

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

Wednesday, April 07, 2010 - 9:00 A.M.

**Martin County Administration Building
Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 223-7983**

1. CALL TO ORDER

At the time the meeting was called to order Chairman Toby Overdorf and Vice-Chair Sheila Kurtz were not present. The Committee asked Mr. Mark Mathes to chair the meeting. Mr. Mathes accepted and the meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Sheila Kurtz, Vice-Chair (arrived at 9:07 a.m.)
Joseph DeFronzo
Alex Trovato
Mark Mathes
Julie Preast
Albert Zilg

Members Excused:

Jody Ianuzzi

Members Not In Attendance:

Toby Overdorf, Chairman
Barbara Kauffman
Trent Steele
Kevin Trepanier (Ex-Officio)

Staff in Attendance:

Mary Beth Beltran, Acting MPO Administrator
Boyd Lawrence, Planner II
Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

A quorum was present for this committee.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Julie Preast moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Joseph DeFronzo. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES:

* January 06, 2010 – Regular CAC Meeting

Ms. Prest requested that the name on the first bullet point of page five be corrected. It should have been John instead of Joan. **Ms. Prest made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Mr. Albert Zilg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Vice-Chair Kurtz arrived. Mr. Mathes remained chairing the meeting.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Draft UPWP FY 2010/11 – 2011/12

MEMO: temp10CACa04.01

Ms. Beth Beltran, Acting MPO Administrator, said that funding to be received by an MPO is awarded in accordance with a distribution formula developed by FDOT and approved by FHWA. The funding received by an MPO may be expended only in accordance with an approved UPWP. Ms. Beltran stated that the DRAFT UPWP was submitted to FDOT for review by the established March 15th deadline. The document was being submitted to the MPO's CAC and TAC for review and comments on April 7, 2010, and to the BPAC on April 12, 2010. FDOT has until April 15th to comment on the DRAFT. This DRAFT will also be discussed with the MPO Policy Board on April 19, 2010. A Notice of Public Hearing that this document is available for comment was published in the Stuart News on March 14th advising that a Public Hearing on the document will be held at the April 19th MPO Policy Board meeting before it is considered for adoption at its May 3rd meeting.

Ms. Beltran stated that the FY 2010/11-2011/12 UPWP is a two-year UPWP. The UPWP included the completion of the 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) by February of 2011, reflected in Task 5.6 2035 RLRTP. Ms. Beltran pointed out some other projects in the FY 2010/11-2011/12 UPWP such as the Bicycle Master Plan (Task 5.10), the completion of the Congestion Management Plan (Task 5.11), and the work effort associated with the Regional Transit Organization (Tasks 5.2 and 5.8). The new, two-year UPWP will also support continuity of MPO activities.

Mr. Mathes asked if setting funds aside for the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan now would provide a "jump start" for the 2040 RLRTP. Ms. Beltran replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Prest thanked MPO Staff for addressing on the UPWP report the fact that a permanently funding source for the County's mass transportation is still needed. Ms. Prest brought this comment up on behalf of Board Member Ms. Barbara Kauffman, who was absent today.

Mr. Mathes asked if there was a budgeted amount for a permanent MPO Director. Ms. Beltran replied in the affirmative and said that this position is expected to be filled by July 1, 2010.

Ms. Prest moved approval of the DRAFT FY 2010/11-2011/12 Martin MPO UPWP to the Martin MPO Policy Board. Motion seconded by Ms. Kurtz. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Draft RTO Interlocal Agreement

MEMO: temp10CACa04.02

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided some background. She said that the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) / St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Joint Policy Board completed a Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update 2010-2019 in September, 2009. Part of that work effort included a Transit Authority Action Plan that recommends the formation of a regional transit organization (RTO) by the year 2010. An RTO will serve as a working group that will provide a forum to address the operational, financial, planning, and organization issues related to the provision of public transit in Martin and St. Lucie counties.

Ms. Beltran continued to say that at the February 18, 2010, Joint Martin MPO / St. Lucie TPO meeting, the Joint Policy Board approved the composition of an RTO, made up of the following members: one representative from the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); one representative from the St. Lucie County BOCC; one elected representative from each of the cities of Stuart, Port St. Lucie, and Fort Pierce; one elected representative from the Town of Sewall's Point; one representative from the Economic Council of Martin County, Inc.; one representative from the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc.; and one representative from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)-District IV. Ms. Beltran said that the inclusion of an FDOT representative in the board composition was significant because, if these efforts were to progress, FDOT would be a potential funding source. The RTO could eventually lead to the creation of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

Ms. Beltran stated that Martin County and St. Lucie County will have *equal* representation on the RTO Board, and each member entity is to appoint one alternate member to serve in the absence of the regular voting member. If the regular voting member is an elected official, his/her alternate must also be an elected official.

Ms. Beltran said that the Joint Martin MPO / St. Lucie TPO Policy Board directed Staff to present a Draft Interlocal Agreement to the individual MPO and TPO Boards for review at their next meetings. The Draft is also to be sent to the respective Counties and Municipalities, and is to be brought back before the Joint Martin MPO / St. Lucie TPO Policy Board at its next meeting on June 17, 2010.

Ms. Julie Prest asked if Indian River County was involved in any of the RTO discussions. Ms. Beltran replied that they were not but they will be asked as well as Palm Beach County. Mr. Zilg asked when Staff would expect to have an answer from Palm Beach County. Ms. Beltran expected to have an answer within the next quarter.

Ms. Kurtz commented that she was very pleased to know that Martin MPO stood strong when requesting *equal* representation for the RTO board composition.

Mr. Mathes expressed that he was concerned about this action. Ms. Prest recapped the action by stating that both Martin MPO and a separate St. Lucie TPO would remain separate agencies, but that members of the two agencies would combine into the RTO to deal with Regional Transportation needs. Ms. Beltran replied that the working relationship is going to remain between the two groups, there will still be MPO/TPO

meetings held jointly, and the RTO would be a separate working group. Mr. Mathes asked if the RTA would be an independent authority no longer answering to the MPOs, and with taxing capabilities. Ms. Beltran replied in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Kurtz moved approval of the DRAFT RTO Interlocal Agreement to the Martin MPO Policy Board. Seconded by Mr. Zilg. The motion passed with Mr. Mathes opposing.

C. State Road 76 PD&E – Project Alternatives

MEMO: temp10CACa04.03

Mr. Boyd Lawrence, Martin MPO Planner II, introduced this Item and provided background. He stated that improving State Road 76 (a/k/a Kanner Highway) has been a priority of the MPO for approximately 10 years and has been the #2 priority for the past two years. FDOT has provided funding for the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) study of this facility for the segment beginning west of CR 711 (Pratt Whitney Road) to east of Cove Road.

Mr. Lawrence said that a PD&E informational Project Kick-off meeting was held on April 16, 2009, at the Morgade Library, by FDOT and its consultants for this project, American Consulting Group of Florida. FDOT Project Manager, Daphne Spanos, and American Consulting provided a presentation on this project to the MPO Policy Board during the May 18, 2009 meeting. The SR 76 PD&E is currently in the Project Alternatives Development stage. FDOT and American Consulting will be presenting the Project Alternatives today, during the April 7th CAC and TAC meetings, and the April 12th BPAC meeting. A Public Workshop will be held at the Wolf Technology Center at Indian River College in Stuart on April 13th at 5:00pm. A final meeting on the SR 76 PD&E Project Alternatives will be presented to the MPO Board on May 3, 2010. Mr. Lawrence introduced Mr. Jeff Novotny with American Consulting who proceeded to discuss his PowerPoint presentation (copy on file).

Mr. Novotny showed the PD&E study that would be presented at the upcoming public workshop. He discussed the study timeline, the existing roadway typical sections, and presented the Interchange Modification Report. The Interchange Modification Report contained the project's alternatives identified in its first-level screening. Mr. Novotny stated that eight alternatives were considered and were shortlisted to the following:

- Alternative 3: Eastbound to Northbound Flyover
- Alternative 8A: Eastbound to Northbound Teardrop Loop Ramp
- Alternative 8B: Eastbound to Northbound Loop Ramp

Mr. Novotny discussed the cost involved with each alternative, and stated that the “No-Build” option is also being considered. In addition, he spoke about the possibility of the reconfiguration of the existing loop ramp in the northwest quadrant of the Interchange.

Mr. Novotny mentioned three possible Park-and-Ride lot sites as well. Mr. Novotny stated that more information on this project may be obtained at www.sr76martin.com. All comments posted through this website would generate an email to the project Staff.

Mr. Mathes asked at what point in the process project Staff would be looking to alternative recommendations from the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC). Mr. Novotny replied that the upcoming public workshop would be an opportunity to obtain input from the public, then Staff would try to narrow the alternatives to one; additionally, the No-Build Alternative will remain throughout the discussion. Mr. Novotny stated that the CAC could provide a recommendation at any time. Ms. Beltran said that the CAC would see an update in final form before the study goes to the MPO Policy Board. Mr. Mathes concluded that a recommendation of the CAC's preferred alternative should be stated since this would be the last time the Committee will be able to offer this kind of input to the project Staff while considering *all* of the possible alternatives presented.

Ms. Kurtz asked why some sidewalks are planned for areas with very low or no population. Mr. Novotny replied that this was an effort coordinated by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), as well as recent directives from Secretary LaHood from the US Department of Transportation, to provide as much accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists within transportation improvements, where possible.

Mr. Mathes asked which of the three alternatives presented (3, 8A or 8B) was consistent with the Interim Improvements by the County. Mr. Novotny replied that all three of them were.

The Committee narrowed their preferences to Alternatives 8A and 8B, stating that Alternative 3 with the flyover would heavily impact the existing Hotel and it would be an "overkill" for the area. A discussion ensued regarding the cost considerations involved with each of the two remaining alternatives, among other factors.

Ms. Preast expressed her preference for the Park-and-Ride site by the Cracker Barrel Restaurant for it seemed to be a safer location and because it would tie-in with existing and future amenities.

Mr. Mathes entertained a motion to express the preference of the Committee from the alternatives presented. **Ms. Preast moved that Alternative 8A and Alternative 8B would supersede Alternative 3. Seconded by Mr. Alex Trovato. The motion carried unanimously.**

D. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Scope

MEMO: temp10CACa04.04

Mr. Lawrence introduced this Item and provided background. He stated that the Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a systematic approach that provides for the safe and effective management and operation of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of demand reduction and operational management strategies. The CMP is required to be developed and implemented as an integral part of the metropolitan planning process in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), which are urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 or any area where designation as a TMA has been requested. Martin County is part of the St. Lucie TMA.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the most recent major update of the CMP was completed for the Martin MPO by Tindale-Oliver in April of 2005. The primary strategy from the 2005

CMS report recommended a series of intersection improvements that could be constructed to address congestion. The report also recommended that the MPO consider the future development of an Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) to monitor traffic and coordinate traffic control signals to improve the flow of traffic on the major arterial roadways. The Martin County ITS system is referred to as the Automated Traffic Management System (ATMS).

Mr. Lawrence continued to say that in late 2009, MPO Staff initiated a Request-for-Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to update the Congestion Management Process for the Martin MPO in 2010. The consultant selected by the RFP selection committee was Kimley-Horn. Kimley-Horn has submitted the Scope of Services to complete the Martin MPO CMP update (copy on file). The Scope reflects some input provided by Martin MPO Staff to focus on alternative strategies such as transit improvements, demand management, and technology improvements. In addition, Kimley-Horn was asked to provide additional CMP analysis of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) districts of Martin County and the City of Stuart based on the future land use policy of those areas.

Mr. Zilg asked if there would be any coordination with Tri-Rail. Mr. Lawrence replied that the scope is more local in nature, outside of what is coordinated with St. Lucie County, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and the CMP. Mr. Zilg stated that regional transportation must start with a regional planning philosophy. Mr. Lawrence said that the scope would include alternative strategies like transit and alternative modes of transportation, and how it will all fit it together; including the extension of Tri-Rail and/or the Amtrak service as well. The ultimate goal being the alleviation of traffic congestion.

Ms. Prest move approval of the CMP Scope as recommended by Staff. Seconded by Ms. Kurtz. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Indian Street Bridge Update

MEMO: temp10CACa04.05

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided background. She stated that the Indian Street Bridge is a new bridge crossing the South Fork of the St. Lucie River in Martin County, connecting Palm City with the City of Stuart. The project limits begin at the Florida Turnpike intersection in Palm City and proceed east to Willoughby Boulevard in Stuart. The segment of the project in Palm City from Mapp Road to St. Lucie Shores Drive is identified as Segment 2. The Martin MPO Policy Board endorsed Alternative 2A of Segment 2, which is a four-lane divided highway with wide buffers and a sidewalk located at the back of the roadside swale, prior to the Public Hearing in November, 2003. Ms. Beltran continued to say that during the public process over 1,500 stakeholders participated and over 75% supported Alternative 2A in Segment 2 from Mapp Road to St. Lucie Shores Drive during the Public Hearing process (copy of the approved Typical Section on file).

Ms. Beltran introduced Ms. Kim Holland, Consultant Manager, and Ms. Beth Zsoka from Quest Corporation of America, the Public Information Officer for the Indian Street Bridge Project. Ms. Beltran stated that the PowerPoint presentation would include a slide

that shows the sidewalk of Segment 2 relocated from the back of the roadside swale to the front of the swale between the curb and the swale. Ms. Beltran said that it is the opinion of the Martin County Engineering Staff that the project would need to go through the public participation process again in order for the sidewalks to be relocated.

Ms. Holland and Ms. Zsoka proceeded with the PowerPoint presentation on the status of the project (copy on file) and stated that information was available at www.indianstreetbridge.com.

Mr. Mathes requested clarification for the reason of the sidewalk relocation. Ms. Holland responded that, "in the 2004 PD&E Study the sidewalk was at the rear of the property line, in 2008 the landscape architect of their team ... held several coordination meetings with Martin County Engineering, and it was requested to move the sidewalk to the front, behind the curb. The reason was for safety reasons; there were concerns that there could be tunneling or hiding places in the landscaping on the back of the property lines. In 2009 the typical section was adjusted and the typical section was signed by FHWA; so Martin County requested that we come before you today, and reflect the changed typical and get your feedback".

Mr. Mathes said that, "just to clarify, Engineering is not concerned about its location (referring to the sidewalk) they are concerned about changing its location and affecting the process of the project, and opening it up for challenging and things of that nature further delaying it". Ms. Holland assented and said that she would gather comments from the MPO advisory committees CAC and TAC, and the Board before the Public Information Meeting at the Palm City Community Center on Thursday, April 29, 2010, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Mr. Mathes was concerned about the Right-of-Way (ROW) limits on the cross sections of the project, specifically the *minimum* ROW in terms of analyzing what would the worst-case scenario be. Ms. Holland replied that there would be an overall project board present at the Public Information Workshop. The board will have the ROW limits, and the enhanced rendering with the meandering sidewalk will also be shown with the landscaping in place.

Mr. Mathes commented on the section west of Mapp Road and said that he strongly objects to sidewalks being adjacent to a major high speed facility. He said that it was very detrimental to pedestrian activity to have the sidewalks there; without street planting on the back side of the sidewalk, it would not be appealing for the use of bicycles or for pedestrians. Ms. Holland stated that the Park is on the right side of this section and they would not be purchasing ROW from it; there were inconsistent ROW widths along this section. She said that the slide shown was not reflective of what would occur for the entire 1,200 feet of the section west of Mapp Road and that at the first opportunity they would pull the sidewalks away from the road.

Ms. Kurtz asked specifically where would the Florida Power and Light (FPL) electric boxes be on the project plans. She explained that, in the case of the Sewall's Point Bridge, there were huge electrical boxes visibly located on the corners of both sides of the bridge. Ms. Kurtz said that the boxes could have been placed under the bridge or

somewhere else; therefore, she requested that her comment be diligently considered. Ms. Holland replied that this information will be relayed back to FPL. The Committee expressed that they would like to provide some input on this issue before the fact.

Ms. Preast stated that, from the driver and pedestrian points of view, she would like this project to be as pleasant and safe experience for both as possible. She said that she understood the reason why Engineering suggested that the sidewalks be moved; however, she thought that pedestrians would prefer a quieter and a safer walk being away from the traffic lanes. She would also like to see trees planted between the sidewalks and the road. Ms. Preast requested that Ms. Holland spend enough time talking to the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) about this because the location of the sidewalks and the trees is very important to the community planning.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Zilg requested the status of the fixed route bus system. Ms. Beltran replied that three new routes had started for a total of six routes currently functioning. Of the three new routes, two were shuttles servicing Hobe Sound and one shuttle servicing Jensen Beach. In addition, the Stuart Shuttle service has been expanded from three days a week to five days a week. Transfer points have also been improved to ensure they integrate with the regional transit system, including the Treasure Coast Connector going to and from St. Lucie County.

Mr. Zilg requested the status of the bus shelter program. Ms. Beltran replied that they were dealing with an issue with funding, where funding has been flexed from FHWA funds to FTA funds. Therefore, they were still awaiting for the grant award from the Federal Transit Administration, Atlanta office.

Ms. Preast had various comments:

- The Rio NAC would like to get involved with: the design of bus enclosures, and in the discussions for better signage identification and the need of placing bus schedules at the designated bus stops.
- The plan amendment going forward with regard to the Four Fish Inn & Marina on Indian River Drive, called the Old Bailey Boats Marina. She said she was informed that Stimulus money was being spent on this road, but she was not sure if crosswalks or bike paths were being considered/discussed for the stretch of the project that runs from the Texaco Gas Station on the north down to around Palmer Street. She also wanted to suggest the reduction of miles per hour to 25 mph for that stretch as well. Mr. Lawrence informed Ms. Preast about the upcoming sidewalk project that would include this area.
- She requested an update of the Enhancement Project at Rio Nature Park that would involve sidewalks for this area. Mr. Lawrence replied that discussions with Ms. Cathy Reeder, County Community Develop Specialist, and also with the City of Stuart resulted in a combined enhancement application to include the sidewalk improvements that were previously reviewed. He continued to say that the concern about the erosion issue in the area was passed on to Engineering and to the CRA, and it looked like it would probably be something that would need to be addressed separate from the enhancement program. Ms. Preast requested that the issue be followed through.

Ms. Kurtz commented on the second suggestion from Ms. Preast to have the particular Indian River Drive section with a reduced speed limit. She dissented from this idea. Mr. Mathes added that speed limits are set by qualified studies and that he would rather deal with speed limit issues through proper street design. Mr. Mathes suggested keeping vigilant of the new plan amendment that Mr. Lawrence mentioned to ensure that the desired lower speed was being considered by the new street design.

Mr. Mathes suggested that Staff would work with the City of Stuart so that bus schedules and bus route improvements be advertised along with the water bills residents receive.

7. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

None

8. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

None

9. NOTES

Mr. Lawrence mentioned that the Enhancement Application process is currently open for potential projects.

Ms. Beltran mentioned the FEC/Amtrak passenger rail service coalition she attended last March in Cocoa, FL. She said it was well attended with representatives from MPOs, and from many Cities and Counties along the east coast of Florida in support of the Amtrak service on the FEC right of way. Amtrak made a presentation. The FDOT Secretary of Transportation was also present.


10. NEXT MEETING

May 05, 2010

11. ADJOURN

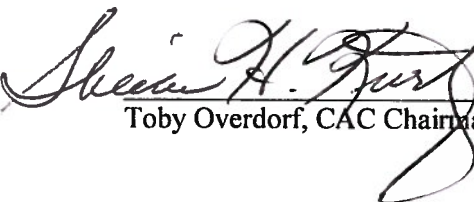
There being no further business, Mr. Mathes entertained a motion for adjournment. Moved by Ms. Kurtz. Seconded by Ms. Preast. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

May 05, 2010
Date

Approved by:


Mrs. Sheila Kurtz for:
Toby Overdorf, CAC Chairman

5-5-10
Date