

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

Monday, June 21, 2010

Martin County Administrative Building
Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 288-5484
www.martinmpo.com

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 AM

2. PRAYER – Rev. Jim Brocious

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Michael Mortell, Chairman
Commissioner Doug Smith, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tom Bausch
Commissioner Mary Hutchinson
Commissioner Edward Ciampi
Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner Patrick Hayes
Brian Powers, Indiantown CRA Ex-Officio

Members Excused:

Vice Mayor Jack Kelly, St. Lucie TPO Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

M. Beth Beltran, Acting MPO/Transit Planning Manager
Boyd Lawrence, Planner II
Margaret Brassard, Temporary Assistant for MPO Manager

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Doug Smith made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Sarah Heard. The motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Heard made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

8. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

None

9. COMMENTS FROM the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

None

10. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Public Hearing: MPO FY2010/2011-2014/2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MEMO: temp10MPOa09.01

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO/Transit Planning Manager, introduced this Item and provided background. She said that the DRAFT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was reviewed and approved by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on May 5th, by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on May 10th, and by the MPO Policy Board on May 17th. Ms. Beltran said that MPO staff did receive changes from FDOT-District IV (copy of the email on file). FDOT wants to advance the PD&E for Project #422681-1 (I-95/SR-9 from south of High Meadows Road to the Martin/St. Lucie County line) from FY 2012 to FY2011, and reduced the cost from \$2,100,000 to \$1,995,000. Additionally, FDOT wants to advance project #427112-1 (SR 710/Warfield Boulevard from MLK Boulevard to Van Buren Avenue resurfacing) to FY2011 as well. A copy of page 9 of the TIP (FDOT Roadway Listings) showing FDOT's changes was handed out (copy on file).

Commissioner Doug Smith asked if the appropriate parties in Indiantown were aware of the proposed resurfacing project for their area. Ms. Arlene Tanis from FDOT responded that she was not aware whether the project manager has met with Indiantown representatives. Commissioner Smith suggested contacting the corresponding parties to ensure they were aware of the project. Ms. Tanis replied that she will contact the project manager and will advise him accordingly. Mr. Brian Powers, Board Member Representative for Indiantown, responded, for the record, that the project manager is Mr. Julio Delgado. Mr. Powers stated that he has met with Mr. Delgado, and even though they have not had a formal workshop-type of meeting, they have discussed specifically the landscaping of this project. Mr. Brian stated that it was the desire that the project would provide a median for traffic calming on the intersection of SR 609; however, it seemed that funding might not be sufficient to accomplish this. Mr. Powers suggested bringing this concern to the MPO Policy Board for discussion and suggestions. Commissioner Smith stated that Enhancement Funds could be an option to complement funding for this project. Commissioner Bausch stated that he has experience with similar scenarios and he offered to share his knowledge with Mr. Powers.

Ms. Tanis stated that there has been an even swap between State funds and Federal funds. The State funds that were originally allocated to these two projects are now being swapped with Federal funds that have been freed-up. Federal funds are to be used up first. Mr. Bausch asked what the State funds that were originally allocated to these projects are going to be used for. Ms. Tanis did not have an answer this question. Mr. Bausch asked Staff to follow-up on the answer from FDOT. Staff took note of the request.

Motion from Commissioner Edward Ciampi to approve the Final FY 2010/11–2014/15 Martin MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) with the changes as presented by Staff. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY 2010-2011 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Grant Application

Memo: temp10MPOa09.02

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item. She said that the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant is entered into annually between the MPO and the State of Florida TD Commission. The FY 2010/2011 TD Planning Grant allocation is \$19,954. These funds will become available July 1, 2010. Ms. Beltran stated that the grant funds door-to-door trips for individuals who cannot provide for their medical trips themselves, and include trips that are mostly to dialysis and/or chemotherapy centers. The grant agreement will terminate June 30, 2011.

Staff is requesting approval of this application as well as authorization for the Chairman, MPO Manger or a designee, to approve any administrative requirements needed to receive these funds for FY2011.

Commissioner Mary Hutchinson moved approval of Staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi.

Commissioner Hayes asked what relation is this amount to the amount of money received last year. Ms. Beltran replied that there is a difference of \$8.00 less than last year.

There being no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Appointment

MEMO: temp10MPOa09.03

Ms. Beltran stated that the MPO By-laws state that, "The CAC shall consist of eleven voting members appointed by the MPO". Staff has received an application from Ms. Amy Eason to replace Mr. Toby Overdorf as Commissioner Ciampi's appointee on the CAC. Ms. Beltran mentioned that Ms. Eason's application and resume were attached to the agenda item (copy on file).

Commissioner Ciampi thanked Ms. Eason for joining this advisory group voluntarily and for her desire to serve the community.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ciampi to accept the application for Ms. Amy Eason to join the Citizen's Advisory Committee as a representative for District 5. This Motion was seconded by Commissioner Heard. The Motion passed unanimously.

A thank you was extended to Mr. Overdorf for the time served and for his service as the former representative from District 5 in the CAC.

D. Capital Projects Presentation

MEMO: temp10MPOa09.04

Ms. Beltran said that the Martin County Capital Projects Division will provide a presentation on the status of some of the Federal and State funded transportation projects within Martin County, including five projects that were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Ms. Terry Rauth, Deputy County Engineer, and Ms. Krysti Brotherton, Associate Project Manager for the County Engineering Department proceeded to offer a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file).

Ms. Brotherton said that all funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are Federal dollars and there is no match requirement.

The initial presentation consisted of the following projects funded with ARRA:

- Baker Road Resurfacing – completed 1/2/2010
- CR-609 Reconstruction (SW Allapattah Road in Palm City) – completed 4/20/2010
- Seabranh-East Coast Greenway (Phase I) – currently under construction
- SR 707 Turn Lane (City of Stuart) – currently under construction
- Transit Depot design and construction in the City of Stuart– design “Expression of Interest” (EOI) due on 6/23/2010

Some other projects that are under construction both federally *and* State funded:

- Ferndale Avenue sidewalk – currently under construction
- Green River Parkway – currently under construction

Ms. Brotherton stated that the overall grant value for the five ARRA projects was approximately four (4) million dollars, which was one hundred percent funded, allowing great savings to the County. The two other projects presented have a grant value of approximately five point eight (5.8) million dollars.

Ms. Brotherton listed several upcoming projects; which are Federally, State and FTA funded:

- Commerce Avenue Sidewalk
- Bus Shelters
- City of Stuart Pedestrian Crosswalks
- CR 726 Resurfacing
- Dixie Highway Landscaping (Phase II)
- Indian River Drive Sidewalk
- Poinciana Gardens Sidewalk
- Ruhnke Street/Aster Lane Sidewalk
- Dixie Highway Drainage and Road Reconstruction
- Sunset Trail Drainage and Road Reconstruction

Commissioner Doug Smith mentioned that Martin County is a member of the Small County Coalition. [The Coalition supports programs that improve the financial viability and fiscal capacity

of Florida's local governments in small counties.] Commissioner Smith said that the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) assists securing funding for the types of projects mentioned in the presentation.

Ms. Rauth pointed out that the County currently has approximately a five million dollar back log in resurfacing projects, so the monetary assistance that the County receives from all of these programs really help in catching up with the back log.

Commissioner Smith suggested that the Chairman should send a letter to the Small County Coalition thanking them for the reference, and to outline the last two projects presented as something that we are applying for in a combined effort from both the Coalition and the County.

Ms. Brotherton added that resurfacing projects have been prioritized based on "the most-in-need" basis.

Chairman Mortell thanked both Ms. Rauth and Ms. Brotherton for the informative presentation. He highlighted that all of these projects have provided a number of jobs in the County during this recession.

E. RTO Interlocal Agreement Update

MEMO: temp10MPOa09.05

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided background. She stated that on February 18, 2010, the Joint Martin MPO/St. Lucie TPO Policy Board directed Staff to present an RTO Draft Interlocal Agreement to the individual MPO and TPO Boards for review at their next meetings, and to send the RTO Draft Interlocal Agreement to the respective counties and municipalities. Ms. Beltran said that on April 19, 2010, the MPO Policy Board approved the attached RTO Draft Interlocal Agreement. The following local entities also approved the attached RTO Draft Interlocal Agreement on the dates listed below:

City of Stuart City Commission	May 24, 2010
Martin County Board of County Commissioners	May 25, 2010
Martin Economic Council of Martin County, Inc.	May 25, 2010

Ms. Beltran informed that the Town of Sewall's Point Commission discussed this Interlocal Agreement at their June 8, 2010, Workshop, and voted to include it on the agenda for their June 22, 2010, Town Commission meeting.

Ms. Beltran continued to say that Staff received correspondence from Mr. Peter Buchwald, Executive Director of the St. Lucie TPO, stating that the RTO Draft Interlocal Agreement was discussed at the June 2nd St. Lucie TPO meeting. The TPO voted to postpone action on the draft agreement until the following had taken place (copy of the letter on file):

- Assistance from FDOT-District 4 for MPO-TPO staff expenses;
- Expenses not covered by FDOT-District 4 would be shared equally between the Martin MPO and St. Lucie TPO;
- Delete references to a "Common Service Plan" and a "Ride Guide"; and
- Discussion of Draft Interlocal Agreement at the next Joint Martin MPO-St. Lucie TPO Board Meeting.

Ms. Beltran said that the next Joint Board meeting was scheduled for August 19th, hosted by Martin County.

Commissioner Smith asked Ms. Tanis, who attended the June 2nd TPO meeting, to provide a summation of this meeting. Ms. Tanis stated that the TPO Board did agree to postpone recommending moving this Interlocal Agreement forward to the respective bodies, the Cities and the Counties. She was unsure as to the ride guide information. Ms. Tanis said that there was discussion about the potential expenses that would be related to staff hours invested.

Chairman Mortell asked Ms. Tanis if it was her impression that the TPO Board was deliberating on issues that would be addressed by an RTO Board rather than discussing the *creation* of an RTO Board. Ms. Tanis replied in the affirmative and said that this was very well stated by Chairman Mortell. Ms. Tanis agreed that, on behalf of FDOT, she would take this comment back to the TPO Board for its consideration.

Chairman Mortell thanked Ms. Tanis for her assistance in moving the RTO subject forward.

F. Indian Street Bridge Project Update

MEMO: temp10MPOa09.06

Ms. Beltran said that Design/Build Team members were among the presents. Ms. Beltran introduced Project Construction Engineering Inspector (CEI) Mr. George Denti from the Cardno-TBE Group.

Mr. Denti proceeded with the update. He stated that a Public Information Workshop held on May 29th, and there were over two hundred people in attendance. Written comments were solicited from the attendees. Handouts containing the questions asked by the workshop attendees and the replies given from the Design/Build Team were distributed to the Members for their review (copy on file).

Mr. Denti stated that the entire Design/Build Team is in attendance today: Mr. Dale Walker, DOT's Construction Project Manager of the Treasure Coast; Mr. Jeff Hutchins and Mr. Brian Sparks, Project Managers for Archer Western Construction; Ms. Betsy Jeffers, DOT's Project Manager of Design; Ms. Kim Holland, Consultant Manager from Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc.; and Ms. Beth Zsoka from Quest Corporation of America, the Public Information Officer for the Indian Street Bridge Project.

Mr. Denti commented about the schedule of the project. He said that, "We had planned on starting construction contingent upon receiving a permit, in July. The Notice of Intent from the South Florida Water Management permit was in fact issued, and shortly afterwards challenged. Those challenges have taken place and have stopped the issuance of the permit until that issue can be resolved. The Water Management District has elected not to throw out those challenges and that it will go to the administrative hearing process. Martin County and the Department of Transportation have gotten together and decided to defend this particular position together. My understanding is that they have developed a strategy in which they are hiring a law firm to defend such, splitting those costs, and will aggressively pursue getting this (project) moved on. As I understand (the process), they are asking for an accelerated hearing process,...it sounds like a minimum of... three to four months accelerated, six months in a real nice arena, twelve months in a worst case scenario. This

could delay the start of the project as much as that. We are preparing such and will mitigate accordingly, we are not giving up, we are going to stand by...but the project is still solvent.” “The second part [of the issue]...is that the Department of Transportation and FHWA prevailed in the lawsuit held against them, yet, it has been recently challenged by the Plaintiffs. That challenge or appeal is going to the Federal Courts in Atlanta. Meanwhile, they have issued an emergency injunction request. The Department of Transportation is defending that and has responded to that. We are waiting on the outcome...”

Ms. Holland proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation on the project (copy on file). Ms. Holland provided some background. She said that on April 19, 2010, the DOT, Martin County and the Construction and Consulting Team presented a project update to the MPO. Following the presentation, the Team was asked to provide a follow up. Ms. Holland stated that the presentation focuses on a summary of the Public Information Workshop, which was held on April 29, 2010 at the Palm City Community Center. The attendees were able to review renderings of the new bridge, roadway plans, and watch a project video. Ms. Holland stated that of the forty-nine comments received, ten were related to the location of the sidewalk. As a result of those comments, and with extensive coordination with Martin County and the CRA, the sidewalk location will be adjusted. [There were two slides showing the original design, and the new configuration of the sidewalk – (copy on file)]. Ms. Holland said that from SW Cornell Avenue to St. Lucie Shores Drive, on the north side of the roadway, the original design reflected the sidewalk located near the roadway. The design will be adjusted to reflect an eight-foot sidewalk near the property line (away from the roadway) from SW Cornell Avenue to SW Butler Avenue; and, from SW Butler Avenue to the St. Lucie Shores Drive, the sidewalk will form a loop around the drainage system. Ms. Holland stated that, as Mr. Denti mentioned before, the construction schedule has been adjusted to reflect a two-month shift, in anticipation to the completion of the design and permitting, in the start of the Phase I Bridge and Roadway Construction. The project completion date has been moved also to July of 2012.

A video presentation depicting the bridge, the lighting, landscaping and all of the surrounding area amenities, closed Ms. Holland’s participation.

Commissioner Hutchinson reiterated a question she had raised at the City Commission meeting regarding having a sign on the Stuart side of the bridge. Ms. Holland replied that she has contacted the City of Stuart, she has received a graphic of the design they want for their sign, and she will be coordinating the details of the sign placement with Mr. Dan Hudson, City Manager.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if DOT would have a plan for refurbishing the green mast arms placed on the bridge, a plan to restore them to their original color, or a plan to prevent new ones from fading. Mr. Denti responded that DOT has recognized some of those premature failures and has changed some of the criteria for the new ones. He said that for those that have failed prematurely, DOT has gone back to the manufacturer in an attempt to get the manufacturer to back up their product; however, they have not been successful in every attempt. DOT is trying to change the design and make it more robust. Ms. Rauth added that, in recognizing that there are problems with the green mast arms, DOT is requiring that if green mast arm are placed, then the County has to agree to maintain the color themselves, otherwise the mast arms would only be plain galvanized.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Smith said that in view of the many challenges the Indian Street Bridge project is facing, of the great legal expenses incurred relative to these challenges, and of the fact that it has been unable to provide jobs as quickly as it was anticipated, he made a Motion to send a letter to the Administrative Judge handling the case requesting an expedited review, on behalf of the MPO. Seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Chairman Mortell said that MPO should ask legal counsel and ensure that there is no ex-parte communication with the Administrative Hearing person. Commissioner Smith added to his motion that this letter should be sent at the time the Legal Department deems it pertinent. Mr. Denti advised the Members to be cautious as it pertains to sending correspondence for the case. Commissioner Smith responded that there should not be any harm in requesting an expedited review; additionally, the legal process is costing a lot of money. There being no further comments the motion passed unanimously.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

13. NOTES (on file)

Beth Beltran stated that the notes include a letter from FHWA approving the Martin MPO FY 2010-11 / 2011-12 UPWP.

14. NEXT MEETING

- August 19, 2010 – Joint MPO/TPO Board, hosted by Martin County
- September 20, 2010 – Regular Martin MPO Board

15. ADJOURN

Commissioner Ciampi made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Hayes. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Recorded and Prepared by:



Margaret Brassard, Temporary Assistant for MPO Manager
and Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II



Date

Approved by:



Mayor Michael Mortell, Chairman



Date