

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

MINUTES

Monday, March 08, 2010 - 5:00 P.M.

Martin County Administration Building
Growth Management Conference Room, 1st Floor
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 320-3015

1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:05 PM

Chairwoman Joan Moore was excused and Vice-Chair Bill Martz was absent; therefore, the Board Members appointed Mr. Robert Taylor to chair today's meeting. Mr. Taylor accepted.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Kevin B. Edwards
Robert Taylor
Jim Hudson
Jim Mottram
Dee Spera
Ken Natoli
Officer Dan Pantel
John Mildenberger
John-Mark Palacios, FDOT (Non-voting Member)

Excused Members

Joan Moore, Chairwoman

Members Not In Attendance:

Bill Martz, Vice Chairman
Joseph DeFronzo
Hal Forslund
Officer James C. Brooks
Eric Cerniglia
Barbara Timmerman

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, Acting MPO/Transit Planning Manager
Boyd Lawrence, Planner II
Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Dee Spera moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Jim Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – January 11, 2010 BPAC Meeting

Mr. Jim Mottram moved to approve the Minutes with revision. Seconded by Mr. Jim Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. John-Mark Palacios informed that he attended a presentation held by the Palm Beach BPAC. He brought some of the literature distributed at that meeting for the Members viewing (copy on file). The brochures were from the Adventure Cycling Association, the Florida Bicycle Association, Bike Florida 2010 Tour, and the East Coast Greenway. The United States Bicycle Route System Map was also circulated among those present.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Green River Parkway Update

MEMO: temp10BPACa05.01

Ms. Beth Beltran introduced this Item and provided some background. She said that as part of the East Coast Greenway effort, the Green River Parkway Project included an intermodal path that would run along the length of the roadway. The segment of the Parkway that runs from Jensen Beach Boulevard south to SR 707 is located to the west of the Pinecrest Lakes subdivision. A Screening Wall Ballot will be sent to the appropriate Pinecrest Lakes property owners to vote on their preferred design.

Ms. Beltran said that the Current Design showed the ten feet intermodal path separated from the subdivision property owners by a screening wall, which is fifteen and a half feet away from the path and within the Green River Parkway right-of-way (copy of the Current Design on file). The property owners, however, felt that the wall was too close to their properties. Therefore, the Martin County Engineering Department proposed an Alternate Design where the screening wall is located two feet east of the intermodal path, and the County will provide drainage swale maintenance on the east side of the wall (copy of the Alternate Design on file). However, the property owners would like to have what they refer to as the Original Design on the Ballot where the screening wall is located approximately 19' to 20' west of the Pinecrest Lakes property line, up against the intermodal path, which was changed from 12' wide to 10' wide at the request of the property owners. (copy of the Original Design and Screening Wall Ballot design descriptions on file).

Ms. Beltran introduced Ms. Terry Rauth, County Deputy Engineer. Ms. Rauth provided the history of the situation. She said that the pathway was part of the East Coast Greenway Trail. She mentioned that the path and the wall were designed to be on the County's right-of-way and not an easement. However, the residents requested as much backyard space as possible; therefore, the residents asked the wall be placed against the path. Ms. Rauth also mentioned that with the residents' design of preference, the maintenance of the pathway would be very difficult since the residents also opposed to include openings on the wall that would provide access to the

maintenance crew and pertinent equipment. This situation was affecting nineteen residents and the Home Owners Association of Pinecrest Lakes did not want to be part of the discussion. Ms. Rauth stated that this will be an item on the BOCC upcoming agenda but that it would be under the Consent section.

Mr. Ken Natoli suggested a Motion to have the wall two feet away from the pathway, hoping that with this suggestion one of the Commissioners might pull the item from the Consent section and would have a debate on it. Ms. Rauth concurred and, for the record, she stated that County Engineering said that it was not safe to have the path against the wall. Mr. Palacios, FDOT Representative, agreed but added that a two feet separation was not enough either.

Ms. Rauth said that the path could not be pushed any further closer to the road without disturbing the storm water quality treatment.

Mr. Natoli made motion to request that this item be pulled from the BOCC Agenda; that the distance between the multimodal path and the proposed wall be four feet; and that the reason for this request is that having the wall against the path represents a safety issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and it was opened for further discussion.

Ms. Beltran suggested that some Members volunteer to request that this item be pulled from Consent section of the BOCC agenda on the March 16, 2010 meeting. Mr. Natoli and Mr. Taylor offered to attend on behalf of the BPAC.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Bike Racks Program

MEMO: temp10BPACa05.02

Mr. Boyd Lawrence introduced Ms. Bonnie Landry from Martin County Community Development. Mr. Lawrence said that the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) in partnership with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was inviting artists from the Treasure Coast to submit designs for bicycle racks to be placed strategically throughout the Old Palm City CRA. An overall goal of the project is to beautify the city with public art while encouraging alternative modes of transportation and decreasing the dependency upon automobiles.

Ms. Landry stated that each artist can submit up to two designs for consideration. The CRA will select approximately three designs for fabrication. Each winning design will earn the artist up to \$2,500 for design, permitting, fabrication and installation. The winning designs and other selected design entries will be used to create a catalogue of bicycle racks that could be used to satisfy the County's commercial design requirement required as part of new development projects. All rights to the selected designs will remain with the artist. Ms. Landry showed a PowerPoint presentation depicting various artistic design ideas.

Ms. Landry said that the designs for the new bicycle racks will be chosen on the basis of artistic merit, location context, functionality and durability. The design should reflect images that represent Old Florida, specify construction materials that can withstand the tropical Florida

climate and meet the requirements of the Dade County Code.

Ms. Landry stated that the Martin County CRA encourages applications from artists representing diverse backgrounds and a variety of interests. She said that the Community Development staff would like to receive a recommendation of support from the BPAC for this proposed program.

Mr. Mottram asked how the idea was being marketed. Ms. Landry replied that they were planning to work with the Art Council and to use local advertisement, among others.

Mr. Steve Kurth from the Treasure Coast Cycling Association (TCCA) suggested that the participants would present their concepts to actual bikers to confirm the bike rack's effectiveness.

Mr. Hudson made a motion to have the BPAC Chairperson draft a letter in support of the "Call for Artist" concept/program. The motion was open for discussion.

Ms. Dee Spera asked who would be paying the artists to participate and create their designs. Ms. Landry replied that they would be paid by a CRA grant.

Mr. Edwards asked who would perform the durability/adequacy tests of the designs. Ms. Landry replied that an engineer would as part of the selection process.

Mr. Hudson asked how many sites for the racks were there being considered. Ms. Landry replied that this was a pilot program that would start in Palm City; if it was successful in Palm City, they would then consider other locations in other CRAs. The program would start with three racks at \$2,500/per rack.

Ms. Spera asked who would determine the rack location. Ms. Landry replied that the CRA would, but they were also open to BPAC suggestions.

Mr. Palacios suggested studying the design guidelines established by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals to ensure functionality. Ms. Landry assented.

Mr. Mottram seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. CRA Street Designs: Indian River Drive (Jensen Beach) & CR 707 (Rio)

MEMO: temp10BPACa05.03

Mr. Lawrence provided some background. He said that in recent months the BPAC has made requests to review roadway project designs before the construction phase of the projects. MPO staff has worked with both the Martin County Engineering Department and the Community Development Department to coordinate reviews of two upcoming projects. Mr. Lawrence introduced Mr. Edward Erfurt from the Martin County Community Development.

Mr. Erfurt presented two projects located in two different CRA Districts – Jensen Beach and Rio. Mr. Erfurt discussed the design of Indian River Drive in downtown Jensen Beach. He also provided an overview of the Dixie Hwy (CR 707) project in the future Rio Town Center.

Mr. Erfurt stated that the streets in the downtown Jensen Beach CRA Districts were designed with features that were intended to slow automobile traffic down and to encourage more pedestrian traffic. These design features included roundabouts, wider sidewalks, on-street parking, narrow traffic lanes, and landscaping and streetscaping improvements (plan segment maps for each project on file). The project also included storm water quality considerations.

Mr. Hudson asked why there were not bike lanes in the design of the project. Mr. Erfurt replied that this particular project was designed to create driving awareness and to keep the driving speed at 25 mph.

A discussion ensued on the issue. The majority of the Members wanted the inclusion of bike lanes in the Indian River Drive project. Mr. Palacios suggested placing "Share the Road" markings. Officer Pantel stated that the road design alone to slow down automobile traffic might not be enough and it might still be dangerous for cyclists. Mr. Natoli recommended adding 4' bike lanes to the design.

Mr. Erfurt reiterated that this project was targeting a much lower design speed and much higher driver awareness.

Mr. Natoli stated that the issue with the project design presented was that cyclist were expected to ride on the same road like automobiles. Mr. Mottram said that bike lanes should be added to the design plan at its inception. Mr. Hudson concurred and said that the design presented was unsafe for bicycling.

Mr. Palacios suggested posting the speed limit at 20 mph.

Mr. Hudson left at 6:15 pm to attend a previous engagement.

Ms. Spera stated that BPAC continuously request adding more bike lanes to plans, and that the BPAC group would be establishing a bad precedent if the CRAs continue to be exempt from adding bike lanes to their master plans. She felt that the project presented could not receive the support of the BPAC because of the lack of bike lanes in their design. Mr. Mottram concurred. Mr. Palacios dissented.

Mr. Erfurt said that the projects were moving forward and expected to be completed by February 2011.

Mr. Natoli left at 6:25 pm to attend a previous engagement.

Mr. Lawrence said that the current CRA Vision Plans for Rio and Jensen Beach, and all the other Martin County CRA Districts, were available online at www.martin.fl.us under the link to Community Development.

7. NOTES

Mr. Lawrence announced the new BPAC Member: Mr. John Mildenberger, appointed by the Town of Sewall's Point.

Mr. Lawrence also mentioned the letter sent by the BPAC Chair to the Palm City S.T.A.R.bots group thanking them for their presentation on bicycle safety.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. John F. Goings, President of the Treasure Coast Cycling Association, said that, his agency, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, is organizing the Annual Ocean to Lake Benefit Ride. They are looking to “revive” their organization by redoing their website, and looking for more cyclists for their events. They are in support of promoting cyclists in the area, undergoing efforts to increase their membership, and staying tuned with the BPAC happenings. Mr. Steve Kurth, Secretary of the Treasure Coast Cycling Association and Manager the Racing Team, made some other upcoming event announcements, including the Build-A-Bike event.

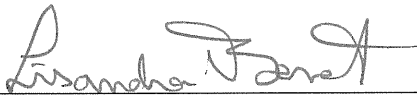
10. NEXT MEETING

- April 12, 2010 (Subcommittee)
- May 10, 2010 (Regular)

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Recorded and Prepared by:

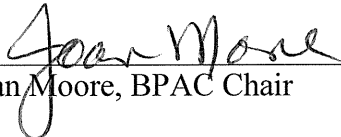


Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

4/12/2010

Date

Approved by:



Joan Moore, BPAC Chair

4/12/10

Date