

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

MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 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

Chairwoman Joan Moore called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Joan Moore, Chairwoman
Kevin B. Edwards
Robert Taylor
Jim Mottram (arrived at 5:17p.m.)
Dee Spera
Ken Natoli
Officer Dan Pantel (arrived at 5:05p.m.)
John Mildenberger
John-Mark Palacios, FDOT (Non-voting Member)

Excused Members

Hal Forslund
Jim Hudson

Members Not In Attendance:

Bill Martz, Vice-Chair
Joseph DeFronzo
Officer James C. Brooks
Eric Cerniglia
Barbara Timmerman

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Claudette Mahan, Associate Transit Planner
Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, requested adding another Item to the agenda. It would be for the presentation of the NOW Visioning Report by Mr. Edward Erfurt, Urban Designer from the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA or Agency).

Mr. Ken Natoli moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Kevin Edwards. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES:

- May 10, 2010 – Regular BPAC Meeting Minutes
- August 09, 2010 – Subcommittee Summary

Mr. Robert Taylor moved to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Natoli. Motion carried unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. NOW Visioning Report by Mr. Edward Erfurt

Ms. Beth Beltran, Martin MPO Administrator introduced Mr. Edward Erfurt from the CRA.

Mr. Erfurt said that the Martin County CRA is pleased to provide this report of current findings related to the community needs in each of the County's seven (7) CRAs. The findings are a result of a series of two-days workshop held in each Community Redevelopment Area. Mr. Erfurt stated that in conjunction with the interactive workshops, they invited Mr. Dan Burden. [Mr. Burden is one of the nation's most recognized authorities on walkability, bicycle and pedestrian programs, street corridor and intersection design, traffic flow and calming, road diets, and other planning elements that affect roadway environments.]

Mr. Erfurt provided background and said that when the CRAs were first initiated, the Agency, through outreach and significant citizen input, created a vision plan for each area based upon the desires of the citizens at that time. Each Vision Plan provides a roadmap of projects targeted to improve the areas' physical environment and boost the economy of the area. The issue, caused by a severe change in market direction, has revealed the fragility of such plans. A change in revenue stream, caused by external circumstances, such as the market devaluation of property values, has demonstrated that projects and plans written some ten (10) years ago do not now have the same prospect of completion according to the previously planned timeframe.

The term NOW Visioning has been used as a way of describing the present community planning needs. NOW, within the scope of this report stands for Neighborhood Opportunities Workshop. This report was completed in August, 2010.

Mr. Erfurt stated that all NOW Visioning information can be accessed via website following the link: <http://www.nowvisioning.com>. He continued to say that the Agency is looking into implementing projects in the coming years so they are looking at where they are going to be

spending their redevelopment dollars, and seeking grant money. The Agency identified key target areas in each of the seven CRAs; and this is where the Agency would be looking to do projects. All of the target areas have been graphically laid out in the report. Mr. Erfurt said that the Agency did not go through a decision-making process, but through a discovery process to identify where the Agency would be using their resources. The Agency would be going through the decision-making process on *projects*. Mr. Erfurt encouraged BPAC Members to provide their input and to provide their assistance in this regard; on how the Agency should be doing this. He said that this would give the Members a chance to have a positive impact in all of the improvements the Agency is making.

Mr. Erfurt pointed out some specific exercises the communities went through during the workshops. He mentioned some of the input provided by the participating public, and discussed some general comments from the Indiantown CRA that may change existing projects and plans such as opposition to lane expansions and right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions.

Mr. Erfurt concluded his presentation by requesting that the BPAC Members would take a look at the NOW Visioning Report and provide their input.

Mr. Erfurt stated that comments such as Mr. Taylor's comments to the Engineering Department and to the CRA are welcome. He said that the input obtained by the BPAC is making an impact.

Mr. Taylor commented that he participated in the CRA workshop and he was very pleased that the cycling and pedestrian issues were addressed, and they were mostly in tune with Mr. Burden's recommendations.

Chairwoman Moore stated that the educational component is very much needed throughout the community. Mr. Erfurt responded that things like education, signage and road striping are among the things the Agency has the ability to do. As for the bigger projects, the County is requiring that all of them would accommodate first the pedestrian, then the bicycles, and thirdly the cars.

Ms. Beltran asked how a bicyclist would handle a situation where the bike lanes were interrupted by intermittent sections of the road without bike lanes in a CRA. Mr. Erfurt responded that the rider would have the choice of riding with traffic or to dismount and become a pedestrian. He said that this situation would be for short stretches and that the Agency is looking at it in each CRA and working on appropriate amenities and signage for bicycle transitions, to address this issue.

Chairwoman Moore commented that the commingling of bicyclist and drivers on the road was a hazardous and dangerous situation, difficult to negotiate.

Ms. Beltran mentioned that the BPAC is working on a Master Plan. She said it was a good idea to have uniform signage in the County. Ms. Beltran stated that MPO Staff would like to have the communication opened to work with CRA Staff towards this idea. Mr. Erfurt responded that CRA would be very interested in working with the MPO.

Ms. Dee Spera requested a status report on the project presented to BPAC by Ms. Bonnie Landry (Community Development Specialist) at the March 08, 2010 meeting inviting artists from the

Treasure Coast to submit designs for bicycle racks to be placed strategically throughout the Old Palm City CRA. Mr. Erfurt replied that it's been taking over a year to get the artists paid.

Mr. Taylor reiterated that the cooperation among the CRAs and the MPO is very important, as is obtaining input for the advisory committees.

Mr. Mottram asked how we [BPAC Members] could follow through on the artist bicycle rack design project. Mr. Erfurt responded that the Agency would like to hear from the BPAC regardless of the kinds of concerns they may have so he suggested making phone calls, writing letters and attending CRA meetings. Ms. Beltran asked Mr. Erfurt to provide the CRA Members' information to be distributed to the BPAC Members. Mr. Erfurt assented.

Mr. Taylor invited the Members to attend their local CRA meetings and their local Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) meetings as well.

Chairwoman Moore thanked Mr. Erfurt for the presentation.

B. BPAC Membership Appointments and Roster Review

MEMO: temp11BPACa01.01

Ms. Beltran provided background. She said that the By-Laws of the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization include provisions describing the desired membership of its Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The By-laws state that the, "BPAC shall consist of 15 voting members appointed by the MPO" (section 1.03 C. (3) of the Martin MPO By-Laws revised September 21, 2009). Ms. Beltran said that Staff has posted three BPAC vacancies for at least two consecutive months. We received an application from Mr. Edward Vossen to fill the BPAC vacancy representing the Local Business Merchants, and an application from Mr. Rick Yost to fill the BPAC vacancy representing the Parent of a School-Aged Child. Both applications are attached in the agenda package (copies on file).

Ms. Beltran asked Mr. Vossen and Mr. Yost to introduce themselves to the Members.

Ms. Spera moved appointment of Mr. Edward Vossen as the Local Business Merchant Representative, and Mr. Rick Yost as the Parent of a School-Aged Child Representative, to the Martin MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. John Mildenerger. Then motion carried unanimously.

In reviewing the roster for the BPAC, Mr. Edwards commented that there are various members that he has never seen attending any of the meetings. Mr. Edwards asked if it was a requirement to have a representative from the Council on Aging, for which Ms. Barbara Timmerman was currently appointed to. Ms. Beltran replied that she would review the By-Laws requirements. Ms. Beltran pointed out that Ms. Timmerman was an Ex-Officio, a non-voting member of the Committee. The Committee directed Staff to follow up with Ms. Timmerman.

Chairman Moore informed that Mr. Bill Martz has resigned from the County Park and Recreation Department; and as a Park and Recreation appointee he would no longer be a Member of BPAC.

Mr. Mottram said that he has requested sending Mr. Boyd Lawrence [former Martin MPO Planner II] a thank you letter on behalf of BPAC. Chairwoman Moore replied that she will send him a letter.

Ms. Spera said that she is the appointee of Commissioner Susan L. Valliere, but as of November, 2010 Commissioner Valliere will no longer be serving. Ms. Spera wanted to know whether she will remain a Member of BPAC after November. Ms. Beltran replied that she will research the situation further and will provide the Committee with an answer.

Mr. Kevin Edwards said that he is the City of Stuart appointee; however, he is not a resident of Stuart though he works for the City of Stuart. Ms. Beltran said that Staff would follow up with the membership concerns the Members have raised.

C. Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

MEMO: temp11BPACa01.02

Ms. Beltran introduced this Item and provided background. She stated that at the August 9th BPAC Subcommittee meeting, MPO staff created a Summary Report of the meeting for the benefits of those Members who were unable to attend. Ms. Beltran said that during the meeting Staff recommended that the Committee should consider identifying the goals, objectives and measures of effectiveness, as the first step in the creation of the Master Plan. The Subcommittee also proposed using the recently updated Bicycle Facilities Map as the base map, to which further information could be added to generate a more informative map.

Ms. Beltran informed that she drafted a list of goals and objectives for the Members' consideration, and it is included in the agenda package (copy on file). Goals and objectives would be clearly identified before moving on to the establishment of the measure of effectiveness. Ms. Beltran said that also included in the agenda package was an outline made by Mr. Robert Taylor from research he did on goals and objectives from other Counties in Florida. Additionally, included were some maps from the 2030 RL RTP.

Mr. Ken Natoli mentioned that the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan contains information that addresses bicycle/pedestrian-friendly goals.

Mr. Natoli asked if BPAC Members would see the 2035 RL RTP Update presentation *before* the plan is adopted. Ms. Beltran responded that the revisions to the Needs Plan of the 2035 RL RTP as well as the Transportation Alternatives and the Financial Analysis will be presented to the Joint MPO/TPO Policy Board on October 21, 2010 at the Blake Library in Stuart at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Beltran said that she could bring an update of the 2035 RL RTP to the upcoming November 8th BPAC regular meeting.

Chairwoman Moore stated that she liked the Draft Goals and Objectives presented by Staff.

Mr. Taylor suggested that Goal III Objective A "Review bicycle and pedestrian facilities on construction and resurfacing projects." should be more specific by adding perhaps something along the lines of "prior to approval, during its initial design phase, or prior to implementation".

Mr. Taylor suggested that Staff would mirror some language used by Palm Beach County such as, "Identification of desired travel corridors for bicycles and pedestrians".

Mr. Natoli stated that he has created his own list of goals and that they were ambitious goals. Mr. Natoli proceeded to read the list to the Members. The first goal was, "Martin County shall be the most pedestrian and bicycle friendly place in the State." Mr. Edwards stated that there are measures for that as Tallahassee is currently known as the Most Bicycle Friendly town. Mr. Natoli said that there are planners that identified that best and worst rated places. Mr. Palacios concurred that it was obtainable.

Mr. Natoli stated that lofty goals are key because they show the real intent of the Committee and as such, they would bring this clear message to the Commissioners. Mr. Natoli read his second goal, "Martin County shall be a walkable community. (Picture to describe) This includes mixed use, pedestrian friendly communities, be they new or redeveloped." Mr. Taylor stated that walkability to and from school could be tailing along this goal, as well as the reinforcement of school safety.

Mr. Natoli finished reading his list. Staff obtained a copy (on file).

[Mr. Mildenerger left at 6:00 p.m. to attend a previous engagement.]

Chairwoman Moore suggested that Staff should incorporate Mr. Natoli's goals into the draft list of goals and objectives created by Staff. She said that some of the goals may overlap; Mr. Palacios stated that some of Staff goals may very well fall under Mr. Natoli's goals.

Mr. Edwards stated that a very basic measurement of success and an objective technique would be to analyze total miles of roadway versus total miles of roadway with bike lanes. If this ratio is improving, then it would be an indicative that the goal is working.

Members concurred that both lists of goals were very good.

Mr. Edwards brought up another issue for discussion. He asked whether Members would like the County and the Municipalities to consider sidewalks on both sides of the street instead of sidewalks only on one side of the street. Mr. Edwards said that perhaps after discussion, the Members would like this suggestion to be added as another objective in the Plan. He said that it is his understanding that the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Stuart, and perhaps other Comp Plans as well, require sidewalks on only one side of the streets. Mr. Natoli commented that it is a good suggestion but it is contextual because it is an expense to do it. Mr. Natoli stated that it makes sense for the City of Stuart but perhaps it may not be an appropriate suggestion for all neighborhoods. Mr. Edwards responded that it is indeed hard to retrofit a neighborhood; however, with new developments it would be a great opportunity to makes this a requirement of the developers. Mr. Natoli concurred that it should be included as an objective of the Master Plan. Mr. Taylor stated that its wording should include "whenever possible" to provide flexibility to this requirement and cover situations where there might be ROW issues encountered by the developer.

Mr. Edwards continued to say that it is imperative to consider adding more sidewalks to our streets. He mentioned situations in St. Lucie County where several children on their way to the school bus stops have been hit by cars. Mr. Edwards said, "Putting it [requiring more sidewalks] in their Plan [Comprehensive Plan] puts it in their [Martin County government and municipalities] court".

Ms. Spera concurred with Mr. Edwards' recommendation. She is an avid walker and said that it would be great to have the option to walk on the side of the street that offers the most shade; and this would only be possible if there are sidewalks on both sides of the street. She also said that she would like to see language requiring to add buffer zones from the street to the sidewalk that would provide protection to the pedestrian from the traffic, whenever possible. This would increase the safety of the pedestrians using the sidewalks.

Mr. Natoli stated that adding pictures along with the suggested wordings would help create a better understanding of the goals the Committee is aspiring to.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that he would like to see more of the component of educating the public in the subject of safety on the road, as well as adding more signage on the roads. The other item he feels is important is adding more bicycle lanes.

Ms. Spera stated that along with the topic of education, there should be consideration as to how to address public concerns such as the public reaction to the article "A sidewalk to nowhere". Ms. Spera said that there should be a system in place that would provide responses to the public when topics of interest to BPAC are being targeted. The public needs to be educated about what and why these projects are being done.

On a different note, Officer Pantel said that the Sheriff Department has some safety products to give away, such as bicycle helmets, bike racks, safety lights, backpacks with reflectors, etc. This was part of the Safe Routes to Schools program from FDOT. He informed that this would become part of the Sheriff's bike program. He offered to share the safety products and suggested that they can be give-aways during BPAC events.

Officer Pantel commented that the surface of the multimodal path of Green River Parkway was apparently been made with concrete. Mr. Edwards stated that this Committee was told that the majority of the surfacing of this multimodal path would be asphalt and that only the most southern portion of the path would be concrete with distress joints. Officer Pantel requested that Staff would confirm this information and would let the Committee know. Staff took note.

Officer Pantel stated that when the multipurpose paths are made straight they are safer and better to ride on; sharp turns on the paths are not as safe.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairwoman Moore had two comments. The first one was to inform the Committee that she attended the Treasure Coast Bicycle Association – Labor Day Ride event representing BPAC and she had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Adam Fetterman, Candidate for State Representative District 81, among other members of the community that support efforts benefitting bicyclists and pedestrians. The

second comment was to inform that the contact person in the Philip De Berard Law Office, who was pledging to provide funding assistance for the Build-a Bike event next year, is no longer there. She requested permission from the Committee to contact the office directly and ask if they would like to continue to provide funding assistance for this event. The Members concurred unanimously.

Mr. Natoli requested that a projector be available to present some aerial maps during the next BPAC meeting. Staff reminded the Members that the next meeting would be the subcommittee meeting held in the Back Room of the Commission Chambers of the County Administrative Building. Mr. Natoli said that the aerial maps would be presented during the regular BPAC meeting.

Chairwoman stated that, for those who have not been attending the subcommittee meeting as it is not required, the latest meeting was the most productive and energizing subcommittee meeting she has ever participated in. She encouraged the Members to participate in upcoming subcommittee meetings. Ms. Beltran added that the drafts and material presented in the meeting today resulted from that last subcommittee meeting.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Joseph Lenartiene and Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene were in attendance representing visually impaired pedestrians. Ms. Lenartiene addressed the Board to say that the reason she came to the meeting was because this group discusses topics that are very dear in her heart. She said, "I had an incident and, you know, I was referred to you [the BPAC] as may be for some help with that. If this necessitates for me to apply for membership to the committee I'll be happy to do it as a Disabled Pedestrian. What you mentioned, that US 1 and roads like it are really scary, but for some of us, walking up and down those roads and crossing US 1 or crossing Kanner Highway, crossing, you know, Monterey Road, is a way of life. I live off of Kanner Highway...in the stretch right in between US 1 and Monterey Road, and I was walking towards the Publix a couple of months ago back in May; I was actually on the other side of the road at the time in front of the Asian Fusion Restaurant, my seeing-eye dog and I were both struck by a car. It pushed me down and dragged her, ultimately destroying her harness. Her harness probably saved her life. And it [the car] ran over my right leg. In that very same driveway, a few weeks ago, we saw a bicycle versus vehicle accident; so if sighted cyclists are not safe I am not safe either. I wanted to come and just talk to you guys about may be some short term solutions such as signage, you know, yield to pedestrians; long term solutions such as (one thing I have not heard brought up in the Plan and I would love to see) audible traffic signals at the intersections themselves ...also doing wider sidewalks so when the trucks turn and they jump the curb you are not in danger of being hit. I almost had that happen a couple of weeks ago. Just the signage and yield to pedestrians so that they [the drivers] are aware and they actually stop, because in my case she [the driver who hit her] was looking left but she never even looked right...If it helps for me to become a member of the Committee, if I can serve in any way, that's great..."

Staff made notice that Ms. Lenartiene also attended the LCBTD Public Hearing held on August 23, 2010.

Chairwoman Moore thanked Ms. Lenartiene for taking the time to come and educate the Committee.

Mr. Natoli asked if Ms. Lenartiene's accident happened at the driveway going into the shopping center where the Asian Fusion Restaurant is. Ms. Lenartiene replied in the affirmative.

A discussion ensued as to what the best short time solution would be in order to prevent more accidents in that location.

Mr. Lenartiene said that it is difficult for people to realize that she is a blind person with a seeing-eye dog; most people assume that she is a woman just walking her dog. She suggested that another short term solution to the problem, especially because there is also a turn lane on the crossing, could be placing pedestrian flags that would indicate that the pedestrian is intending to cross the intersection.

Mr. Palacios commented that the audible traffic signals are possible upon request. He advised the Members to place a formal request through FDOT, if it is a State road, by providing the names of the crossing. Ms. Lenartiene was very happy to know that there was a viable option to place audible traffic signals. Ms. Beltran said that this could be made as a recommendation to the MPO Board. Ms. Beltran informed that the next MPO Board is scheduled for September 20th.

Ms. Spera made a motion recommending that the MPO Policy Board would write a letter requesting FDOT place audible crosswalks for the intersections in Kanner Highway and US 1, and Kanner Highway and Monterey Road. Seconded by Mr. Mottram. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mottram was interested in knowing how the Committee could find out if there are other crossings that need to be looked into. Ms. Lenartiene said that she works with an Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Mr. Curt Seeley, who is a teacher in Martin County schools. She said that he would be a good contact as he professionally orients the blind people in Martin County, and he is very exposed to issues of this nature. Ms. Spera suggested inviting Mr. Seeley to attend a BPAC meeting.

Chairwoman Moore suggested a motion to appoint Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene as the Representative for the Person with a Disability position, pending that she would turn in the Membership Application on time. Mr. Natoli moved the motion. Seconded by Mr. Mottram. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Palacios stated that there are two different kinds of audible traffic signals. One kind would just add audible features to the existing pedestrian signals and may not necessarily change the traffic light configurations. Another kind of audible traffic signal would change traffic lights to all red, stopping traffic in all directions while the pedestrians cross. Mr. Palacios said that the second type might require a lot of "persuading". Ms. Lenartiene said, "I personally prefer the standard audible traffic signal. The reason being that parallel traffic is an excellent guide, we use that a lot to make sure we are making a straight crossing and that we are not veering a diagonal. So I would personally rather not have the parallel traffic stopped. I would rather just be able to know for sure when it is ok to go because then I can take the measures I need, like poking my cane out".

Officer Pantel distributed the samples of the safety products he had mentioned earlier, to the attendees.

Staff gave Ms. Lenartiene a Membership Application. Ms. Lenartiene filled it out and turned it in to Staff at the meeting.

9. NOTES

None

10. NEXT MEETING

- October 11, 2010 (Subcommittee Meeting) Note: The location for the subcommittee meeting will be in the Back Room of the Commission Chambers, 1st Floor
- November 08, 2010 (Regular Meeting)

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Recorded and Prepared by:

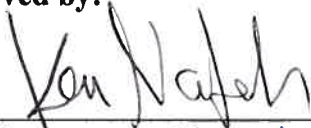


Lisandra Bonet, Administrative Specialist II

Nov. 08, 2010

Date

Approved by:



~~Joan Moore, BPAC Chair~~ Ken Natoli

10/8/2010

Date