

**MINUTES OF THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MAY 19, 2017**

Chairman Smith 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 Adams Council Member Dodd Mayor Tyson
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Fielding Mayor Campo
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Mowery Councilman Carvelli Commissioner Johnson
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Valeche Mayor Burdick Mayor Gerwig Councilman Hmara Mayor Brennan Councilmember Gottlieb, Alternate Mayor Marino, Alternate Commissioner Ryan, Alternate
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique Michael Davis Tobin Overdorf Reece Parrish Peter Sachs
Ex-Officios:	Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD Jennifer Davis, FDEP Lois Bush, FDOT
Council Staff:	Kathryn Boer Michael Busha Kim DeLaney Liz Gulick Stephanie Heidt Tom Lanahan
Council Attorney:	Keith Davis

The Executive Director announced a quorum is present.

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Smith indicated there was a request to remove agenda item 3E, Town of Palm Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-2ER from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Mayor Burdick moved approval of the Agenda with the requested change. Mayor Gerwig seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Items on the consent agenda were: 3A, Financial Report – March 31, 2017; 3B, Minutes – April 21, 2017; 3C, City of Delray Beach Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ER; 3D, City of Greenacres Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-2ER; 3F, St. Lucie County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 17-1ESR; and 3G, Rescinding Administrative Rule 29K-2.007.

TOWN OF PALM BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 17-2ER

Staff provided an overview of the proposed comprehensive plan amendment, which is based on the Town's Evaluation and Appraisal Review, and includes changes to all the elements of the Town's comprehensive plan. Staff indicated changes include: strengthening flood prevention requirements; consideration of designation of an area of critical state concern regarding beaches; changes to a recreation center; undergrounding overhead utilities; incorporating the new coordinated school planning agreement which replaces school concurrency in Palm Beach County and moving relevant policies into the Intergovernmental Coordination Element; and adding a public safety element to the comprehensive plan. Staff stated no negative regional impacts were identified and recommended approval of the staff report.

Under public comment, Ms. Anita Seltzer, a 30-year resident of the Town of Palm Beach, stated she has written letters to the Town with questions and comments about the proposed amendment, which have not been answered or were dismissed by Town staff. She indicated she is also representing other residents who have also written letters to Council and other state agencies, but could not be present. She said she has come to Council to ask for assistance, because Council's authority derives from objectivity, professionalism and the power that logic and reason can provide as the conscience for the members' respective jurisdictions. She noted in April of 2015 the Town announced it would be reviewing and revising the comprehensive plan element by element, and a consultant was hired for this task. She stated the revisions were given to the planning and zoning commission in September of 2016, they then held three meetings, and approved the plan despite the plan still having outdated and vague language, a lack of consistency, specificity, and supporting data and analysis. She indicated on March 30th, 2017 the Town Council approved the revised plan in spite of her repeated requests to remedy these inadequacies. She stated her dilemma is that the focus is on economic development goals and policies that promote regional growth, among other issues. She stated that while the changes are not regional in nature, they will affect the citizens' health, safety and welfare. She said the changes will in effect enable the Town to shield itself from responsiveness to its citizens on basic planning practices, and the citizens are on the verge of being rendered powerless by the Town's attitude. She stated when doing this process it should be peer reviewed, not just chronical the changes made from the previous plans, nor allow deficiencies to remain. She

stated they are not asking for a new plan, but a plan that adheres to basic, accepted planning practices and an editor's commonsense eye. She asked Council to revise the draft staff report to include a requirement for the Town to address some of the citizen concerns. She offered to answer any questions.

John Page, Director of the Planning, Zoning and Building Department for the Town of Palm Beach, stated the Town has thoroughly evaluated and updated the plan in accordance with all acceptable standards. He indicated the Town hired a professional consultant who worked with staff to update the plan. He noted the Town is completely built out and there will be no major development occurring, but rather knock-down and redevelopment work. He stated the Town is primarily residential, and they felt it was important to maintain several of the founding principles of the comprehensive plan. He stated they do not want to increase density or have regional commercialization, but want to maintain the premier residential character of the Town. He stated there were three meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as four meetings of the Town Council before the plan was approved, noting Ms. Seltzer attended a number of those meetings and voiced her concerns. He indicated in January of this year, the Town Council President asked staff to specifically address the points contained within a 24-page letter Ms. Seltzer prepared. He indicated that was done and he prepared a four-page analysis outlining and responding to all of her concerns, which was presented to the Town Council before they recommended adoption of the revised plan. Mr. Page noted there are two controversial projects that some citizens are not supporting, which are the replacement and rebuilding of a recreation center, and completing undergrounding of all overhead electric and communication services in the Town.

Commissioner O'Bryan moved approval of the draft staff report and recommendation. **Motion**
Commissioner Fielding seconded the motion for discussion.

Chairman Smith stated to Ms. Seltzer that by nature of a vote, it does not mean that Council and staff have not taken her comments into consideration. Mayor Burdick with Palm Beach County stated she would also like to thank Ms. Seltzer for coming today and spending so much time researching and understanding the comprehensive planning process. However, she stated it appears the Town has diligently answered any concerns, and she believes Mr. Page has done a good job explaining the public participation and number of meetings held. She stated she will be supporting the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabriella Ferraro and Tamara Phillips from Quest Corporation of America, explained they are conducting a travel survey for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) called the Treasure Coast Regional Transportation Household Survey. They noted that over the last month they have conducted outreach to the town and cities in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. They showed a video to Council that explained the process. Ms. Phillips stated this is a two-part survey, with the first step being registering a household and obtaining a unique household ID. The next part is a one-day survey where each person in the participating household is asked to chronicle their journeys throughout the day and the type of transportation they are using. She noted this can be done manually or through an App that is available for download. Chairman Smith stated the App, which uses a unique ID for each participant, will automatically track the activities. He noted this needs to be done on a typical workday when the participants are doing their normal activities.

Commissioner O'Bryan with Indian River County asked if there is any personal information tied to that ID number. He stated he has heard several concerns that the personal information that is being collected might be susceptible to being hacked. Ms. Ferraro stated the information is kept strictly confidential by FDOT, and will remain with the state to be used later in future road planning projects and serve to enhance and benefit the communities by looking to reduce traffic congestion, improve roads and bridges, and identify where bike paths and sidewalks are needed. Chairman Smith asked what specific information is requested. Ms. Ferraro stated you need to provide basic information such as your name, address, household income, and if you have a driver's license. She indicated the system will then assign an ID and let you choose a username. She explained once the person starts the travel log their personal information will not be available, just the ID and username they chose. She noted it is important that the address be provided, so that can be used as an origination point.

Commissioner Ryan with the City of West Palm Beach stated the data that is captured is no longer attached to a person, so the information collected can be used for making policy decisions about transportation modes around that geography. She stated not only the data is important, it is also important everyone feel comfortable giving the data. Ms. Ferraro stated this survey has the full support of the metropolitan/transportation planning organizations, which have been helping to get the information disseminated to the public. With respect to the tracking concern, Chairman Smith stated that just by using mapping Apps on your cell phone the information is already collected about your travel activities. He stated this process allows citizens to participate in a project and be involved, and is more cost-efficient than purchasing the information from a company, such as Google.

Mayor Marino with the City of Palm Beach Gardens stated Palm Beach County is also doing a travel survey, and information can be accessed at the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) website. Ms. Ferraro noted that even if you have not been selected as a participating household, you can still participate by visiting their website at www.treasurecoastsurvey.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff indicated Council will be hosting a U.S. Census Bureau promotional workshop for all local governments who are interested. The workshop will provide information about the Local Update of Census Addresses. Staff noted it is very important to make sure all addresses are correct for the upcoming Census, because this information is used at the federal level for allocating tax dollars back to local governments.

Staff indicated there will be a second meeting of the U.S. Highway 27 multi-modal corridor project on June 12th at the South Florida Regional Planning Council offices in Hollywood, Florida. Staff noted this project is a great opportunity for everyone, including the Glades communities for economic development reasons and the coastal communities to perhaps reduce the amount of freight train traffic that runs along the existing Florida East Coast railway. The project objective is to possibly identify a central freight traffic corridor and railway that will run between the Port of Miami and Orlando.

Staff noted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Southeast District is holding an open house on June 21st at their Gun Club Road location in West Palm Beach. Staff

stated Council is co-sponsoring the Southwest District FDEP Brownfields symposium in Sebring on June 7th and 8th.

Staff stated there is a Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board meeting on June 30th at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in the City of West Palm Beach. Staff noted the FRCA Policy Board meets twice a year, with Council having three members and three alternates on the board.

Staff indicated Council has been invited by Palm Beach County to help organize a transportation summit on May 22nd. The summit is a collaborative effort between the County, City of West Palm Beach, and Town of Palm Beach to talk about issues related to mobility and transportation.

Staff noted the Budget/Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet after the June 16th Council meeting to review a draft budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Their recommendations will be brought before the full Council at the July 21st Council meeting.

Staff indicated the Floridians for Better Transportation will be having their annual meeting in the City of Boca Raton July 19th – 21st.

Staff stated Congressman Brian Mast is scheduled to make a presentation at the July 21st Council meeting.

Commissioner Fielding with Martin County stated he believes it is important for the metropolitan planning organization staffs to attend the U.S. Highway 27 corridor meeting on June 12th.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Smith stated many of the industries in our region have significant gaps in the ages of their long-time employees and the entry-level workers. He noted several industries in our region will be retiring a significant portion of their workforce, which means a lot of the experience, knowledge and wisdom will be lost. He suggested Council may be able to play a role in addressing this issue by starting to focus more on specific industries in our region and how to position ourselves to become a place where the upcoming workforce will want to locate.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

Chairman Smith asked for Council members to share their experiences of how the recent legislative session either helped or hurt their local government. He stated Council needs to work as a collective group on regional issues.

Councilman Carvelli with the City of Port St. Lucie stated the City was able to get \$1.1 million to start planning and designing a water farming project. He noted 5,000 acres of the old McCarty Ranch property will be used to filter discharges out of Lake Okeechobee to curb some of the discharges that are going into our lagoons and estuaries.

Commissioner Fielding with Martin County stated everyone is in jeopardy each time the legislature goes into session. He stated he would like to encourage all of the counties and cities to get together

and form a petition for a constitutional amendment that will protect home rule, local revenue sources, and prevent unfunded mandates.

Commissioner Johnson with the City of Fort Pierce indicated the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments is putting plans together to come together as a group, as Commissioner Fielding has suggested. He noted that the homestead exemption increase has the potential to impact all cities, especially those communities with small budgets. He indicated the City will be issuing a Request for Proposal to develop the former H.D. King Power Plant property in downtown Fort Pierce.

Council Member Dodd with the City of Sebastian stated the session did not help his City, but he is glad home rule survived another year. He suggested the homestead exemption act will give local governments a chance to work with the voters next year. He stated he supports a constitutional amendment to protect home rule, but the problem is the same representatives from this session will be responsible for implementing that constitutional amendment should it pass.

Mayor Campo with the Town of Sewall's Point noted they were able to get \$500,000 for conversion of septic to sewer. He stated they are now looking into the details of this project, which has been controversial.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated that even if the County receives the appropriations they have been given, it would be a D minus grade. He stated we need to see what the Governor does with the budget, because in the past he has used his veto power often, so we need to stay cautious. He indicated Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) has made an offer to purchase the City of Vero Beach electric utility. He noted this will relieve the city of contract obligations and provide them with about \$30 million in unrestricted cash. He stated they will also be able to pay off their pension liability and bonds, and FPL has agreed to hire the current city utility workers. He invited everyone to the 2nd annual Lion Fish Festival which will be held in Sebastian at Captain Hiram's the upcoming weekend.

Commissioner Ryan stated she wants to wait to see what survives the Governor's review.

Mayor Burdick stated she was not impressed with the legislative session. She indicated one minor bright spot was the continuation of funding for the Jerome Golden Center, a mental health facility in the County. At the Federal level, she stated \$27 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration program is being passed through the Florida Department of Children and Families to deal with heroin and opioid abuse. She indicated \$2 million of that funding will be sent to Palm Beach County. She stated that with respect to our workforce, future needs are going to require science, technology, engineering and math. She noted the Governor and Legislature has not provided enough funding for K-12 schools, even though the universities did very well. She stated from year to year there is no consistent planning for K-20 education in our state, and this needs to be addressed, because it is key for all our children.

Commissioner Valeche with Palm Beach County stated he agrees with Commissioner Ryan that we need to wait for the budget to pass, and he supports the general sentiment that this was not a very good session for local governments. He noted he is happy the legislature finally created a statewide regulatory framework for transportation networking companies. With respect to having a competitive market for industry, he stated he is unhappy with the way the state has treated Enterprise Florida (EF). He noted he is a former board member of EF, so he is particularly

sympathetic, and those counties that depend on tourism should be very concerned with what is going on not only with EF, but with Visit Florida as well. He cited a newspaper article that stated Palm Beach County had record visitors for the first quarter of 2017, and the governor is quoted as saying that is partially attributable to the funds and efforts of Visit Florida.

Councilmember Sachs, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, stated he is glad his wife is no longer in the legislature, noting he does not think the public or the media understands the sacrifices those in public service and their families have to make.

Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from St. Lucie County, stated agriculture did well this session, receiving \$23 million to combat citrus greening. He stated that even though Senator Negron's Lake Okeechobee restoration plan is not perfect, it will take a lot of water that is currently going into the Indian River and Lake Worth lagoon systems and put it elsewhere. He noted this is a major step in the right direction and every gallon of water that does not go into the lagoon is a victory.

Councilmember Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee from St. Lucie County, stated he agrees with Commissioner Valeche's comments on Visit Florida, noting that even though tourism has increased, we still need to advertise to attract visitors.

Commissioner Adams with Indian River County stated she found the general way the process is set up for the legislative session to be extremely frustrating.

Councilmember Overdorf, Gubernatorial Appointee from Martin County, noted that it was a very busy session in that 3,052 bills were filed, however only 231 were passed. He stated all of these bills were obviously filed as a result of the new rules instituted in the House, suggesting everyone should make sure they are in contact with their representatives to express their happiness, or unhappiness, with those rules. He indicated we need to keep our eyes on what is occurring with the state budget.

Commissioner Mowery with St. Lucie County indicated one of the County's parks, Blind Creek, is a nude beach. He stated it is a very popular park, and there has been a lot of debate as it relates to jurisdiction and governance of the beach. He noted the County is seeing a lot of growth and expansion of boat manufacturing. He stated they are continuing with the \$60 million expansion efforts at the baseball stadium. He also noted the veterans nursing home facility project is moving forward.

Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, stated he is also deferring judgement on the session until we hear from the governor. With respect to the future of our workforce, he noted his company has robust mentoring and intern programs. He stated this is a great opportunity to bring experience and knowledge to the next generation by exposing them to challenges in a real day-to-day professional environment.

Mayor Gerwig with the Village of Wellington stated the homestead exemption will mean a \$900,000 reduction to the Village's budget. She stated that the Village anticipates they may have to raise their millage rate to make up this loss to continue to provide services to its residents. She indicated the Village is currently considering a controversial development project, where there are a lot of people for and against the project, and neither side is being very truthful with their

information, leaving the public in the middle. She said the reason a local government has elected officials is for them to make these decisions, which can be very complex. She indicated she agrees with a home rule constitutional amendment.

Mayor Marino stated she is also concerned about the homestead exemption, communications, and the attempted assault on home rule. She noted the City is currently working with the County on a district park that will have 5 multi-purpose fields. She stated this has received a lot of support from municipalities and chambers of commerce in the north county area. She stated this park will help keep kids out of trouble by provided them with the opportunity to participate in sports and recreational programs, noting this park will be for all residents of the County. She let everyone know the City has a green market on Military Trail that has fresh local produce and home cooking that is open year round on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Brennan with the Village of Tequesta stated that although the current session was challenging for the Village, the previous session was more of a challenge with the funding of their U.S. 1 project being vetoed. She stated that fortunately, with the help of FDOT, the Palm Beach MPO, and Council staff, they were able to fully fund the project. She stated that although the Village Council did not support the 1% sales tax passed at the county level, they will in fact now be able to accelerate the safety measures for their pedestrian crosswalks by using that money.

Councilman Hmara with the Village of Royal Palm Beach suggested everyone invest in the book *In Search of Excellence*. He stated one of the recommendations in that book is to push decision-making to the lowest possible level. He suggested sharing this book in Tallahassee, because they seem to be moving in the opposite direction. He said as elected officials they must all deal with very somber issues, so occasionally they need an injection of something positive. He stated the western communities of Palm Beach County have begun a “Rock Art” initiative. He noted the idea is to encourage people to be creative and paint rocks, then put them in public areas and post their location on social media for others to enjoy. He indicated this has been a community building project, suggesting it can be used to encourage people to become more involved in the community.

Mayor Tyson with the City of Fellsmere stated his City is alive and well in spite of the legislative session. He said they are not happy with what is happening at the state level, indicating he and the city manager will be meeting with Representative Grall next week, and have invited Senator Mayfield to join them, to discuss the next session and what the City can do. He noted the City’s shrimp farm has filed for bankruptcy and is trying to find some money to keep the project going. He said there are some people interested that want to diversify the project and add fish farming to the operation to make it more viable. He stated the good news is that the City has started their rails to trails pedestrian crossing over I-95, which is a \$4.6 million project for a 6-mile trail.

Lois Bush with FDOT indicated the comment period for the draft of the Complete Streets Handbook, which is on the current agenda, is open through May 26th.

Jennifer Davis with FDEP thanked staff for announcing the upcoming open house on June 21st. She stated they will be handing out the first Superior Excellence Distinction award at the open house. She indicated the award is given to organizations and agencies for environmental stewardship above and beyond general practices, noting several of the nominees are represented on Council.

Chairman Smith noted his friend started the Infinity Project in the 1970s, where he made marble paperweights and sent two to people so they could have one and hide the other. He noted he spent a lot of time in Tallahassee during the session and feels there needs to be a larger, collective voice present during the legislative sessions. He noted each local government's staff does an amazing job up there trying to do things such as protect home rule and get funding to fight the opioid epidemic, but it is clearly not enough. He encouraged Council members, as elected officials and appointed officials, to be more engaged with our legislative delegation. He stated he does not believe Council should engage in a lobbying effort, but it does provide a forum to discuss issues that are regionally important. He suggested Council, along with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, should identify 3 to 4 common issues that can be brought to the League of Cities and Association of Counties and then be funneled up to the state. He stated he is very concerned with where we are going as a state, and feels it has been a very negative year legislatively.

Commissioner Ryan noted one issue that had not been mentioned is the Zika Virus. She stated that although the tourism numbers were up for our region, they were significantly down in Miami, with the Zika Virus being the number one contributing factor. She stated if we do not have funding for research to stop this disease, we can forget all the other problems we are facing, because people will not come here for tourism or work.

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Staff indicated this item is a proposed budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Staff stated the current amendment shows an increase in revenue of \$91,421, which is the result of ten new local and state projects. Staff indicated the Budget/Committee met on April 21st to review the proposed budget amendment and is recommending approval. Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Committee recommendation. Councilman Carvelli seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Staff indicated Council's Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual, which was last revised in December of 1998, is being updated to bring it into compliance with current labor law; clarify existing policy; add policies to deal with changes in statutes as well as technology; and align the listed salary ranges with currently approved salaries. Staff noted Council's attorney reviewed the document and provided comments which have been added to the draft. Staff indicated that at its April 21st meeting, the Budget/Personnel Committee did recommend approval, with some modifications that have been incorporated into the attachment to the agenda item. Chairman Smith called for questions or a motion.

Commissioner Fielding moved approval of the Committee recommendation. Commissioner Valeche seconded the motion for discussion.

Motion

Mayor Burdick stated she would like to offer a substitute motion to add additional language under employment section 2.1.2 to read as follows: There shall be no discrimination against or in favor of employees or applicants for employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, familial status, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity. Commissioner Ryan seconded the substitute motion.

Substitute Motion

Commissioner Valeche asked if this would be redundant to add this language, because Council's employment practices are those of a governmental organization. Keith Davis, Council's attorney, stated the substitute motion only calls for the addition of gender identity. Mayor Burdick stated it would also include the deletion of political affiliation. Staff indicated political affiliation was added so Council cannot discriminate against an employee on the basis of their political party. Mayor Burdick stated she has never seen this included, but does not have a problem with the reference of political affiliation remaining in the policy. Commissioner Ryan concurred.

Mayor Gerwig asked if gender identity and sexual orientation can be covered under sex. Mr. Davis stated we do not have a defined term for sex, but there is nothing wrong with including the additional two pieces.

Mayor Campo asked if Council carries employment practice liability insurance. Staff indicated no. He stated he is not against the motion, but cautioned that by not having this type of insurance, Council may be exposed to a discrimination lawsuit. He suggested transferring that risk to an insurance company. Upon being put to a vote, the substitute motion carried unanimously.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Staff indicated this agenda item is a review of FDOT's recently released draft *Complete Streets Handbook*. Staff stated the document is thorough and very holistic in its approach to changing the way the Department addresses the state's transportation network. Staff's presentation included an overview and timeline of the development of the handbook, as well as highlighted sections that include: primary and secondary measures; development of regional and community visions; bicycle networks and variable cyclist user needs; roadway design elements to influence operating speeds; and funding and maintenance responsibilities. Staff indicated the draft Council report includes strong compliments to the department for taking the leadership necessary to enable to this type of planning process as well as very specific recommendations concerning on-street parking, alleys, parallel biking facilities, and dedicated funding for complete street conversions.

Commissioner Valeche asked if this handbook was totally generated by FDOT, or is it based on national trends. Staff indicated it is both, noting there is a national move amongst progressive states to look at conditions that are producing bad outcomes and changing the way they operate. Staff noted that while the current leadership within the Department supports these types of efforts, future leaders may not feel that complete streets are a priority for the state's transportation network. Commissioner Valeche asked for a rationale of why on-street parking is so favored, when so many areas are suffering from traffic congestion. Staff noted on-street parking is not appropriate in all locations, such as a commercial arterial. Staff stated as the roads start to narrow and slow, on-street parking becomes a very utilitarian improvement that accomplishes several things, such as providing physical barrier between pedestrians and cyclists in moving traffic. Commissioner Valeche asked where the bike lanes would be located. Staff explained that the bike lane can either be between the parking and the road, or between the parking and the sidewalk, whichever is appropriate for that street. Staff noted that on-street parking also has a tremendous economic yield for the land uses that lie upon it, noting a recent study estimates each parking space is worth \$150,000 – 250,000 a year in sales for the stores located along the street.

Commissioner Valeche stated the presentation talked about how to reduce speeds, implying it is a bad thing. He stated in his view, understanding that there is an increase in crash severity when speeds are higher, there is also the factor of drivers being frustrated by being slowed down, and then driving more aggressively. Staff indicated speed needs to be adjusted to the context of the street. Staff noted that roadways serve different functions, and that although it does not make sense on the surface, a slower moving road can actually have more capacity, because as car speed increases, the space between the cars also needs to increase to create safety buffers.

Commissioner Ryan pointed out one of the images in the presentation shows how the Department has embraced the concept of transect planning, which is that every condition is different and unique, so design principles and requirements need to be adapted to the intended land use, or in this case how the road should function. She indicated that communities that have adopted this concept are experiencing great economic growth and attract a younger generation by creating environments where people want to live, work, play and feel safe. She noted the City of West Palm Beach adopted safe street policies in 2004, but was never able to implement the changes. She stated that now FDOT is promoting this, it opens local governments up to federal funds for infrastructure redevelopment. She stated it is important for our state to address this on a broader level, because as we become more populated we need to have different options for people to be able to move around.

Chairman Smith indicated there are two points that are consistent at the transportation meetings he has attended, the number one priority should be safety, and local governments should have more flexibility in design standards and when to, or not, incorporate those locally.

Councilman Hmara noted the Palm Beach MPO had a working group, which FDOT was a part that focused on complete streets. He thanked staff for the presentation, noting there is a cultural change in our mindset from moving cars to moving people. With respect to controlling traffic speed, he stated the Village of Royal Palm Beach has been looking at various traditional approaches, such as speed bumps and speed tables that are onerous and distasteful. He stated he is interested in the section of the handbook that talks about how to effectively control speeds through new methods. Staff noted the Palm Beach MPO has been running a parallel effort over the last year to construct a complete streets guidebook for roadways that are not a part of the state transportation network.

Chairman Smith called for a motion. Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Ryan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

REGIONAL FULL-SCALE EXERCISE AFTER-ACTION PRESENTATION

Staff provided an overview of the regional full-scale exercise for Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties that was conducted on April 12th. Staff indicated the exercise, developed through the Region 5 Regional Domestic Security Task Force, was an operational scenario to test multi-agency response to a terrorism/mass casualty incident. Staff noted this was the first multi-jurisdictional full-scale exercise in the Treasure Coast Region, and was a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the three counties, and Council. Staff explained the exercise involved incidents at 10 operational sites throughout the tri-county region. The purpose of the exercise was to identify

strengths and areas to improve in operational readiness in order to strengthen preparedness in response to regional terrorism/mass casualty incidents. Staff noted the funding for these types of exercises is available every two years to the Local Emergency Planning Committees. For the next exercise, staff has indicated it will be in Palm Beach County, noting Vice Mayor McKinlay is a member of the LEPC and has discussed how it is important for first responders to exercise resource deployment, especially to rural areas around Lake Okeechobee in Martin and Palm Beach counties.

UPDATE ON FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

This item was postponed to the June 16, 2017 Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Fitzpatrick, Coastal Engineer for Martin County, stated she is happy to report the legislature approved \$1 million in funding for coral reef research, including impacts of water coming out of the inlets and response to disease. She noted they were not able to get the legal designation for the reef tract, even though the request did make it through the House and Senate committees with no dissenting votes.

STAFF COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the May 19, 2017.

Date

Signature