Bike to School Day in Fellsmere a “Rolling Success”

What has 70 heads, 140 legs, spans 2 city blocks long, and moves effortlessly along a 1-mile path, leaving smiles everywhere it goes?

The answer is the Fellsmere Bike to School Day Crowd that gathered on May 15, 2019 at the Boys and Girls Club of Fellsmere. Under the watchful eye of the Fellsmere Police Department and Indian River County Sheriff’s Office, and attended to by over a dozen volunteers from Fellsmere Elementary School, the Health Department, Bike/Walk Indian River County, and the Indian River MPO, the rolling rally demonstrated that riding to school can be great exercise – as well as fun.

Prior to embarking, the crowd was addressed by Principal Ramon Echevarria, who reinforced the importance of basics like wearing a properly-fitted helmet. The event follows a similarly successful event held at Sebastian Elementary School earlier in the week.

“We try to reach all schools with safety training and we hope to get all schools involved in some kind of biking or walking event in the future.” said Jim Mann, MPO Bike/Ped Coordinator.

12-Month GoLine Ridership at 1,215,897; Sets Record

GoLine, Indian River County’s Fixed Route Transportation Service, has certainly lived up to expectations as the 2018’s Community Transportation Association of America System of the Year by surpassing all previous ridership records. GoLine saw 1,215,897 riders in the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019, a small but remarkable increase over the previous year. This comes at a time virtually all Public Transportation systems are experiencing declines in ridership. In fact, ridership declined in 31 of the 35 largest cities last year, and some Florida systems were particularly hard hit. Both Broward County and Hillsborough County have experienced ridership decreases of over 20% from recent highs.

In the opinion of transit experts, the problem has approached the crisis point. Declining reliability in a number of larger cities is often mentioned. Many large systems like NYC Transit and Washington Metro are simply falling into disrepair at a high rate due to the age of the rolling stock and stations. New companies like Uber and Lift are also partly to blame, as low cost door-to-door options are taking passengers away from less convenient transit (and clogging up the highways at the same time!). Finally, there is often a decline in transit as an improved economy leads to greater car ownership.

So why haven’t these things affected GoLine? Savvy management, which stays on top of customer needs and maintenance demands, is one factor. The commitment of GoLine to contain costs, and offer fare-free transportation, makes switching to a paid ride less appealing. And convenience is another – GoLine’s 16 Routes serve the Counties Shopping Centers, Medical Centers, Libraries, Schools, and other attractions with reliable and friendly hourly service. So join the bandwagon and get on one of our wagons!

For more information contact: Phillip J. Matson, AICP, MPO Staff Director, Indian River County MPO, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960, (772) 226-1455
Transportation Improvement Program approved; CR 510 Relief, Oslo Road Interchange, Other Projects On The Way

Required by state and federal regulations, the Transportation Improvement Program (or “TIP”) contains all state and federally-funded projects programmed over a five-year period beginning in 2019. While not a required component of the TIP, the MPO also attaches locally funded projects that are identified in the County’s approved five-year capital improvements program, making the TIP and its affiliated website a “one-stop shop” for finding out when – and the cost – of major transportation projects in the County.

Approved by the MPO at its meeting on May 8, 2019, the MPO develops the TIP with extensive public feedback – feedback which the MPO begins obtaining with the Long Range Transportation Planning process dating back to 2015. Once included on the Long Range Plan, a project is then subjected to prioritization by the MPO through the annual List of Priority Projects (LOPP) adoption process.

This year, the top priorities for the MPO are a new I-95 Interchange at Oslo Road, which is expected to begin construction in 5 years; the widening of CR 510 from 2 lanes to 4, which is in the design and right-of-way acquisition phase; and intersection improvements at various congested locations throughout the County, including the Barber Bridge at A1A; 43rd Avenue @ SR 60; and US 1 @ Aviation Boulevard. The MPO is also excited about extending the Trans-Florida Central Rail Trail, a project that has been wildly successful with the recreational public, westward from the I-95 Overpass through the Sebastian Preserve state park. Finally, the TIP contains funding for the continuation of the successful GoLine Service, named National System of the Year by the Community Transportation Association of America in 2018.

For your convenience this document may be found at the following link and downloaded:


To get involved in the Long Range or Short Range Planning, send us an email at pmatson@ircgov.com or call us directly at (772)226-1455.
On September 11, 2019 the MPO recognized local citizen Laura Aaron, winner of the 2018 Florida Bicycle Association Volunteer of the Year Award. According to the FBA’s press release: “Bike Walk Indian River County, Inc. (BWIRC) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3), community coalition working to make Indian River County a safe, more accessible and more comfortable place for people to ride bicycles and walk.” Laura Aaron is one of the BWIRC’s founders and an active BWIRC board member/officer. She participates in every facet of the organization, providing insight and expertise to advance the mission. True to her cycling role of stoker on the tandem, Laura has endurance and strength, provides the power to climb the hills and keeps our organization centered on our cause.

One example of Laura’s quiet leadership occurred earlier this year. BWIRC awarded bicycles to local boys from low income families who had accomplished certain academic and behavioral milestones. BWIRC’s volunteers taught them bike safety and basic bike maintenance. Upon learning that the boys did not have access to air pumps or any of the basic tools necessary to keep their bikes operating properly, Laura was inspired to raise money so that BWIRC could purchase and install a bike maintenance work station with an air pump in the boys’ neighborhood. She named the new project “Pump Us Up!” Laura herself was already “pumped up” with enthusiasm for making the stations a reality.

Through Laura’s efforts, work station have been installed (or will appear) in Gifford, Indian River County Health Department, on the Trans-Florida Rail Trail and the GoLine Main Transit Hub.

Congratulations Laura!
Indian River County
Transit Hub Wins
Green Award

The Florida Green Building Coalition has recognized the GoLine’s Main Transit Hub as the Highest Scoring Green Commercial Building in Florida for 2018. The Main Transit Hub serves as the main transfer location for GoLine, Indian River County’s fixed-route transit system, and is served by seven GoLine routes.

As a Florida Green-Certified Building, the Main Transit Hub was designed and constructed with an emphasis on sustainability and energy-efficiency. The Main Transit Hub is located at 1235 16th Street in Vero Beach. For more information on GoLine, please visit http://www.golineirt.com/.

TAC—CAC Joint Meeting
October 1, 2019 – 200 PM

MPO Meeting
October 9, 2019 – 10:00 AM

BAC Meeting
October 22, 2019 – 2:00 PM

Note: All meetings held in County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Conference Room B1-501. All information is current as of the time of publication. For more information, visit us at www.irmpo.com or call (772) 226-1672.

Anyone requiring special accommodations contact the county’s ADA coordinator at (772) 567-8000 x 233.

Indian River County MPO
1800 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

The MPO welcomes all questions, comments, or concerns regarding transportation in Indian River County. We encourage you to participate in one of the following ways:

By Phone: 772-226-1455   By Mail: 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Email: pmatson@ircgov.com   Website: www.irmpo.com
Social Media: Facebook http://www.facebook.com/IRMPO