Haddox (Alternate)
 Commissioner Krauskopf

St. Lucie County: Commissioner Mowery

Palm Beach County: Commissioner Valeche
 Vice Mayor Burdick
 Councilwoman Gerwig
 Councilmember Brinkman
 Commissioner Szerdi (Alternate)
 Councilman Norris (Alternate)
 Mayor DuBois (Alternate)
 Councilmember Tinsley (Alternate)
 Vice Mayor Hmara (Alternate)

Gubernatorial Appointees: Michael Davis
 Kevin Foley
 Reece Parrish
 Peter Sachs
 Steven Weaver, Sr.

Ex-Officios: Lynda Westin, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
 Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District

Council Staff: Michael Busha
 Phyllis Castro
 Kim DeLaney
 Anthea Gianniotis
 Liz Gulick
 Stephanie Heidt
 Kim Koho

Dana Little
Peter Merritt
Greg Vaday

Council Attorney: Roger Saberson

The Executive Director announced a quorum was present.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that public comment on individual items would be taken only on items for which Council would be taking action. He stated that public comment would then be opened at the end of the agenda for general public comment. He asked that anyone from the public wishing to speak fill out a request form so everyone would be recognized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Staff provided the meeting schedule for 2014 and provided members with the Holiday Calendar, which features the history and historical buildings of the Treasure Coast Region.

Staff indicated that the City of Delray Beach is hosting a lecture series to raise the level of consciousness with respect to city issues in the downtown and community redevelopment area, and involve the public. The series will run from January through May 2014 and will have information that will benefit all counties and cities. Staff encouraged everyone to attend, noting staff could be contacted if there is an interest in conducting this type of lecture series in another City.

Staff congratulated Mayor Ferreri for being elected to a two-year term to the National League of Cities Board of Directors. Staff also congratulated Mayor Ferreri for winning the Prestigious Central Palm Beach County Salsa Showdown with his Pomegranate Pear and Chipotle Salsa.

Staff indicated that the Communication Package contains regional employment, unemployment and job sector information sorted by county and grouped together for the region. This will be provided in the Communication Package at each meeting. Staff requested that Council members contact staff if they would like to see other economic indicators or statistics included.

Staff indicated the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority has requested a \$250,000 loan to help clean up the former H.D. King power plant site through Council's Brownfields Program.

Staff noted there has been a request for a project assessment on the Old Gifford landfill site in Indian River County. The project will look at the possibility of cleaning up that site so the community can use it for recreation or other related uses.

Staff noted that Palm Beach County has asked for assistance in doing a western community background study in the Glades region to create an initial Phase I study to identify contaminated areas from South Bay to Canal Point and determine clean up possibilities. Additionally, Palm Beach County and the City of Belle Glade have requested an assessment of the Lakeshore Civic center. The City would like to expand facilities, but there is some contamination that will need to be addressed.

Staff indicated that the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Community Redevelopment Agency have asked for Council staff assistance in converting their conventional uniform code to a more appropriate form-based code.

Staff noted that the City of Hallandale in Broward County has also asked Council to assist with developing their codes. Staff indicated that although this is out of the region, Treasure Coast is the only regional planning council that has the staff able to provide this kind of service to local governments.

Staff is working with Palm Beach County on two projects in Pahokee and Belle Glade through a Community Challenge Grant. The County has asked staff to assist with the public input and planning that will address how to get clean water, better sewer and stormwater services, and the basic necessities for the cities. This project is not only to raise the standard of living in the area, but to develop an economic development strategy to make the area more attractive to investors.

Staff indicated work has been completed on the Broadway Master Plan for the City of Riviera Beach. This was a year-long project to rewrite code for 600 acres within the City's community redevelopment area. The work stemmed from a charrette in 2007 and will go to final reading at the end of December.

Staff noted that St. Lucie and Martin Counties have begun work on the Regional Waterways Plan, which will identify ways to leverage economic benefits and funding opportunities related to the lagoon, inlets, and canals in those counties. The project will look at access, development opportunities, environmental issues, recreation, transportation, and other ways to connect the lagoon more practically to transportation funding that is available for activities such as cleanup and maintenance dredging. The project is especially important because of tourism and the economic impact to our region. Staff noted that Kathy LaMartina with the South Florida Water Management District will be of great assistance in this project in helping to connect what comes out of the waterways plans for the two counties and tying that back to a funding source for implementation.

Staff noted a large regional greenways and trail project has also begun. The project is being funded by the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization and will cover the area from Monroe County to Sebastian. The plan is to identify and map regional greenways and trails, hiking, cycling and equestrian as well as paddling trails and identify any gaps in between. Over the next six months workshops will be held to identify what is currently available and look to future needs.

Staff noted the recent completion of the Martin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which was an entire rewrite with seventy-one different documents and twelve different annexes.

Staff indicated that over the next three to four months Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) will be conducting field tests and diagnostic reviews to all railroad crossings to determine infrastructure needs and estimate costs for the quiet zone upgrades. Staff will be working with FECI and encouraged all Councilmembers to become involved and see firsthand what the impacts will be and how those impacts can be mitigated.

Councilwoman Gerwig asked if there would be funding available to help local governments with the cost for the quiet zones. Staff indicated that would be addressed in the upcoming presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Alex Larson expressed her concern that the Town of Loxahatchee Groves is proposing to delete from their comprehensive plan language with respect to the public's health, safety, and welfare. She also stated concern with the developer contributions noted in the Capital Improvements Element. She stated she believes the manufacturing development program ordinance is too broad. She stated she is a proponent of manufacturing, but she cautioned Council to look carefully at what is being proposed and understand the potential poisons and contaminations from manufacturing and how that affects the health, safety, and welfare of the public. She indicated that this program is being proposed to expedite the process, but that is not always the best way to do things.

Rosa Durando stated that all the consent items make meaningless statements that do not address the conditions of the land, but she was especially concerned about the Loxahatchee Groves comprehensive plan amendment and the model local manufacturing program ordinance. She stated there is no acknowledgment of the physical constraints and that has been the tragic history of most Florida planning. She expressed her disappointment that there have been no comments made to proposals she feels are ridiculous such as the Florida Barge Canal, and the widening and deepening of Taylor Creek. She stated Taylor Creek is polluted and sea animals and coral reefs are dying. She noted a study done that identified the dirtiest urban water discharge in Florida is in Wellington, yet there is still approval of more and more desecration of that area without any mitigation. She stated money is not mitigation, land and wetlands are mitigation. She indicated she believes the purpose of the regional planning council is to take into effect major impacts to the general public which she believes is not being done.

AGENDA

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Agenda. Vice Chairman Mowery seconded the motion, **Motion** which carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda with the removal of Item 6H, Town of Loxahatchee Groves Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 14-1ESR for discussion. Vice Chairman Mowery seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Items remaining on the Consent Agenda were: 6A, Annual Audit – Fiscal Year 2012-2013; 6B, Financial Report – August 31, 2013; 6C, Financial Report – September 30, 2013; 6D, Minutes – September 20, 2013; 6E, City of Boca Raton Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-2ESR; 6F, Indian River County Comprehensive Plan Amendment 13-3ESR; 6G, City of Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 13-2ESR; 6I, Florida Military Family and Community Covenant Day Resolution; 6J, Model Local Manufacturing Development Program Ordinance; 6K, Amendment to Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Professional Services Relating to Land Use, Planning, and Technical Assistance; and 6L, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 14-1ESR**

With respect to Ms. Larson’s concerns, staff indicated the Town had been contacted and it was determined that the deleted section was re-written and expanded to occur later in the document. Chairman O’Bryan asked if Ms. Durando’s concern with respect to the water quality impacts was addressed. Staff noted that the proposed amendment did not contain any land use changes, therefore there was nothing to review in this particular amendment regarding water quality issues.

Mayor DuBois stated that he had contacted staff with respect to the proposal to delete language that address the intergovernmental coordination of the roadway network. He stated that due to the nature of the roadways system of Loxahatchee Groves it is important to include the neighboring communities as well as the larger regional community in discussions on how the roadways are integrated with the rest of the region. He stated staff noted the language being deleted was redundant and addressed elsewhere. He stated he was satisfied that the deletions were covered in other areas.

Commissioner Fielding stated he was also concerned with the deletion of the language referring to general welfare. He stated this is the one item that was not added to the new language.

Vice Mayor Burdick moved approval of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves Comprehensive Plan Amendment No.14-1ESR staff recommendation. Commissioner Valeche seconded the motion, which carried with Commissioner Fielding opposed.

Motion

Councilmember Foley noted that he believes that Commissioner Fielding opposed the motion because he wished to recommend that “welfare” be included as part of the document. He asked that the vote be reconsidered to address Commissioner Fielding’s concern. Mr. Saberson indicated the vote and motion could be reconsidered if the prevailing side would be in agreement. Councilmember Foley motioned to reconsider the motion. Vice Mayor Burdick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Commissioner Fielding moved to approve the staff report with the addition of a specific recommendation to include public welfare. Councilmember Foley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

**COUNCIL ORGANIZATION – MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

In accordance with the rules and regulations of Council, the Executive Director read the following names of the new Councilmembers for 2014 into the record and asked that the Chairman certify that they have been duly appointed:

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Regular Members: Mayor Priscilla A. Taylor
Vice Mayor Paulette Burdick
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche

Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Shelley Vana
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams
Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria

Municipal Members: Councilwoman Anne Gerwig (Wellington)
Mayor Sam Ferreri (City of Greenacres)
Mayor Karen Golonka (Town of Jupiter)
Councilmember Joni Brinkman (Village of Palm Springs)
Mayor James DuBois (Town of Lake Park)

Municipal Alternates: Vice Mayor Jeff Hmara (Village of Royal Palm Beach)
Commissioner John Szerdi (City of Lake Worth)
Council Member Marcie Tinsley (City of Palm
Beach Gardens)
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: Councilmember Craig Fletcher (City of Vero Beach)
Mayor Susan Adams (City of Fellsmere)

Municipal Alternates: Councilmember Jerome Adams (City of Sebastian)
Councilmember Thomas Cadden (Town of Indian
River Shores)

MARTIN COUNTY

Regular Members: Commissioner Ed Fielding
Commissioner John Haddox

Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Anne Scott
Commissioner Doug Smith

Municipal Member: Commissioner Jeffrey Krauskopf (City of Stuart)

Municipal Alternate: Commissioner Paul Luger (Town of Sewall’s Point)

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- Regular Members: Commissioner Tod Mowery
Commissioner Paula A. Lewis
- Regular Member Alternates: Commissioner Kim Johnson
Commissioner Chris Dzadoovsky
- Municipal Members: Mayor JoAnn Faiella (City of Port St. Lucie)
Commissioner Thomas Perona (City of Fort Pierce)
- Municipal Alternates: Councilwoman Shannon Martin (City of Port St. Lucie)
Commissioner Reginald Sessions (City of Fort Pierce)

- GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES:** Kevin J. Foley, Martin County
Michael Davis, Palm Beach County
Peter Sachs, Palm Beach County
Reece Parrish, St. Lucie County
Steven Weaver, Sr., St. Lucie 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

Chairman O’Bryan certified that, as Chairman of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the membership as read have all been duly appointed.

Council Member Marcie Tinsley asked who was her municipal member. Staff indicated she is the alternate to Mayor Golonka.

Chairman O’Bryan noted that the Nominating Committee met prior to the meeting to determine a slate of officers for 2014. He stated the committee had looked at five options and recommended that the current slate of officers be continued. The following were the Committee’s nominations for Council Officers for 2014:

- Chairman - Commissioner Peter O’Bryan
Vice Chairman – Commissioner Tod Mowery
Secretary/Treasurer – Councilmember Michael Davis

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Committee nominations. Council Member Gerwig **Motion** seconded the motion.

Commissioner Solari questioned why there wasn’t a transition in officers. Chairman O’Bryan indicated that the normal transition would have been that Vice Chairman Mowery would have moved to the Chairman position, and Councilmember Davis would have moved to Vice Chairman.

However, due to conflicts, Vice Chairman Mowery was not currently in a position to accept the Chairmanship.

Under Public Comment, Drew Martin expressed his concern that Councilmember Davis is involved with the Vavrus property and he asked that he recuse himself when this came up for discussion. Chairman O'Bryan explained that Councilmembers have always recused themselves from voting on an item if there is a conflict of interest. He thanked Mr. Martin for his remarks, but stated he was confident that Councilmember Davis would recuse himself from the vote when it was appropriate and that he should not be precluded from serving as an officer.

A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman O'Bryan reported that the Committee had met prior to the meeting. He indicated that in July when Council adopted the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 there was \$518,000 of projected revenue from contracts that had not been executed. He indicated all contracts have been signed and there is additional revenue of \$607,000 from the adopted budget, which will be brought before Council in March through a budget amendment.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the Committee had reviewed the evaluation forms that had been submitted for the annual review of the executive director. He stated the reviews received were favorable and did not reflect any areas of concern. He noted the good work the executive director had done to bring in the additional revenue. He stated that the executive director had indicated he did not want any type of compensation increase. Chairman O'Bryan indicated the Committee recommendation was to approve the continuation of employment of the executive director at his current compensation package.

Councilmember Foley noted that it was determined long ago that the level of support from other governments would not always be consistent, so it has always been recommended to the executive director that the staff should sell Council's abilities to ensure financial stability. He noted that the staff is extremely well qualified and talented and should offer those abilities to local, state, and federal governments. He applauded the executive director and staff for continuing each year to find ways to add to the budget.

Under Public Comment, Mark Gotz noted that the July budget showed the salaries of Council as being \$1.3 million. He asked how many people are employed by the Council at over \$100,000 per month. He stated that if you look at the total operation budget of \$2.7 million, add the \$1.3 million for salaries and \$800,000 for consultants, then that is over \$2.1 in salaries and benefits. He asked for clarification why eighty percent of the budget goes to salaries and consultants. Chairman O'Bryan indicated a full breakdown was not available at the meeting, but staff would be glad to provide this information. Mr. Busha indicated that salaries are between thirty and fifty percent, depending on the work, and that includes the benefits. He noted that because the budget varies from year to year, consultants are required to accomplish some of the work program. He stated that there are thirteen full-time employees on staff, which was reduced from eighteen in 2008. By utilizing the consultants, which do not receive the benefits and may not be used each year, Council does not

have to fire people each year. He noted that for the last three years the state has decided not to fund the Council for work that is statutorily required, and that has amounted to approximately three-quarters of a million dollars lost. Mr. Busha stated he would go through everything with Mr. Gotz if he so desired. Mr. Gotz indicated that answered his question of the size of staff and stated that basically it is \$100,000 per staff member.

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Committee recommendations. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE THE TRI-RAIL COASTAL LINK COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Staff presented a resolution for Council approval to encourage the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Council's transportation partners to advance the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project, which is a project to restore commuter rail service on the FEC rail corridor from Jupiter to downtown Miami.

Responding to questions regarding quiet zones and the Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. (FECI) All Aboard Florida project, which proposes to introduce high-speed express passenger rail service from Orlando to Miami, including service on the FEC rail corridor from Brevard to Miami-Dade counties, staff noted there is no precedent of state funding being expended on quiet zone capital infrastructure. Each of the counties along the FEC corridor is approaching quiet zones at a different pace and with different levels of prioritization, with the southern counties of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach further ahead in their discussions due to the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Project. Through this project, FDOT is evaluating grade crossings to determine what additional infrastructure will be necessary beyond the safety infrastructure being installed by FECI for the All Aboard Florida project to enable local government to establish quiet zones. Staff noted FECI will be in the field in early 2014 with its engineers assessing each of the approximately 320 grade crossings between Miami-Dade and Brevard counties. They will be contacting local governments as appropriate to join them in the field. In Palm Beach County, the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has assigned additional funding for FDOT to determine cost estimates and potential phasing for quiet zone infrastructure. In addition, the Palm Beach MPO has allocated \$6.6 million in capital costs for quiet zone infrastructure funds that can only be expended on quiet zone costs if constructed in conjunction with other safety improvements, such as those anticipated by FECI's All Aboard Florida project. Quiet zones are a subject of discussion for the MPOs and transportation planning organization along the corridor, particularly regarding what other funding may be assigned to quiet zones.

Commissioner Smith asked if all the 320 crossings will be reconfigured for construction. Staff indicated all will have some level of improvement because FECI has indicated the corridor will be double-tracked to accommodate the All Aboard Florida project. Additionally, FECI will be installing technology improvements to establish positive train control, which will allow real time communications for improved knowledge of where trains are located on the track and the central control dispatch. Staff noted it would be more cost efficient for local governments to construct quiet zone improvements in conjunction with the FECI safety improvements.

Commissioner Fielding asked what the effects of the increased speed would be to the crossings. Staff indicated the speed of the trains is a factor on safety ratings and quiet zones are established by using a national safety rating metric established by the Federal Railroad Administration. The implication of increased speeds is that more safety improvements will likely be required. Staff indicated local governments are hopeful due to the faster service, FECI will be required to install all, or nearly all, the safety infrastructure necessary to allow quiet zones to be established. The diagnostic field reviews will occur in the spring, and by March or April local governments should be advised as to what infrastructure FECI will be required to install.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the agenda item is recommending that the Council approve the resolution which encourages FDOT and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority to transmit a letter requesting that the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project be advanced into the Project Development Phase.

Commissioner Valeche moved approval of the recommendation. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Motion

Under discussion, Commissioner Solari indicated that because there was a lack of financial information provided, he would be voting against the motion.

Council Member Tinsley asked if there were any details with regard to a typical crossing or section of the sealed corridor regarding fencing and everything else that would be required. Staff indicated there was nothing yet on the typical sections, and that will be produced occur once FECI completes its field work, identifies conditions, and draws those sections that will need to be constructed.

Staff noted that with respect to Commissioner Solari's concern, a presentation from FDOT will address some financing questions.

Commissioner Fielding asked about the origin of the draft resolution being considered. Staff indicated Council is one of eight partners that are engaged in a memorandum of understanding related to advancing commuter rail service in Southeast Florida. The resolution currently being presented for Council approval is to move the project forward, with no financial obligations to Council.

Jaime Lopez from the FDOT Coastal Link project team provided an update for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project, which included a status of project development, timeline for the project process, preliminary cost estimates, and description of the next steps, including the project development phase which will begin in the Spring of 2014.

Commissioner Fielding indicated he believes the capital costs for the project were public funds. Mr. Lopez indicated that was correct. Commissioner Fielding asked where the operating costs would be obtained. Mr. Lopez indicated there are a number of funding sources being evaluated, such as fare box revenue. He noted there would be federal support for operating and maintenance, and typically with commuter rail projects, development tends to grow at the station areas. The tax base then grows and some of that money can be used to offset the operating and maintenance costs. He noted there are different models that can be used and other alternatives will be explored over the next couple years to bring together a financial plan that is sustainable in the long-term.

Commissioner Fielding stated that rail is beneficial to everyone because it takes traffic off the roadways. He asked how this is going to change what is currently being done for the region. Mr. Lopez indicated that transit services in general are subsidized to a great degree, noting that the highways are paid for through gas taxes. He stated that it is a question of priorities and looking to the future in terms of economic growth for the region. He stated that there is limited ability to expand the roadway system, so it is important to develop these kinds of projects and provide options of mobility for people and goods as the population grows over the next 20-30 years in order to continue to grow and sustain our region.

Commissioner Szerdi asked how many additional trains there would be. Mr. Lopez indicated the commuter rail line would have about 25 round trips per day. Commissioner Szerdi stated that the main problem was the east-west movement. He said he supported the project, noting that it is good to minimize the amount of traffic on the roadways and amount of pollution. However, he stated that the ridership will be hurt because the lateral movement has been restricted. Mr. Lopez indicated this was a great concern and that FDOT has a number of projects underway to improve east-west connections. He stated the Department is in close coordination with transit agencies to provide feeder services, shuttles, and direct links to airports and seaport where stations cannot be located.

Commissioner Szerdi stated that in Lake Worth, there is a loop to the west, but nothing to the east to draw people to the downtown and beaches. He stated that although it is not part of this study, it is important to analyze the potential for people coming from the north and south. Mr. Lopez noted this is termed the last mile. He stated it is becoming more and more important to have shuttles and connectors to draw people to the region to live and work.

Commissioner Solari indicated he still did not see any real financial information presented. He stated it is important to get an understanding of the costs before there is a vote. He stated that in the private sector, a real financial plan would be required before there would be substantial investment in a project. He stated this has been absent in all the rail projects that have been presented. He stated he was troubled by the term fare box revenue. He stated that in his research and correspondence with Amtrak, he determined that for every \$28 ticket, there would have to be approximately \$200 in subsidies, which he asserted is not sustainable. He noted that the ridership of Tri-Rail has been well below the initial projections. He stated before he voted to move this project any further, he wanted to have an understanding of how it has worked financially today, and how it might work financially in the future, which he stated is his fiduciary duty to the tax payers.

Councilmember Davis stated that he would be supporting the resolution. He noted that as planners, we start with an assumption that the population will double over the next fifty years. The question then becomes how we deal with this population increase, and what are the alternatives. He stated that we cannot build roads, or design our way out of this with the automobile. He stated there is not enough room or money to build more lanes. He indicated that he believes the railway system, with multiple options such as All Aboard Florida and Tri-Rail provides the best opportunity to deal with the increase in population.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that the resolution is to support the project moving into the project development phase where more detailed financial analysis will be conducted. He stated this is a

concept and the next step is to do a financial analysis and look at the engineering in order to move forward with the project.

Councilmember Weaver asked what the project net cost per passenger mile was in order to do some sort of comparative analysis with other transportation modes. Mr. Lopez noted that will be part of the two-year phase, to not only define the scope, but also refine the costs. He stated these are currently planning level numbers with substantial contingencies built into them. Councilmember Weaver asked for the cost per passenger mile. Mr. Lopez stated he did not currently have a per-mile figure, but he estimated a typical cost range could be approximately \$10 per trip, with the typical fare being \$2-\$3 for these types of projects.

Under Public Comment, Mr. Gotz stated that the presentation raised a lot of questions for him. He stated that in his research he was not able to identify any passenger rail service in the country that operated at a profit. He questioned why FECI would want to do a rail line that services Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, but bypasses the Treasure Coast. He stated Tri-Rail was already a commuter train that does that. He stated there would now be the Tri-Rail Coastal Link, which he assumed was the same as All Aboard Florida. Chairman O'Bryan noted that the two are not the same, but two distinctly different rail projects. He stated the current item was to address the Tri-Rail Coastal Link, which proposes service from Miami to Jupiter. All Aboard Florida is for service from Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and then to Orlando. Mr. Gotz asked if the two projects were both in the FEC right-of-way. Chairman O'Bryan indicated yes. Mr. Gotz noted that Tri-Rail, which already has service in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, was losing approximately \$35 million a year the last time he checked. He asked who picks up the tab for the shortfall, because no passenger railway has every operated positively. He noted that quiet zones will add responsibilities to the cities and counties. He asked what this would cost the taxpayers of the Treasure Coast, when they would still have to drive in their cars to West Palm Beach to use the service. He questioned the cost of \$810 million for the 85-mile stretch, and if this included infrastructure as well as planning. He indicated there is a 2.7 mile loop in Fort Lauderdale that goes to the beach that cost \$143 million. He asked if the current ridership of approximately 700,000 TriRail passengers would be split between the two rail systems. He stated that if that were the case, then the break-even point for a Tri Rail ticket would be about \$150 just to travel from Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. He stated the economics of the plan did not make sense and that Council need to look at the dollars and cents before spending tax payer money and voting for this project. He stated that the only way three million more people will move into the tri-county area is if the regional planning council, the cities, and the counties allow it to happen. He stated that Council members control the planning and zoning within their jurisdictions and if the citizens do not want growth they will let them know.

Drew Martin, on behalf of the Sierra Club, stated he thought Commissioner Fielding brought up some good points. He stated he uses Tri-Rail frequently and he feels there is a need to work out some of the east/west corridors before moving forward. He stated he likes the idea of extending Tri-Rail, but questioned the additional expense. He indicated that one of the concerns of the Sierra Club is this could take commercial rail traffic off the FEC, creating a need to build large commercial rail lines through central Florida and the Everglades Agricultural Area. He expressed his concern with the proposed high speeds.

Chairman O'Bryan asked if there was additional Council member discussion. Commissioner Fielding asked for clarification of the motion, asking if this was for the project from Miami to Jupiter, and addressed the planning, but no implementation at the current time. He noted that planning would involve coming back to Council and address Commissioner Solari's financial concerns. Chairman O'Bryan indicated the current vote was to allow staff to do further research and come back with a report before taking further action.

Commissioner Solari indicated this was just a symbolic gesture saying we have an idea and are looking forward to a plan, but totally ignoring the history. He stated there has been rail project after rail project, but financial information has never come.

Chairman O'Bryan noted that there is documentation in the Seven50 report that shows how the Federal Highway Interstate System has not only has burned through its entire trust fund, but it has burned through \$50 billion of general revenue funds from the Federal Treasury. He noted that if you look at the big picture, transportation is very expensive and our interstate system is failing, so it is a burden to the taxpayers. He stated that it is the job of Council and elected officials to look down the road to determine what is best for the region.

Councilmember Foley noted his background is in investment banking, and he is very financially conservative. He indicated there are three things that stick out in his mind that govern what Council does – protect the environment, come up with alternative sources of energy, and new ideas to improve transportation. He stated there are a number of ways to improve transportation, and that cost affordability is incredibly important. He noted that not all of his questions have been answered, but he is willing to move this forward to the next phase. He stated he is not willing to write a blank check, so he would like to see the next presentation have better defined dollars and cents involved and what amount will be the responsibility of the public.

Mayor DuBois wanted clarification of what would be included in the numbers. He asked if factors like increased property value along the lines, and the improved price tag for college students being able to access their colleges from their homes without a car would be included. He indicated that the value of taking a car off the road at 15,000 miles annually is \$7,000, which across twenty years is \$140,000. He noted he has used rail transit services in the northeast his whole life. He indicated that the roads and the trains are saturated in the 75-mile run between New Haven and New York, which is comparable to the route under consideration. He stated a well-developed transit system has value that is hard to quantify with a fare or unit cost and then transfer capitalization until you start to look at some of the global impacts and impacts around the region. He stated the numbers need to also include employment and access to employment opportunities.

Councilmember Weaver asked if Councilmembers were being asked to support a resolution to conduct a planning effort of \$9-10 million a mile. Chairman O'Bryan indicated support of the motion would move the project to the development phase, which includes planning. Councilmember Weaver asked if that included looking at the east-west connections. Staff indicated it will be a complete transportation analysis that will look at the east-west connections, as well as the north-south movement of the trains. Councilmember Weaver asked what assurances there are that we will not get the \$9-10 million per mile for the same 85-miles when All Aboard Florida comes through, noting the Tri-Rail cost figure of \$800 million. Staff noted the \$800 million was the

estimated construction cost for the project. The study phase being supported through the resolution was for approximately \$6 million, which was being funded by the three southern MPOs.

Vice Chairman Mowery indicated he is the Chair of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments, and they had similar debate about aspects of All Aboard Florida. He stated that both the City of Stuart and the City of Fort Pierce are asking, from an economic development standpoint, for additional stations to be developed in their communities with further expansion of the All Aboard Florida project

A vote on the motion carried, with Commissioner Solari dissenting.

**LAKE WORTH LAGOON UPDATE – PRESENTATION BY JULIE BISHOP, PALM
BEACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT**

Julie Bishop, Environmental Program Supervisor for Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, provided an overview of the freshwater discharges in the Lake Worth Lagoon, environmental impacts of the discharges, and programs and projects to improve water quality and restore natural systems in the lagoon. The presentation addressed seagrass mapping and restoration of oyster beds. Additionally, Ms. Bishop presented highlights of work being done in the C-51 Sediment Management project area and the Grassy Flats Restoration project.

Chairman O'Bryan asked how thick the sand layer must be to cap the muck. Ms. Bishop indicated a one foot cap is adequate.

Commissioner Szerdi noted that the first phase of the Snook Islands project went well with a lot of good fishing and bird watching now occurring. He stated that the second phase has begun and indicated there are concerns that the mangroves are being installed too close to the seawall and will obscure the view of the water. Ms. Bishop indicated that the living shoreline has been redesigned to leave some breaks and it will be ten years before there will be a visibility problem.

Vice Mayor Burdick indicated that the Lake Worth Initiative is focused on three components, including water quality, habitat restoration, and education. She noted the importance of letting everyone know the value of the restoration projects to improving the quality of the water. She encouraged advocating to Washington to ensure the funding needed for the restoration of the Herbert Hoover Dike, which is a critical component to the water quality in South Florida. She stated improving the water quality has a great economic value for not only the lagoon, but throughout the entire region. She thanked Ms. Bishop, the federal legislature, the Florida Inland Navigation District, local businesses, residents, and the universities for creating outstanding projects throughout the region. She indicated that the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative had just received the education award from the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals. Ms. Bishop added that the City of Lake Worth has also been instrumental in this effort.

Commissioner Fielding asked what percentage of flow is expected from Lake Okeechobee. Ms. Bishop stated the District has indicated it is eight percent. Commissioner Fielding encouraged Ms. Bishop to coordinate with those collaborating to the north on the restoration of the St. Lucie Estuary

as there are similar objectives. Ms. Bishop noted that the St. Lucie Estuary and the Lake Worth Lagoon are similar, however in Lake Worth Lagoon, the discharge is spread over a larger area, and there is more from the Lake to the north, with the south flow coming from the entire drainage basin.

Chairman O'Bryan asked what is being done with the dredged muck. Ms. Bishop indicated the County has partnered with FDOT and it is being turned into top soil and used in road rights-of-way and county parks.

**SEVEN50 DRAFT REPORT – UPDATE BY MARCELA CAMBLOR-CUTSAIMANIS,
PROJECT DIRECTOR**

Marcela Cambolor-Cutsaimanis provided an update which included a timeline for entire project, final steps and important dates for the conclusion of the grant, and public/private partnership opportunities.

Janet Hostetler, Senior Advisor, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), thanked Council for its leadership and participation in the Seven50 project, and participation in the Sustainable Communities Initiative planning grant program. She indicated that the program is important because it provides the federal government with the opportunity to have a better understanding and knowledge of the wants and needs of the local communities. She indicated the program was designed to give resources to promote local thinking and local leadership, so that the federal government and the rest of the country can learn from the process. She noted there have been many attacks on the program throughout the country, and while she believes there is always room for disagreements and constructive dialog, she wanted to address Council to clarify some of the misinformation that is being spread. She noted the only obligations of participation in the program are to be fiscally responsible with the money and meeting the terms of the grant and to do good planning and identify and address local challenges. She indicated that once the grant is over, there will be a preferred sustainability status category for those who have successfully completed the grant, which will be beneficial when applying for other federal funding.

With respect to Westchester County, New York, she indicated that what happened there was not related to a regional planning grant, but a community development block grant. She indicated that there was a third party that believed Westchester County was not fulfilling its obligations under the grant program and they sued the County. As the case progressed through the courts, there were findings against the County and the County stood to lose \$150 million, which would have gone to the U.S. Treasury. There was concern by those who had brought the suit against that County that the money would be lost and there was concern that the money be used to ensure access to housing opportunities to those in need. At that point, HUD entered into the case for the first time to assist with the settlement between the third party and Westchester County. She stated that although the settlement was voluntary, there have been changes in the government in the County and fighting since the time of the settlement.

Chairman O'Bryan asked if the preferred sustainability status would require any local government to take HUD funds. Ms. Hostetler indicated there would be no obligation. Chairman O'Bryan stated that if any local community decides to apply for a HUD grant, then participating in Seven50 may provide bonus points on the application. Ms. Hostetler indicated that was correct.

Chairman O'Bryan indicated that one of the concerns for the northern counties is by taking a HUD grant it would require the local government to go outside its current comprehensive plan densities and height restrictions and dramatically increase those limits. He indicated Indian River County had just received a HUD grant for homelessness services and a HUD grant for rental assistance. He asked if applying for those grants in the future would require the County to modify its densities or height limitations in order to receive those grant funds. Ms. Hostetler indicated the county would not be required to modify its current limitations. She noted that there are misconceptions about the planning grants, which are given to encourage creativity in dealing with the challenges people are facing locally. She stated the funding was to be used to identify ways to be flexible, creative, and energize local areas to determine what is best for them.

Councilmember Foley noted that he served on the executive committee for the grant. He stated that as a conservative republican at first he was skeptical because of the federal government's involvement. He stated that his current view of Seven50 is simply the federal government wanting to know more about the local governments and local regions and what they want to plan for in the next fifty years. He stated that the final product is a resource upon which local governments can draw upon, and those who have decided not to participate, in his opinion, have shortchanged themselves. He stated he has never believed that the federal government will use this report to bludgeon local government to their way of thinking. He stated he believed the report will not be used to supersede any of our local government control, but is going to provide a resource with opportunities for interesting points of discussion and information. He noted early in the planning process he had not agreed with the concept of equity and had asked for this to be changed to equal opportunity.

Ms. Hostetler concurred that Seven50 will not be used to take away local control. She stated that the current administration is trying to learn from the mistakes that the federal government has made in the past, by coming in and trying to tell people what to do. She stated this grant is to do just the opposite. She thanked Councilmember Foley for clarifying the misconception of the word equity, stating the goal has always been equal opportunity.

Chairman O'Bryan asked Ms. Hostetler to remain at the meeting to provide the public the opportunity for her to address any of their concerns.

SEVEN50 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER BOB SOLARI

Chairman O'Bryan noted that in October the Board of County Commissioners in Indian River County had voted to request time for Commissioner Bob Solari to address Council with respect to Seven50.

Commissioner Solari expressed his disappointment that he was not advised Ms. Hostetler would be attending the meeting. He contended that there are two sides and only one has been presented to Council. He indicated he would be presenting the other side. He stated he would only be giving highlights and encouraged everyone to read the plan. He noted that at the joint Council meeting in October, Stephanie Austin was rudely cut off during the public comment process. He indicated she was told that her presentation of the One Bay Area Plan was not relevant to the Seven50 plan. Commissioner Solari stated that he found it incredible that she was told that a plan based on HUD's six livability principles had nothing to do with Seven50, which was also based on HUD's six

livability principles. He stated that the letter from Michael Busha to Mayor McPartlan was to him the essence of the lack of open, contentious debate. He noted one part of the letter which referred to elected officials from other jurisdictions coming unannounced and uninvited to meetings and wasting countless hours of the board's time with public comment, disrupting meetings, and preventing them from doing their business. He stated he only attended one meeting in St. Lucie County and only spoke for twenty-nine minutes. He stated Mr. Busha must have been referring to the public. He stated he believes Mr. Busha does not like dissenting views and the public participation process. He stated the basis for the differing views goes deeper than the differences related to Seven50, they stem from the differing views of liberty, which the founders of our country believed could only be kept with limited government. He stated that for limited government to succeed, self-government was necessary. He stated self-government was more than electing representatives, it consists first and foremost in an individual citizen governing themselves. He indicated the rise of the citizens against Seven50 was self-government in action. He stated these citizens have educated themselves and believe the core values of the Seven50 plan are not their core values.

Commissioner Solari indicated Ms. Cambior-Cutsaimanis referred to the Seven50 plan as a research and resource document. He stated she has also referred to the need for a business plan, but he stated Seven50 is not a business plan. He agreed it is a great resource document, but it is not the business plan he believed would be produced. He provided a list of items in the environmental and agricultural toolkit and stated these would all be paid for with subsidies. He stated he did not believe we could tax ourselves to prosperity, and we certainly cannot subsidize ourselves to prosperity. He noted that the Indian River County Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is a cost feasible business plan. He stated the Seven50 plan is not, because it provided a list of items with no idea of cost or which direction is best for the citizens.

Commissioner Solari stated that according to the 2010 Census the region has 6.2 million people. He noted that if you divide the region in half, then the northern counties, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin are less dense more rural agricultural, than the southern counties. He stated he believes the All Aboard Florida project is a metaphor for the regional divide as it will be stopping in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. He stated the reason they are not servicing the northern counties is because, as a private company, they understand where the customers are located.

With respect to the idea of volunteerism, Commissioner Solari stated he is concerned that throughout the plan there is the idea of a regional leadership board that includes private sector leaders who transcend geographic boundaries and local political considerations. He presented the Indian River Core Values which are: limited government, local decision making, property rights, representative democracy, fiscal responsibility, and liberty. He then presented the Seven50 Core Values, which he contends, if the environmental items are removed, are the HUD six livability principles. He stated all the plans across country are the same and he suggested they be called the One America Forever plan. He agreed that he has voted to take federal funding on those things that are consistent with the HUD six livability principles. He stated that fascism is efficient and he will vote for efficiency, but that does not mean that fascism is good. He stated that what has never been done is to balance the HUD six livability principles and the Indian River County core values. He stated he will vote for things that are consistent with HUD's six livability principles, but not government determining outcomes or disparate impact, which is what he believes is the foundation

behind the Seven50 plan. He stated he did not like the idea that throughout the country HUD is starting to determine outcomes, and he does not like disparate impact and this is because those ideas are different, and not consistent with liberty and local control.

Commissioner Solari stated that Robert Astorino from Westchester County has said HUD told Westchester County that any limits on size, type, height and density buildings are restrictive practices. He stated that HUD and Westchester County did have an agreement, but HUD had gone outside the agreement to impose their views on the county. He stated that HUD's Deputy Robert Sims had said HUD was clearly messaging other jurisdictions across the country that there has been a significant change in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and they will be asking them to pursue similar goals as well. He stated that asking others to perform similar goals with the bait of millions of federal dollars was not the definition of voluntary.

Commissioner Solari stated it is important to realize that with any plan the starting point is crucial. As an example, he stated if you start with the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition, which is filtered through the civilizations of Greece and Rome and you can end up with America. However, he stated that starting with the values embedded in Das Kapital, and filter them through Lenin and Stalin, and you end up with the Soviet Union. He stated that with the HUD six livability principles, we will end up with a dense, lineal urban corridor roughly following the tracks of the Flagler Railroad.

Commissioner Solari noted in a recent book review of Daniel Hannan's *Inventing Liberty* where it is stated the principles of fiscal responsibility, representative democracy, property rights, local decision making, limited government, and individual liberty are not the products of some general European phenomena called capitalism. These principles originated in pre-Norman England and were fully developed in the glorious revolution. He stated that later, when colonists found that the rights based on these principles were being taken away from them, they fought a revolution to maintain them and founded the United States of America. He stated that those against the Seven50 consider themselves Americans who are being denied the right to govern themselves, to be responsible for their own community by an arrogant and unelected bureaucracy in Washington, and enabled by a misguided regional planning council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Under Public Comment, Alex Larson expressed her disappointment that she was not able to comment on agenda items at the time of their presentation if there was no Council action being taken. She stated she believes she always brings correct information to Council. With respect to Seven50, she noted her two words to describe Florida now and in 50 years are "wounded" and "toxic." She stated that the major concern for Florida is water. She stated she did not know if HUD was trying to change our principles, noting plans sometimes are not implemented. She asked why we would have to let in the 1.5 million people who are projected to come, stating we are already overbuilt. She asserted that ninety-five percent of the water in Florida is compromised, per the Department of Environmental Protection, noting that Miami experiences a lot of flooding during a heavy rain event. She asked that Council be patient with her because she believes public comment is necessary to negate lies and provide the rest of the story.

Phyllis Frey stated she had been conceded minutes from others and would be making a twelve minute presentation. Chairman O'Bryan indicated that would be acceptable. Ms. Frey said twenty-five elected officials from Indian River County, the City of Vero Beach, the Town of Indian River Shores, the Indian River County School Board, St. Lucie County, and the Vero Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization have voted to withdraw from Seven50 because they became educated about the plan. She stated the memorandum of understandings and consortium partnership agreements are not voluntary and the parties must implement the Seven50 plan unless they submit written notice of withdrawal. She stated that Council habitually passes items under the Consent Agenda that she believes are all most often unread by the existing commissioners, council members and planning and zoning boards. She stated Council proponents are keenly aware of the resistance which develops when the general public and commissioners become educated as to its central planning ideology and the negative effect it will have on our communities.

Ms. Frey provided quotes from Mr. Busha and Victor Dover in support of passenger rail service. She stated this is a stunning example of bullying in counties such as Indian River and Martin who have chosen for themselves a low growth, low density form of development with protection of the environment as a top priority in their own comprehensive plans created under local decision making. She stated when Indian River County makes applications to HUD it is for projects they choose. She stated they will not accept grants that bypass local planning and zoning boards and come with the forced re-engineering of their communities, which she believes is the case with Seven50. She stated Seven50 will place higher demands on the aquifer and increase salt water intrusion. She stated Seven50 is not a plan for prosperity, nor is it a business plan, but a creation of massive debt and government dependence and when the money is gone the burden will fall to the tax payers. She stated people do not want to be told how to plan their communities, they know what they want. She said people do not need help in fighting the false science of sea level rise, nor help with saving the lagoon. She said solutions will be found working through the Senate Select Committee and citizens initiatives. She noted a letter from the South Florida Regional Planning Council Director of Public Affairs, Isabel Cosio-Carballo, that states "a benefit from being a consortium partnership member allows us to deal directly with your organization without having to undertake a bidding contract," which Ms. Frey called crony capitalism that forgoes the bidding process. She indicated her belief that the Seven50 plan is related to the Congress for the New Urbanism and its member currently working on the plan are crafting a "retirement plan with a golden parachute to assure that the feet of those unelected bureaucrats will never touch the ground, all at the tax payers' expense."

Ms. Frey stated that after three years and nearly \$4.25 million there is nothing but a tool box. She stated Andres Duany said that only mega regions are important and we must transcend local control. She said that South Florida Regional Planning Council Governor's appointee Paul Wallace concurred with this at the October joint meeting when he proposed that legislation be passed to create one metropolitan planning organization for the entire region. She stated that Mr. Duany stated that under Seven50 the lowest decision making would occur at the state level. She stated that under the Florida Statutes Chapters 125 and 163 grant broad powers to the counties under home rule of law, including local planning and zoning rights. She stated this is a federally funded proposal for unelected bureaucrats to bypass local governments. She noted Commissioner Taylor has asked if the partnership operated under the Sunshine Law, but was not answered. She stated that she had the answer and it was that the partnership was not subject to the specific requirements of the Florida Sunshine Law, but embraces the spirit and the principles of the Sunshine law. She stated she

believes that certain commissioners have made the change from representative government and formed their allegiance with unrepresentative government because of the lure of the seat at the table and what that can offer them. She stated that the deeply held core values of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and local decision-making are in direct opposition to Seven50 whose values are big government, massive debt, and government dependency on top-down decision making. She stated the republican executive committees in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties have passed resolutions against Seven50 and another is under way in Palm Beach County, and certain representatives present at the meeting betray the party principals by supporting Seven50. She stated those that did not vote against Seven50 should be honest and change their party affiliation to match the principles of Seven50. She encouraged everyone to vote against Seven50.

Gert Kuhl stated the 1960s was a time of the word “no” and reminded everyone of Joni Mitchell’s song “Pave Paradise and Put Up a Parking Lot”, and asked why we have not learned from that. He stated that people make a community, not the community makes the people. He stated people like the community the way it is. He stated Florida has limited resources and the biggest problem is having water that we can drink. He stated that the problem will get worse with more people and we need to just say no to new development. With respect to rail, if there are no employment opportunities to travel to because there is a high unemployment rate, he asked why we would build a rail system for commuters.

Chairman O’Bryan noted that the Seven50 uses the existing densities and development allowed in each county comprehensive plan as it is currently defined. The plan does not increase any of the comprehensive plan guidelines, and shows that when people move into the region, this is how they will be accommodated.

Councilmember Weaver stated his concern that Council has not been provided with the minutes of the joint Council meeting held on October 18, 2013, and Council has been provided only a summary of the comments made at the meeting. He asked how all the input was being incorporated into the process. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis stated that all the comments from the meetings and also provided through email or direct communications to the team have been tabulated and are publicly available. She indicated all comments are being addressed and incorporated where appropriate. She stated that if anything is presented that is completely inconsistent with what is being recommended or a comment that is completely inconsistent with the report it will brought to the executive committee, the executive directors, or the chair of the executive committee. She noted that the resource document in its final form will outline a series of tool kits and good ideas that will be available to anyone to use as they see fit. She noted that the role and character of each county is very different and unique.

Councilmember Weaver stated that he has not been updated on the input that was provided and how that has been incorporated into the plan. He stated he feels it has been a one-way process. Mr. Busha indicated that all the comments have been included. Councilmember Weaver stated that it appears they have died on the back of a piece of paper and have not been addressed by Council. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis indicated the comments are still being incorporated into the final report and it will then be presented to Council. Councilmember Weaver asked that the report be brought back and each issue addressed.

Councilmember Foley stated that there have been fifteen to twenty meetings of the executive committee and extensive community involvement. He indicated that over the past thirty-four months there have been several reports to the board, which is a very broad base of people, and ideas have been incorporated into the larger report. He stated many people have been involved in producing the final report and it is virtually impossible to address each item individually, but he did not believe anything was simply discarded.

Councilmember Weaver stated there has been much talk of the public involvement, but at the end there seems to be people appointed and elected who have taken and summarized the final pass of the document. He stated that a select committee has identified twenty points which should at the very least be added as an appendix if they are not added to the report. Mr. Busha indicated that Council could walk through the report in January and specifically look at each issue. Ms. Cambor-Cutsaimanis stated that the comments have all been tabulated and are available to the public. She noted that it has been a challenge when different individuals and organizations within the counties that have chosen not to participate.

Mayor DuBois asked that this be scheduled on an agenda when there is a quorum. Chairman O'Bryan indicated this would be added to the January Agenda.

Anne Kuhl, a resident of Palm Beach County for thirty-six years, stated this was the most depressing thing she had ever heard. She stated everyone's vision for the area is not her vision. She stated the thought of a coastal railroad linking Miami and Orlando scares her. She stated she did not believe tourists would want this service, and that people visit Florida for the wide open spaces and beaches. She stated she lives in western Palm Beach County and does not consider it over developed. She stated the most important regional issue to her was her well water. She stated that she hears growth is coming, but we can still make the decision on what can and cannot be developed, and things that have happened to the south can be prevented in Palm Beach County. She stated that with high density you get high crime. She stated that although the environmentally-minded individuals think clustering is good, she believes people do not want to live in high density clusters.

Mr. Busha indicated that the whole premise for the Seven50 was to show exactly what is currently contained in the comprehensive plans of the local governments throughout the region. The plan provides scenarios and suggestions that local elected officials may or may not choose to use. The idea is to have a conversation about the next 50 years of growth coming to the region and provide tools to help guide that growth in a way that is desirable for the local community.

Chairman O'Bryan noted that tourists are the target for the All Aboard Florida plan. It will provide tourists an alternate way to travel through the state and avoid renting a car and driving on congested highways. Ms. Kuhl stated her concern is that people in Orlando will use the train to commute to our region and take local jobs.

Mark Gotz stated he was proud of St. Lucie County for opting to withdraw from Seven50, quoting Commissioner Hutchinson. He advised anyone still in the plan to opt out, because he believes the only benefit of participation is a gold star on future federal applications. He stated that continued participation would require implementation of the six livability principals. He stated he has read the plan and believes that a middle school student could have done it with cutting and pasting. He

stated the plan was very vague, just like the six livability principles, which he stated are just a framework. One thing he noted from the plan is the design of new roadways to construct landscaped, concrete medians and expand sidewalks to allow room for walking and bicycle riding. He stated this would reduce two lanes to one and he asked what would happen in the case of an emergency.

Susan Mehiel stated that the trains and Seven50 are connected since all HUD grants want to get us out of our cars. She stated a friend of hers moved to the area last year because her home in Vermont had dramatically changed in the five years since the New York City railways started commuter service there. She stated the drug users and gang members have moved to the area. She asked Chairman O'Bryan if he had added up the cost for security and sound abatement for all the railway crossings in Indian River County with respect to the All Aboard Florida project. She indicated that she has studied the planning process for the HUD grant program system for two years and she believes the plans are not unique. She stated they all use the same manipulation techniques to steer the participants to pre-planned conclusions and use inflated citizen participation numbers. She stated that implementation recommendations of the plans required eighty percent increased taxes for funding. She stated a vast number of strategies involve changing zoning and land use laws; land ownership changes; ordinance reviewing; and steering, nudging or incentivizing lifestyle changes. She stated these plans perpetuate the jobs of consultants, coalition managers, partnerships and government workers, and take away property rights and liberty for everyone left. She asked Council members to vote against Seven50.

Rosemarie Wilson congratulated Ms. Hostetler on being a well-trained federal bureaucrat who is loyal to her employer. She asked if Ms. Hostetler was implying that Westchester County Executive Director, Mr. Astorino, was a liar. She stated that she believes one of the complex problems of the country is federal government interference. She stated we don't need big brother promoting regionalization and Seven50.

John Schierbaum, a Stuart resident, stated that he is opposed to Seven50. He stated he read a recent article where a member of Council made disparaging remarks regarding the opponents of Seven50. He said he was offended by the broad-brushed approach of the remarks, saying this was a progressive tactic because there is no defensible position. He asked that future comments stick to the issues and we don't resort to progressive demeaning tactics of Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals.

Drew Martin wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked those Council members who remained to hear public comment. He stated he was disappointed by Commissioner Szerdi's comments with respect to the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative. He concurred with Ms. Larson that the public should get a chance to speak on each item as it is presented. He thanked Vice Mayor Burdick for speaking in favor of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative. He stated the City of Lake Worth was given a free seawall by the County because Bryant Park and the golf course were falling into the Intracoastal Waterway. He stated the mangroves will shore up the seawall and extend its life. He indicated the mangroves are six feet off the surface, so they do not block the public view. He stated the project is going to tremendously increase the water quality, noting a majority of the people support the mangroves. With respect to Seven50, he stated that Council members have a great amount of power to change the future and control population growth. He stated that if large scale developments are

approved, then there will be an increase in population. He stated the elected officials can just say no to development.

Rosa Durando suggested that there needs to be more communication between the Acme Drainage District, Lake Worth Drainage District, Department of Interior, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She stated everyone screaming loudest saying they want liberty and property rights is not the most important issue. She stated that over drainage of land in the basin has negative impacted Lake Worth Lagoon. She stated that the pumping of waters is causing the problems with the water quality. She stated it has been due to citizens action that stopped the pumping of dirty water into the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. She said that property rights do not mean a thing, it is how high the water table is and there should be more areas designated for wetland protection. She indicated that until the short falls of land itself are addressed, we are doomed to be disappointed and have expensive failures.

COUNCIL MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Commissioner Haddox stated that he appreciated the comments and involvement of the people opposing Seven50.

Councilmember Foley also expressed his appreciation for the public comments, stated he wished there had been more involvement throughout the development of the plan. With respect to the comment that he should switch political parties if he were to vote for Seven50, he stated that as a young marine in Vietnam he voted absentee as a Republican, and voted as a Republican ever since including the time in 1979 when he started traveling with then Governor Reagan and throughout his administration. He noted that his grandfather came to this area in 1919, six years before Indian River County was incorporated. He wondered if his grandfather and his friends had stuck their heads in the muck and not let anyone else move in, where most of those present would be today. He stated that a good indication of our growth pattern is zoning done by the elected officials. He said he considers the Seven50 a resource document. He indicated that he does believe in the tenants of the Tea Party, however he does not agree with them one hundred percent. He stated he believes in the Bible and the Constitution. He noted that the Constitution has twenty-seven amendments, because things do change. He stated he applauds Commissioner Solari for some of his great ideas. However, he stated he still supports the Seven50, although not one hundred percent. He stated it is just a resource document.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman O'Bryan adjourned the meeting at 2:06 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 13, 2013 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Date

Signature