

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, May 10, 2010 - 5:00 P.M.**  
Martin County Administration Building  
Growth Management Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
2401 SE Monterey Road  
Stuart, FL 34996  
(772) 320-3015

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Joan Moore called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Joan Moore, Chairwoman  
Bill Martz, Vice-Chair  
Joseph DeFronzo  
Kevin B. Edwards  
Hal Forslund  
Ken Natoli (arrived at 6:02p.m.)  
Officer Dan Pantel  
John Mildenberger  
John-Mark Palacios, FDOT (Non-voting Member)

**Excused Members**

Robert Taylor  
Jim Hudson  
Dee Spera

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Jim Mottram  
Officer James C. Brooks  
Eric Cerniglia  
Barbara Timmerman

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

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

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**Mr. Kevin B. Edwards moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. John Mildenberger. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES – April 12, 2010 - BPAC Meeting**

**Mr. Mildenberger moved to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Hal Forslund. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. FDOT COMMENTS**

Mr. John-Mark Palacios called Staff earlier to inform that he will be arriving a few minutes late.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Draft FY 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**MEMO: temp10BPACa07.01**

Mr. Boyd Lawrence, Martin MPO Planner II, provided background. 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. Mr. Lawrence stated that a public notice of the June 21, 2010 Public Hearing on the Final TIP at the MPO Policy Board meeting was published (copy of the notice on file). Mr. Lawrence stated that Staff is working on streamlining this document so it would be more condensed.

Mr. Lawrence mentioned that one highlight of the TIP is the County’s Information Technology Systems (ITS) Department’s effort to create an interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map on their website. The new map would allow the public to access a map that would list County projects, including the projects listed in the TIP. The intent is to create an effective and user-friendly method that would provide immediate project information to the users. Mr. Lawrence stated that this endeavor is expected to be completed by June 21<sup>st</sup>. Any updates made to the TIP would be posted in our website: [www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com)

Ms. Beltran added that the document is available for review in the Blake Library and through the MPO’s website. A DRAFT TIP is also available at the front desk on the first floor of the Martin County Administration Building. 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. Mr. Lawrence added that a notice of the June 21, 2010 Public Hearing on the Final TIP at the MPO Policy Board meeting was published in the Stuart News on Sunday, May 2, 2010 and will be published again on June 6, 2010.

Mr. Lawrence said that Staff is requesting that the Members would provide comments on the DRAFT FY 2010/11 through 2014/15 Martin MPO Transportation Improvement Plan.

Mr. Lawrence mentioned the project prioritization list on page 6 of the TIP. He discussed several of the projects listed in further detail per some of the Members’ request.

Ms. Beltran pointed out that section 3.4 BIKE, PED, BUS SHELTER BOX FUND on page 8, would be of interest to this group.

[Mr. Palacios joined the meeting at 5:13 p.m.]

Chairwoman Moore stated that her perception was that the majority of the Members were not familiar enough with the document to feel comfortable making a recommendation.

There were no recommendations made by the BPAC Members.

## **B. 2010 Transportation Enhancement (TE) Applications**

### **MEMO: temp10BPACa07.02**

Mr. Lawrence introduced this Item. He 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. Mr. Lawrence said that Ms. Cathy Reeder, County Community Development Specialist, was among the presents to help answer any questions the Members may have.

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.

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.

Mr. Lawrence said that 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

second section of the City of Stuart application may fall below the \$200,000 application threshold, if presented alone. Mr. Bill Martz asked what the area of potential connectivity between those two projects is. Ms. Reeder responded that Alice Street extends from the Rio CRA into the City line of Stuart.

Mr. Lawrence talked about the project prioritization ranking done by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Lawrence said that the TAC selected combining the full City of Stuart CRA application with the Rio CRA application less the Rio CRA application for the landscaping and loops, as the number one priority. Ms. Reeder informed that the CRA code involves placing street trees every thirty feet; the same would apply when submitting CRA sidewalk applications. Ms. Reeder added that the cost of establishment during the first six months of the trees was included in the estimate cost submitted in the application. Thereafter, Ms. Reeder said, there was not too much concern about the ongoing maintenance of the area. These were internal streets where most likely, the residents would cut the grass themselves and the CRA would provide maintenance of the trees when, and if, it would become necessary. Mr. Martz asked if CRA has a budget allocation for street trees maintenance. Ms. Reeder replied in the affirmative. Ms. Beltran stated that the TAC Members were concerned about the landscaping maintenance costs; therefore, they opted for leaving the landscaping out of their project prioritization. Ms. Reeder said that it was unfortunate that she was unable to attend the TAC meeting to explain that, in the past six months, County Community Development Department (CDD) has added to their abilities to utilize CRA funds for maintenance, street trees included.

Mr. DeFronzo asked the status of the Citizens' Advisory Committee's (CAC) request to add a pedestrian crossing over Haney Creek located on the west end of Alice Street. Mr. Lawrence said that Mr. Edward Erfurt, from the County CDD, went over to the site to determine feasibility. Mr. Erfurt said that, on that segment, Alice Street goes over a big pipe and there is not enough room for a sidewalk. A pedestrian crossing might require a separate bridge.

Mr. Martz stated that, from a safety standpoint for bicyclists and pedestrians, the Dixie Highway (A1A) paved shoulders project would have priority. Mr. Palacios added that there is an upcoming resurfacing project for that segment; however, it would not include bike lanes. Mr. DeFronzo concurred that this road presents a safety issue for bicyclists. Mr. Martz asked if expanding this road would encounter right-of-way (ROW) complications. Mr. Palacios responded that ROW issues due to the addition of bike lanes would be unlikely.

Chairwoman entertained a motion to have the projects ranked in order of priority. **Mr. Martz moved to recommend the following priority list:**

- 1. The Dixie Highway (A1A) paved shoulders project that 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.**
- 2. Combining the full City of Stuart CRA application with the Rio CRA application less the Rio CRA application for the landscaping and loops.**

A discussion ensued as to whether to keep the landscaping, given the facts presented earlier by Ms. Reeder. The Members debated for a short period, then Ms. Reeder suggested including the

landscaping of the Rio CRA project as the last priority on the list, but keeping the landscaping option on.

**The motion included:**

**3. The landscaping of the Rio CRA project application.**

**Seconded by Mr. Forslund. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Reeder invited the BPAC Members to participate in updating the project list of the various CRAs in the County. There would be several public workshops in each CRA as part of the process. Information is available on the website: [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us), under the Community Development Department.

### **C. Bike/Ped Master Plan**

#### **MEMO: temp10BPACa07.03**

Mr. Lawrence introduced this Item and provided background. He stated that during the January and February BPAC meetings the Members discussed the concept of developing an updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mr. Lawrence stated that Lee County was going through the same process of creating a Master Plan. Lee County is about two months ahead into the process; however, some other Counties such as Tallahassee, Leon and Walton Counties already have established Master Plans that could be used as models.

In recent years bicycle and pedestrian plans including a needs list, and cost feasible list, have been incorporated into the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) which is updated every five years. Mr. Lawrence suggested that much of the work to develop Martin County's Plan could be made in-house (referring to the BPAC). A Master Plan should be more detailed in content in comparison to the bicycle and pedestrian planning that was incorporated in the recent 2030 RLRTP. It should provide specific information about the various bicycle and pedestrian facilities and how they can be applied to the various areas of need. Pavement markings, crosswalks, transit accessibility and other safety improvements should also be addressed in the Master Plan. Additionally, the estimated costs and potential funding sources for the facilities and improvements should be a component of the plan. The Plan should also identify the right-of-way availability or limitations along routes where bicycle and pedestrian facilities are needed or planned.

Mr. Lawrence said that MPO Staff has prepared a Final FY2011-FY2012 Unified Work Planning Program (UPWP) that includes a budget of \$40,000 for consulting services to support the completion of a Bike/Ped Master Plan. If FDOT approves the UPWP, the planning funds for the Bike/Ped Master Plan would be available after July 1, 2010.

Mr. Mildenberger noted that the Bike/Ped Master Plan that Mr. Lawrence found for Martin County was never completed. Mr. Lawrence said that the process probably started in 1998, but it did not seem it was ever finalized. Mr. Lawrence said that the Plan was last developed more than ten years ago and it was not apparent whether the document received final MPO approval. Mr.

Lawrence said that he would scan a copy of the Plan and would send it to the Members electronically.

[Mr. Natoli joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.]

Members agreed that having a copy of the old Plan would help them compare it with Plans from other Counties, would help them update its content, and would be a good starting point in this endeavor of creating the Bike/Ped Master Plan for Martin County. Mr. Natoli suggested keeping the Plan simple and produce the vision of “what you want it to be” for our bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mr. DeFronzo suggested making the Master Plan a priority for the BPAC sub-committee group.

Mr. Natoli suggested tying up the pertinent information from the Comp Plan into this Master Plan.

Mr. Lawrence invited the Members to participate in the TCRPC survey, online. The input would feed into the visioning efforts towards the 2035 RL RTP development.

## **7. NOTES**

Mr. Palacios asked if anyone knew whether the resurfacing project for Gomez Avenue would include bike lanes. Chairwoman Moore requested that Staff would find out and email the answer to the Members.

Mr. Palacios mentioned that Florida Legislature passed House Bill 971. The Bill stipulations would be of concern to the group.

Mr. Martz announced that May is the National Bike month and next week would be Bike to Work week.

## **8. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairwoman Moore had several issues for discussion. She first mentioned the Build-a-Bike event. Initially she mentioned that, because of the lack of sponsors, the event might fail. After discussing it with the Members, it was decided to move forward with the event without sponsors. Advertisement of the event would be done through the Martin MPO website and the County’s MC20 TV channel, among other modes of advertisement.

Chairwoman Moore stated that Members’ attendance to the BPAC meetings must be addressed. Ms. Beltran said that, according to the By Laws, three consecutive unexcused absences would lead to the option of re-appointing a new person for that position. Chairwoman Moore requested that a letter be sent to those Members, other than the seasonal Members, who have had many consecutive unexcused absences, and to report the responses back to the BPAC. Mr. Martz said that there is a need for better flow of information and consistent representation, so perhaps there could be a Volunteer Executive Director appointed from the community for this purpose. Mr. DeFronzo suggested that the vacant positions could be advertised in the area’s bike shops and on the MPO website. Mr. Edwards stated that the BPAC group could be making a greater impact in the community, but “we are not making it because we are invisible”. There was concern among the Members about the vacant positions in the Committee and about how to become involved in the many issues that are of interest to the group.

Ms. Beltran suggested making an effort to fill the vacant positions of the group. She said that it would be likely that one of the new members could very well perform the duties of the community liaison volunteer, suggested earlier by Mr. Martz. She added that, for the purpose of abiding to the By Laws, using the title of Volunteer Executive Director may not be appropriate. The Members concurred. The Members emphasized that efficient advertisement of the vacant positions would make a big difference.

Mr. DeFronzo brought up a maintenance issue on the sidewalk along the north side of the Jensen Beach Causeway Boulevard between the east side of the bridge and the roundabout on A1A. He said that after the project was completed and the sidewalk settled, he noticed that the sidewalk has displacements of two to three inches on several spots. Mr. DeFronzo said that this represents a trip hazard. Chairwoman Moore also mentioned that the markings on the bridge are coming off.

Mr. Forslund spoke about the need for street signs for cars to yield to pedestrians on Salerno Road, between Cove Road and Dixie Highway. Officer Pantel stated that the Sheriff Office is doing an educational program to promote the use of crosswalks by pedestrians, and enforcing the law for those drivers that are ignoring the crosswalks. Mr. Lawrence responded that he would mention this to Ms. Cathy Reeder, and perhaps the CDD would like to address this issue through their design program, and do an educational program together with the Sheriff Department for the City of Stuart CRA.

Mr. Mildenberger stated that, on the perpendicular crossing of Jensen Beach Boulevard and Green River Parkway, the traffic light turns green at the same time the crosswalk light turns white; therefore, cars are coming around to do their left or right turns just as pedestrians are being directed to cross. Ms. Beltran responded that she would mention this situation to County Staff.

**9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**10. NEXT MEETING**


- June 14, 2010 (Subcommittee)
- July 12, 2010 (Regular)

**11. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

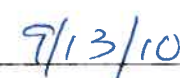
**Recorded and Prepared by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Moore, BPAC Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date