

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

**Wednesday, May 05, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.  
Martin County Administration Building  
Capital Projects Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
2401 SE Monterey Road  
Stuart, FL 34996  
(772) 223-7983**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Sam Amerson called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Sam Amerson, Vice-Chair

Jeff Newell

Mike Moon

Arlene Tanis for Nance Ziegler, FDOT

Dan Hudson

Terry Rauth for Don Donaldson

Bruce Offord

Derek Miura for Gustavo Schmidt, FDOT

Kim DeLaney (arrived at 1:37pm)

John Fanticola for Barbara Timmerman

Samantha Horowitz for Nikki van Vonno (arrived at 1:37pm)

Rogelio Gonzalez

**Members Excused:**

Mark Cocco

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Joe Capra, Chairman

**Staff in Attendance:**

Mary Beth Beltran, MPO/Transit Planning Manager

Boyd Lawrence, Planner II

Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

**A quorum was present for this committee.**

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**Mr. Mike Moon moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Dan Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES:**

\* April 07, 2010 – Regular TAC Meeting

**Mr. Mike Moon made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jeff Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Draft TIP FY 2011 – 2015**

**MEMO: temp10TACa05.01**

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO/Transit Planning Manager, provided background. She said that the TIP is updated annually. It is approved by the MPO and, pursuant to Federal and State regulatory requirements, reflects “a staged, multiyear, intermodal program of transportation projects consistent with the long-range transportation plan.” All transportation projects proposed to be implemented through Federal or State transportation funding over the coming five fiscal years are contained in the TIP. Major projects were guided by the list of project priorities approved by the MPO Policy Board on September 21, 2009 and provided to FDOT District Four on September 28, 2009. Ms. Beltran stated that reasonable opportunity for the public to comment on the TIP must be provided. The DRAFT TIP has been available for public comment since April 30, 2010. A notice of the June 21, 2010 Public Hearing on the Final TIP at MPO Policy Board meeting was published in the Stuart News on Sunday, May 2, 2010 and will be published again on June 6, 2010 (copy of the notice on file). Ms. Beltran stated that the April 28, 2010 version of the DRAFT TIP was compiled from project and funding data contained in the April 14, 2010 FDOT Tentative Work Program based on the Revenue Estimating Conferences of February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>. The information contained in the TIP is based on the latest data received from FDOT.

Mr. Moon asked if the proposed Customs Office at the County Airport would be included in the TIP. Ms. Beltran replied that it would be included in the UPWP.

Mr. Amerson asked about the funding for the Indian Street Bridge (ISB) project. Ms. Arlene Tanis responded that funds for the ISB project have been re-distributed. Ms. Beltran added that the ISB is reflected in the TIP as a project divided in three phases:

Facility	Segment Limits		Project Description	Document Referenced Page	FY 2010 Priority Rank	FY 2011 Priority Rank
	From	To		FY 2010-14 TIP		
1a Indian Street Bridge	Mapp Road	SR 76	New 4 Lane Bridge	29 - 30	1	Underway
1b Indian Street Bridge	FL Turnpike	Mapp Road	Add 2 Lanes	29 - 30		1
1c Indian Street Bridge	SR 76	Willoughby Blvd.	Add 2 Lanes	29 - 30		3
2 SR 76	CR 711	Cove Road	Add 2 Lanes	29 - 30	2	2
3 Willoughby Blvd.	US-1	SR 714/Monterey Rd.	New 4 Lane Road	29 - 30	3	4
4 Cove Road	SR 76 / Kanner Hwy.	US-1	Add 2 Lanes	29 - 30		
5 Green River Parkway	SR 707	St. Lucie Co. Line	Add 4 Lanes Divided	29 - 30		Underway
6 Baker Road	US-1	Savanna Road	Add 1 Lane	29 - 30		

[Ms. Kim DeLaney and Ms. Samantha Horowitz joined the meeting.]

Mr. Moon commented that the Witham Field projects listed on page #10, under item 3.7 AVIATION, will not match the Airport’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) because several projects have been completed and the projects list has been updated accordingly. Mr. Moon stated that FDOT has been informed about the changes. It is expected that funds will be re-allocated among future projects. The CIP would be presented for

approval during the month of July. Mr. Moon wanted to ensure that the MPO Board is aware of the upcoming update.

**Ms. Terry Rauth moved Staff recommendation to approve the DRAFT FY 2011-2015 Martin MPO TIP to the Martin MPO Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moon. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. FY 2011 TE Applications for FY 2014 Funding**

**MEMO: temp10TACa05.02**

Mr. Lawrence introduced this Item and provided some background. Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects are federally funded community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. Because of the limitation of TE funds this year, consideration should be given for the need to request local fund contributions to this year's project applications.

Mr. Lawrence provided a brief presentation prior to the discussion and ranking of the applications received. Mr. Lawrence stated that a total of three applications were submitted to MPO Staff by the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The first application was received from Martin County for sidewalks and landscaping improvements in the Rio CRA District. This sidewalk/landscaping project encompasses three links in an intermodal system of transportation that is partially in place and/or planned for the Rio CRA:

1. Alice Street connection to City of Stuart
2. Loop #1 connecting two longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Sumner Avenue, St. Lucie Boulevard and Kubin Avenue
3. Loop #2 connecting two more longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Rhodes Avenue, River Court, Waveland Avenue, and Elizabeth Avenue.

The second application was received from the City of Stuart CRA for sidewalk improvements and a pedestrian kiosk at MLK Park. Mr. Lawrence stated that the application reflected two different sections:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park restrooms, kiosk, and bike rack
2. Sidewalk improvements along SR 707 northbound from Wright Boulevard to Green River Parkway.

The first section of the proposed project is to build a public restroom facility and a multi-panel educational kiosk with bicycle rack at a location to be determined at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park at the corner of Park Avenue, Florida Street and Church Street in East Stuart.

There have been discussions to combine the Rio and the second section of the City of Stuart applications because there are areas for potential connectivity, and because this section of the City of Stuart application may fall below the \$200,000 threshold if presented alone. This minimum amount is one of FDOT requirements for TE fund applicants.

The third application was received from Martin County for the construction of bike lanes along Dixie Highway from Cove Road to the FEC rail line near the Seabranck Park entrance. The Dixie Highway (A1A) paved shoulders project includes the addition of five-foot wide paved shoulders on 8,000 linear footage of an existing County roadway from Cove Road to RR Crossing, to serve as on road bike lanes on Dixie Highway.

Ms. Beltran informed the Members the project prioritization ranking proposed by the Citizens' Advisory Committee:

1. The "Sidewalk improvements along SR 707 northbound from Wright Boulevard to Green River Parkway" section of the City of Stuart CRA application, and the "Alice Street connection to City of Stuart" section of the Martin County – Rio CRA application including the portion of Haney Creek, should be combined in to a single application, along with the necessary creek pedestrian crossing.
2. The bike lanes (paved shoulders) project on Dixie Highway (A1A) from Cove Road to Seabranck (RR Crossing).
3. The remaining two separate portions of the Martin County – Rio CRA application for sidewalks that would provide access to the bus stops:
  - a. Loop #1 connecting two longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Sumner Avenue, St. Lucie Boulevard and Kubin Avenue, and
  - b. Loop #2 connecting two more longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Rhodes Avenue, River Court, Waveland Avenue, and Elizabeth Avenue.
4. The remaining City of Stuart CRA application project, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park restrooms, kiosk, and bike rack
5. Last year's unfunded landscape project along the Jensen Beach Causeway.

A discussion ensued about the connectivity that the different sections of the applications recommended have, and how these enhancements would provide the most benefit to the citizens. The Members discussed the possibility of a joint application between the Rio CRA and the City of Stuart CRA.

Mr. Moon and Ms. Rauth expressed concern about the maintenance costs associated with the landscaping included in some applications. Ms. Rauth also requested that the applicants would consider examining both overhead and underground utilities in the areas where they are proposing the landscaping.

Mr. Moon made a motion to combine the Rio CRA and the City of Stuart sidewalk projects in the Rio area, without landscaping. After the discussion, Mr. Moon withdrew his motion because of lack of a second.

**Mr. Moon made a motion to combine the full City of Stuart CRA application with the Rio CRA application less the Rio CRA application for the landscaping and loops, as the #1 priority. Seconded by Mr. Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Moon moved that the bike lanes (paved shoulders) project on Dixie Highway (A1A) from Cove Road to Seabranck (RR Crossing) should be the #2 priority. Seconded by Ms. Rauth. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Members were debating whether to consider last year's unfunded project: the Jensen Beach Causeway-Landscaping, among the projects to be ranked. They were reluctant to approve any landscaping given the current economic situation. Ms. Beltran asked Ms. Tanis if pre-prioritized unfunded projects would automatically roll over to the next year. Ms. Tanis responded that unfunded projects would need to be re-submitted and re-listed the following year in order to remain considered for ranking. Mr. Lawrence informed that earlier today he sent an email to Ms. Stacey Miller from FDOT requesting more information on the status of the Jensen Beach Causeway-Landscaping project.

**Mr. Moon made a motion to have the remaining two separate portions of the Martin County-Rio CRA application for sidewalks that would provide access to the bus stops, as priority #3:**

- a. Loop #1 connecting two longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Sumner Avenue, St. Lucie Boulevard and Kubin Avenue, and**
- b. Loop #2 connecting two more longtime neighborhoods to CR 707 via Rhodes Avenue, River Court, Waveland Avenue, and Elizabeth Avenue.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Hudson said that, given the flexibility that the TAC has shown in the past regarding landscaping projects for the City of Stuart, he requested that the Members reconsider adding last year's pre-prioritized Jensen Beach Causeway-Landscaping project to the list. Mr. Hudson asked Staff why the application for this project was not re-submitted this year. Mr. Lawrence responded that the Jensen Beach Causeway project would correct areas that are experiencing severe erosion and a driveway in need of re-enforcement. Mr. Lawrence said that the project was ranked and supported last year, but the latest status of this application is still unclear.

**Mr. Hudson moved to add the Jensen Beach Causeway-Landscaping project as priority #4, subject to application update and re-submission. Seconded by Mr. Offord. Motion opened for discussion. Ms. Terry Rauth made a substitute motion not to include this project at this time. Mr. Moon seconded the substitute motion. Mr. Hudson withdrew his motion once he became aware of the maintenance responsibility concerns that this project carries. The substitute motion became the main motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. Rail Corridor Study**

#### **MEMO: temp10TACa05.03**

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided background. She stated that at the December 21, 2009, meeting, the MPO Board approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Martin MPO and the St. Lucie TPO for a Premium Transit/Rail Corridor Study. The MPO Board authorized Staff to work with the St. Lucie TPO to "piggyback" on the existing St. Lucie's rail corridor study contract with Tindale-Oliver & Associates (TOA) to ensure consistency in study content and regional perspective. Ms. Beltran introduced Tindale-Oliver & Associates' Project Team of Mr. Joel Rey and Mr. Asela Silva who would make a presentation on the existing and future conditions, as well as the methodology and measures for the Corridor Feasibility Assessment Process.

Mr. Rey proceeded with his presentation and distributed a PowerPoint handout to the Members (copy on file).

Mr. Ray stated that this study would evaluate the feasibility of premium transit and passenger rail on the three major north-south corridors in Martin County:

1. the US1 corridor: 24.5 miles with four to six lanes
2. the I-95 corridor: 25.2 miles with six lanes
3. the FEC Rail corridor: 25 miles with 1 track owned by FEC Railway LLC

Mr. Rey stated that the project scope is:

- Review plans and technologies available. Mr. Rey stated that they have taken into consideration the adopted 2030 RL RTP, as well as the recently completed Regional TDP for their analysis, among other local and regional plans, State policies and Federal Documents. As the **premium transit technologies** available, Mr. Rey mentioned the enhanced express bus, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), light rail, commuter rail, and heavy rail.
- Identify existing and future conditions. Mr. Rey spoke about transit services and facilities, land use, population and employment, and travel patterns, among other conditions. Mr. Rey also mentioned the analysis of roadway conditions, trip generators, bike and pedestrian facilities, rail facilities, rail and water crossings, environmental features, and funding sources. Mr. Rey stated that these conditions have been assessed and documented on TOA's first technical memorandum.
- Conduct feasibility assessment (ongoing)
- Prepare action plan (ongoing)

Mr. Rey said that, among the upcoming activities, would be to prepare alternatives that would combine *corridors* with *modes* with *timeframes*, in order to create a matrix of these three variables. The matrix could then be fed into a feasibility assessment process. From there, TOA would have recommended alternatives for the near-term, mid-term, and long-term; which may only be for one of the *corridors*, or for two or more of them, and, it might involve multiple *modes*. After this process, an action plan will be prepared to structure land development regulations, comp plans amendments, and so forth, to get to that point that would support the *modes* aspired to.

Mr. Rey said, that in order to accomplish all of this, TOA would review all of the transit modes mentioned before (the premium transit technologies), select all the applicable technologies for the corridors and timeframes, and develop those alternatives. The next step would be to conduct a feasibility assessment that would be documented on the next technical memorandum. The feasibility assessment has four primary criteria: 1) ridership potential, 2) transit-supportive land use, 3) economic development potential along that corridor due to the application of a particular type of technology, and 4) funding potential for that mode or modes. Once the recommended alternatives are determined, then, TOA will develop those in terms of an action plan. TOA would also estimate the probable cost and first year of operating cost for those implementations, and include them in the action plan along with the responsible parties who would ensure that all of the actions should be taking place in the general timeframe for each.

Mr. Rey informed that the second technical memorandum is due at the end May of 2010, and it would include the feasibility assessment along with the draft recommended alternatives, and the action plan to achieve those. The draft complete report will be then prepared for July of 2010. The draft report presentations will take place during August and September of 2010, and the final report is due by September of 2010.

Mr. Ray offered to answer any questions they may have. Mr. Hudson asked if he was familiar with the Senate Bill 360 and if any of the systems/concepts presented would feed into the Bill stipulations. Mr. Rey responded that TOA has a financial group that had developed a paper pertinent to the Bill information and he would be happy to share it. The paper would provide a better idea of what the Bill's requirements are, as they relate to transit. Ms. Beltran said that Staff could distribute a copy of the Senate Bill 360 to the Members. Mr. Ray commented that mobility fees are addressed under this Bill.

Ms. Horowitz asked if TOA would use the RL RTP 2035 data that was recently completed or if they would be using the adopted RL RTP 2030 data in their study. Mr. Ray responded that TOA would rather use newer data that is available so their projections are more realistic. Ms. Horowitz mentioned that using the most-up-to-date data would be best. Mr. Ray concurred and arranged following up with Ms. Horowitz to coordinate access to the updated data.

Ms. DeLaney asked Mr. Ray, "...when the Amtrak service is funded it would create a layer of services you can add corridor service to. Would you make that presumption in your forecast?" Mr. Ray responded that TOA would not because they are not trying to forecast the operational characteristics, not even station placements. Mr. Ray explained that their study is trying to determine *when* a mobile opportunity would apply to a corridor, in comparison to the other corridors. Ms. DeLaney said that seeking the Amtrak/Passenger Rail on the FEC corridor is an ongoing project. She asked how this activity would be noted in the study. Mr. Ray responded that TOA would acknowledge the fact that this is an ongoing process, and it would be mentioned as an opportunity to help advance a potential future commuter rail option on the FEC. Ms. DeLaney was very optimistic that the Amtrak/Passenger Rail project could be funded by year 2012.

#### **D. Annual Election of Officers**

##### **MEMO: temp10CACa05.04**

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided background. She stated that according to the MPO bylaws (copy on file), Section 1.03 COMMITTEES, B. (2) states, "Officers - A Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected at the first meeting of the Calendar year. Ms. Beltran explained that because the MPO Director position was in transition, the election of officers was delayed. Ms. Beltran stated that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will serve through the 2010 Calendar year.

**Mr. Moon made a motion to nominate Vice-Chair Sam Amerson for the Chairman position of the TAC. Vice-Chair Amerson accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Offord. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Chairman Amerson nominated Ms. Samantha Horowitz for the Vice Chair position of the TAC. Ms. Beltran provided clarification as Ms. Horowitz serves as the alternate for Ms. Nikki van Vonno. Ms. Beltran said that it should not be a problem since Ms. Horowitz is the official designee. Ms. Horowitz accepted the nomination. Mr. Moon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**6. COMMENTS FROM FDOT**

None

**7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Horowitz asked about the RAC (Regional Advisory Committee). Ms. Tanis stated that the RAC has not met since approximately the year 2008. The RAC was a committee originally created to rank the regional Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects with TRIP funding. Ms. Tanis said that the committee discussed more than just the ranking of TRIP projects, and it involved Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. Ms. Rauth said that, lately, there have not been enough TRIP funds nor are there any regional projects to consider. Ms. Tanis said that the committee has not been disbanded and they should meet a minimum of two times per year. Ms. Horowitz commented that the RAC could be a good advisory committee for the 2035 RL RTP. Ms. Beltran said that she would follow up with Mr. Mike Busha from the TCRPC, which is the agency working on the 2035 RL RTP. Ms. Tanis concurred with the suggestions. Mr. Hudson asked if the proposed Regional Transit Organization (RTO) would be a redundant agency also dealing with regional transit issues. Ms. Beltran responded that the RTO would act more in the operational capacity and not so much in the technical advisory capacity. The RAC would be more planning oriented.

Mr. Moon suggested that the next TAC meeting should be held in the County Airport facility, as it provided more room. The Members concurred. Staff would make the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Tanis shared with the Members a flyer that contained information regarding the year 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (copies on file). Ms. Tanis requested the Members' input on the proposed plan, and invited them to attend several regional workshops that would be hosted by FDOT. The workshop scheduled for Stuart will be held on Thursday, June 03<sup>rd</sup> in the Indian River State College from 2:30pm – 5:00pm. Additional information could be obtained by visiting: [www.2060ftp.org](http://www.2060ftp.org).

**8. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

None

**9. NOTES**

Ms. Kim DeLaney, Growth Management Coordinator from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), provided an update on the FEC/Amtrak project. She said that Amtrak rode last Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from Miami to Jacksonville. There were approximately one hundred and fifty riders including Governor Charlie Crist, Secretary of Transportation Stephanie C. Kopelousos, various Congressmen, and several City, County and State Officials. The press provided wide coverage. FEC Representatives were on board as well. FDOT filmed the entire ride. Amtrak Representatives were very pleased with the turnout

and the great political support. Ms. DeLaney said that taking the train was a beautiful way to see Florida, and it is a great sightseeing route. FDOT is working hard on the second project application that is due in July. The Governor and the Secretary also indicated that this application will be submitted. Submitting the application pre-supposes that any unresolved issues should be resolved by then. Ms. DeLaney stated that there is great optimism, given the support of those two key individuals, in getting the application submitted.

Ms. DeLaney stated that the RPC is facilitating thirty-two public workshops and hearings. The two upcoming events for Stuart are:

- Public Workshop: Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm in the City of Stuart Commission Chambers. This would be a project overview that would include the NEPA process, history of the project, etc.
- Design Session: Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. This hands-on working session intends to identify both a preferred and a fallback design for the train station. It will review the land use pattern around the station, and will also identify an alternate site for its construction.

Ms. DeLaney said that the internal date for submitting the application would be July 7<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on their website: [www.tcrpc.org](http://www.tcrpc.org).

Mr. Amerson asked, aside from the very positive report Ms. DeLaney had provided, what would make these efforts *better* efforts than they were nine years ago. Ms. DeLaney stated that there are several key elements that give this project more optimism than it did nine years ago:

- There is a different Federal funding commitment to transit. One example is that the Transportation Re-Authorization would be a ten or an eight-year Bill and not a five-year Bill.
- The State is in a better position to help carry out these projects. Regional Transit Authorities have been created, and there is a much stronger emphasis and interest to make them work.
- Another important element is that we are out of land. We cannot keep on buying land to expand our current routes. There is a lot of population with limited mobility options.

The above are things that would make the project move forward easier; however, one thing that would make it harder to move forward is that the Cities are “broke”, there is no money, and their resources are limited. On the other hand, they have better funded CRAs than they had ten years ago. Perhaps Federal money would help offset the limited funds of the Cities and would help them meet their local match.

Mr. Moon thanked Ms. DeLaney for her update.

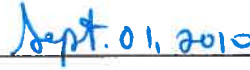
## 10. ADJOURN

**There being no further business, Chairman Amerson entertained a motion for adjournment. Moved by Vice-Chair Horowitz. Seconded by Mr. Moon. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.**

Recorded and Prepared by:



Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II



Date

Approved by:



Sam Amerson, TAC Chairman



Date