

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Martin County Airport Maintenance Building Conference Room
1895 Flying Fortress Way
Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Wednesday, September 4, 2013 @ 1:30 pm
Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sam Amerson called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Sam Amerson
Samantha Lovelady
Joe Capra, (Alt.)
Stuart Trent
Mark Cocco
Terry Rauth
Chon Wong
Kim Delaney
Percy Wilson
George Stokus

Members Excused:

Arlene Tanis
Paul Nicoletti

Members Absent

Bridget Kean (ex-officio)
Corine Williams (ex-officio)

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Bonnie Landry, Senior Planner
Lukas Lambert, Associate Transit Planner
Margaret Brassard, Administrative Assistant II
Murriah Dekle, Planner II

Others Present:

Andrew Nunes, American Consultants of South Florida
Newton Wilson, FDOT

A quorum was present for this meeting.

Ms. Beth Beltran advised that there have been quorum issues with some of the advisory committees, and the MPO is going to copy a practice used by the Palm Beach MPO. An attendance sheet will be included in each agenda package showing member attendance for the fiscal year. Mr. Amerson advised that the policy is that if a member has a number of unexcused absences that it may be determined that the person should be replaced. Ms. Beltran added that the number of unexcused absences is three, but staff understands that there can be extenuating circumstances. Ms. Beltran stated members should call or email by the end of the day the day before the meeting (or at a minimum a few hours prior to the meeting) to be considered excused.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Amerson stated that item 5E, the 2010 Draft FHWA Adjusted Urban Boundary, will be added to the agenda, but this item will be presented at the beginning of the agenda items.

Mr. George Stokus made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samantha Lovelady. There was no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. George Stokus to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2013, meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Terry Rauth. There were no changes or discussions. The motion passed unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

E. 2010 DRAFT FHWA ADJUSTED URBAN BOUNDARY

Ms. Beltran advised that the Adjusted Urban Boundary map was approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in December, and the FDOT District Office submitted it to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Mr. Newton Wilson of FDOT-District IV provided FHWA's comments, stating that two of the original criteria had been removed since December, namely the inclusion of entire municipalities and the potential growth over the next five to ten years. These changes resulted in the current map recommended by FHWA which shows a reduced boundary area (pink) and current Urban Boundary (yellow). Ms. Samantha Lovelady clarified for the committee that much of the removed section is the County's Secondary Service Boundary. Mr. Capra asked if the pink area in Indiantown was the old Indiantown Development of Regional Impact (DRI). Mr. Wilson stated that it is the DRI. Mr. Capra felt that the Indiantown DRI was approved by the Community Development Department (CDD) and that it should remain active. Ms. Lovelady said that the new guidelines do not include anticipated growth. She directed everyone's attention to SR 714 and the AgTEC, stating it was removed because of the new criteria which does not consider future population. Mr. Capra advised that it will need to be explained to the people who invested funds to keep it active. Ms. Lovelady stated that the timetable for the Indiantown DRI would be in the future. Ms.

Landry added that it doesn't affect the Urban Service Boundary for the County, this is FDOT's Boundary. Ms. Beltran stated that FDOT is seeking approval from the TAC to move this matter to the MPO Board on September 16, 2013. Ms. Rauth asked if the motion is to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Beltran concurred.

Ms. Terry Rauth made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the County Administrator, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to sign a letter of support for the proposed changes to the 2010 Draft FHWA Adjusted Urban Boundary Map. Ms. Lovelady provided a second to the motion. No further discussion was held. The motion passed unanimously.

A. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT – ROLL FORWARD

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Roll Forward amendment is requested annually by FDOT to allow for the approved funds from the previous Fiscal Year (FY) to be rolled over to the current FY TIP. This year's roll forward funds include the replacement of the handrails on the Evans Crary Bridge, the passing lanes on SR 710 west of Indiantown and transit funds [Federal funds Section 5307 for capital and operating].

Mr. Mark Cocco made a motion to approve the TIP Roll Forward. Mr. Joe Capra provided a second to the Motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. FY15 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES

Ms. Beltran stated that approval of the List of Project Priorities (LOPP) occurs annually. The recommended LOPP will be reviewed and approved by the MPO Policy Board and submitted to District IV. Upon Board approval, District IV will use the LOPP as the basis for the Tentative Work Program which will be presented in November at the joint advisory committee meeting. Ms. Beltran went on to explain the LOPP process, stating that MPO staff met with FDOT and local government staff informally to develop the list. She advised that the LOPP has changed significantly over the last few years. Previously the LOPP consisted of only roadway capacity projects; whereas today the list contains other types of projects. Ms. Beltran went on to say that State Road 714 was the project listed in the Congestion Management Plan (CMP) update a couple of years ago. She stated that the CMP is a working document which results in small corridor projects that ultimately would be listed in a future TIP. This was evidenced last year when \$600,000 became available for the intersection improvements on Citrus Boulevard and SR 714. She added that this corridor isn't scheduled in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for capacity improvements until FY2030 so these improvements will significantly improve mobility until those improvements can be made. Ms. Beltran noted that the next two items on the list are resurfacing projects. Ms. Beltran stated that the County Commission has recently discussed the shortage in the resurfacing budget and there are certain

roadways which would be eligible to receive the STP funds which are 100% funded. Ms. Beltran stated that the two roads being considered for these funds are Beach Road and High Meadows from Martin Downs Boulevard to Martin Highway. Ms. Beltran stated that the fourth item on the list is SR A-1-A on Hutchinson Island. Last year they requested beautification items which included landscaping. However, the landscaping was not an allowable use of these funds. Therefore this year the request is for lighting and other roadway improvements. Ms. Beltran stated that project five was the only capacity project on the list, which is widening Cove Road from Kanner Highway to US 1 which was identified in the 2035 LRTP. Number six on the list is the Murphy Road Bridge replacement. The FDOT has deemed the bridge functionally obsolete and has placed weight limits on it. Ms. Beltran stated that by placing it on this list, it may qualify the project for STP funding. If not, it at least will be brought to the attention of the Department so they see the significance of this project to the MPO Board. Ms. Beltran stated that item number seven came before this committee in February as part of the District I SR 710 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study presentation where they discussed needing concurrence from Martin MPO as their project ran approximately 200 feet into Martin. She advised that part of the project being considered is re-aligning SR 714 because there is a dangerous curve. District I is considering a realignment that would connect State Road 714 to County Road 15A in Okeechobee County. Ms. Beltran stated that the final two items were funded through the planning phase: the US 1 Corridor Retrofit and the Congestion Management Update for FY2014. She stated that she is placing them on the list in the event that there are recommendations that may be eligible for STP funding. Ms. Beltran reminded the committee that the US 1 Corridor Retrofit is the signature project in the 2035 LRTP. She noted that currently there is a contract between the State and consultant Tindale Oliver to review mobility improvements along U.S.1 without raising the capacity. Ms. Beltran stated that a meeting is being held soon to discuss this project as well that the upcoming CMP Update.

Ms. Beltran briefly covered the Transportation Alternatives Program, noting that there are funds allocated and awarded in FY2015-16. She advised that FDOT is still reviewing the applications for the projects which were submitted this year. The results of this review should be forthcoming. Ms. Beltran opened the floor for questions noting that staff is seeking approval of this item to go to the MPO Board.

Ms. Terry Rauth added that the Dixie Highway bike lanes, from Saturn Street to U. S. 1 are currently out for bid as the funds became available on July 1, 2013. She advised that they were unsuccessful in getting a multi-modal path for that area as there is no right-of-way (ROW). Ms. Beltran advised that this project was bumped up a year as resurfacing will be done at the same time as the bike lanes are constructed. Ms. Rauth stated that the County will resurface from Cove Road to US 1 utilizing a Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant. Mr. Amerson noted that he was of the opinion that the sidewalks on old Dixie were

already funded. Ms. Beltran believes that funds for those two projects were switched so the Dixie Highway bike lanes could be constructed at the same time as the resurfacing. Mr. Amerson stated that staff is seeking approval of this matter to move on to the MPO Board. Mr. Joe Capra stated that he would need to abstain from this vote.

A motion by Mr. Mark Cocco was made to approve the FY 2015 List of Project Priorities. Mr. George Stokus provided a second to the motion. The vote was called, and with no objections, the motion passed 9-0-1 with Mr. Capra abstaining.

C. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) UPDATE – SCOPE OF SERVICES

Ms. Bonnie Landry reminded the committee that the CMP is applying strategies to improve performance on roads and the process is in place to provide accurate information on the system, while accessing alternatives to meet the local and State needs. She advised that development of this process should result in a multi-modal system. The process is required for counties with more than 200,000. Ms. Landry advised that in 2011, the Martin MPO updated their CMP to be more of a living document, producing recommendations which can be implemented in a smaller timeframe. She advised that this new system divides the CMP into two tiers; the first is the selection of the area, while tier two is the operational analysis resulting in recommendations. Ms. Landry stated that the Draft scope before the committee is to hire a consultant to perform the operational analysis. She stated that tier one was drafted by staff containing the area from East Ocean Drive and Monterey Road. Ms. Landry provided photographs of pedestrians crossing East Ocean Drive which demonstrated a challenging intersection. The crosswalk at East Ocean and Monterey is challenging because of a double left turning lane which creates a wide area to cross before the light changes. She stated that to avoid that crosswalk issue, pedestrians often cross in the center of East Ocean between two traffic signals. Ms. Beltran added that traffic from Monterey Road turning right on red onto East Ocean also can be a hazard for pedestrians. Ms. Landry stated that many of Martin's roads are built for cars not pedestrians, cyclists or persons utilizing mobility devices, i.e. walkers, scooters etc. She provided a map showing the vast mix uses in this area such as residential, medical facilities, churches/synagogues and businesses. She advised that this mix use is conducive to alternative transportation and prime for the analysis. She advised that FDOT now has a Level of Service (LOS) rating system for bicycles, pedestrians and transit. This study will utilize this approved rating system and aid in the analysis of the transportation facilities for these modes. The study will result in potential project recommendations that could ultimately appear in the TIP. Ms. Landry stated that ultimately people will feel safer using alternative modes of transportation and less apt to use their vehicle to these local services. Mr. Stokus stated that he crosses East Ocean on his bicycle almost daily when he bikes to work. He added that he was struck by a vehicle but he is of the opinion that the

problem is that the speeds are too high, and they should not allow people to turn right on red at that location. Ms. Landry stated that a road diet slows traffic as the smaller road would provide a visual cue to the lower speed. Discussion about mid-road crosswalks was held and it was determined that Monterey Road has the same issue as Ocean in that people cross from the north side of Monterey Road to go to the library, bank or other facilities and there is no safe place to cross. Ms. Landry added that a mid-block crossing can provide a safe place or refuse for people who cannot get across the entire roadway. It was confirmed that a mid-block crossing would be similar to the one in the City of Stuart across from the Courthouse which has visual cues that it is a pedestrian crossing. Mr. Amerson stated that it would be good to know where the people are coming from and going to, as well as improving the transit system to have a shuttle of some sort to offset people unsafely walking in undesignated areas. Mr. Lambert advised that there are seven transit stops from Monterey Road on Ocean Drive. Mr. Stokus stated that the vehicle traffic he sees appears to be transient; while the pedestrians he sees appears to be employed residents crossing the streets running errands. He believes that a raised block will make the area safer. Ms. Landry concurred. Mr. Amerson stated that similar renovations on Colorado Avenue have been hugely successful and that segment of roadway still has more capacity. He advised that he has noticed a considerable amount of pedestrian traffic since the change and the features discussed, slower speeds, shade trees, raised crosswalk, refuse, would encourage people to use the amenities as opposed to driving. Mr. Stokus confirmed that the crosswalk on Ocean Drive near the Wells Fargo Bank [Courthouse] has made a huge safety improvement. Ms. Rauth stated that when this is implemented it should be taken into account the number of people that cut through the County parking lot as drivers go through at 35 MPH from the library to the Fresh Market. There should be a way to deter that type of traffic possibly through use of islands or something. Ms. Kim Delaney recalled the preliminary discussions at the City for the planning of the area in front of the Courthouse which has been referred to today. She stated that she is of the opinion that the businesses are more viable now, due to the ease of accessibility. Ms. Delaney stated that the businesses in the proposed area will likely experience the same benefit. Mr. Amerson stated that it needs to be made easier to walk than drive. The location was confirmed by Ms. Landry that the scope will be from Monterey Road to the [Evans Crary] Bridge [St. Lucie Boulevard]. She stated that there are many residents in the area because there are a few large multi-family units. Ms. Delaney noted that there is a lot of traffic that traverses through that area though they are not immediate residents, as well as the substantial amount of residents in the vicinity on the other side of Monterey Road on each side of Ocean Drive. Mr. Amerson clarified that the area being considered on Monterey Road is from Kingswood Terrace toward Ocean Drive. Ms. Landry stated that currently the bus goes down East Ocean and into the developments of Kingswood, Vista Pines and Cedar Point. However, Martin County Public Transportation (MCPT) is proposing moving the stops to East Ocean and eliminating stops within the developments. This would be a long walk for residents in the back of one of these developments. Mr.

Amerson stated that he has heard planners in the City mention the area near the Barn Theater, saying that access would be brought down to Kingswood as well as a connection to Vista Pines development so they too would have access to get out for shopping. Ms. Landry stated that she was of the opinion that there was pedestrian access at Smithfield as they house Martin Memorial but no vehicular connection. She also advised the committee that there will be three community meetings; Kingswood, Vista Pines and the business community, to enable them the opportunity to express their opinions and provide input. Other groups were discussed and Ms. Landry advised that they will be considered. Mr. Stokus expressed concerns that if the meetings are only with people north of the airport they will only reach a senior citizen demographic. Ms. Landry stated that adding a meeting for that area can be considered but she wasn't sure of the financial ramifications of an extra meeting. Mr. Lambert noted that those people could be included in one of the prior residential public meetings. Mr. Capra asked why this scope doesn't go to Palm Beach Road. Ms. Landry stated that the current scope is for phase one. Staff is proposing a phase two study in future years which would include Palm Beach Road. Mr. Capra stated that many cyclist ride from that area to downtown events, and it's not very conducive for cyclists though the sidewalks are wider in some areas but they are missing links in others. Mr. Capra stated that there is a signal at Dolphin Street. Perhaps that could be the terminus for the first phase, as the remaining roadway is predominately commercial. Ms. Landry stated that today's purpose was to review the scope for Tier one and provide a recommendation to the MPO Policy Board. The draft scope includes data collection, road segment volumes, crash data, future traffic projections, a multimodal LOS analysis for existing pedestrians, bicycle and transit facilities to attract all modes of transportation. Ms. Delaney stated that the scope is broad enough to handle Ms. Rauth's traffic concern [in the County parking lot]. Ms. Landry stated that the plan is to remain within the ROW. Ms. Delaney mentioned that sometimes a set of improvements go in, and then the unintended consequences and impact has to be addressed later, i.e. the cut-through traffic coming through the County's parking lot as a consequence of Fresh Market's success. Ms. Delaney stated that the off road set of improvements may be considered initially to circumvent the later impact. Ms. Beltran stated that is why there will be three public meetings to learn of the issues in advance. Mr. Capra stated that he was unsure how the scope is written, but it needs to address this situation, whichever way it may happen. Mr. Capra stated that the solution to this is going to be in the County Administration building's parking lot, in the library, and in the adjacent developments. He said he was not sure how "outside" you can go with improvements but you will need to be careful. Ms. Beltran said that they will have the list of recommendations and provide the different agencies/partners with these lists to give them the opportunity to comment on them and bring up those issues. This is why the MPO is coordinating with local residents, businesses, the City and the County, to determine the best way to proceed. Ms. Beltran stated that developing a CMP is a Federal requirement and the MPO plans to obtain Federal funds for certain improvements. The local policy makers would then decide if these

improvements move to construction. Ms. Landry stated that there is a lot of County property that can be utilized, not just ROW. Mr. Amerson clarified saying possibly the term public property would be a better term than ROW. Ms. Landry stated that today staff is seeking support of the Draft scope which we will take the comments expressed here today and maybe make some modifications prior to presenting it to the Board, but the gist is to get the Tier II started which is the operational analysis and the public meetings.

A motion to approve was provided by Mr. Stokus. A second was provided by Ms. Lovelady. The vote was called and there were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

D. SR 76/KANNER HIGHWAY PROJECT

Ms. Beltran introduced Mr. Andrew Nunes to provide an update on the SR 76/Kanner Highway Project. Mr. Nunes stated that the project limits are on SR 76 (Kanner Highway) from SW Lost River Road to just south of SR 714 (SE Monterey Road). He advised that the project began in February, 2012, addressed each of the design timelines including the Public Information Workshop and advised that the anticipated construction start would be Fall, 2015. Mr. Nunes stated that there are two proposed roadway sections. The first segment is between SE Lost River Road and SE Cove Road stating that it will be widened both inside and outside to accommodate widening from four to six lanes. He stated that there will be four foot bicycle lanes one in each direction, and six foot sidewalks on both sides of the road. Mr. Nunes stated that the bridge over the South Fork of the St. Lucie River will need to be widened, which will also include the bicycle lanes and sidewalk. Mr. Nunes stated that the second segment stretches from SE Cove Road to South of SR 714 (Monterey Road). This too will be widened from four to six lanes; however this section will be widened one lane on the inside in each direction. There will be a four foot wide bicycle lane in each direction and the existing seven foot sidewalks will remain on each side. Mr. Nunes stated that as a part of the improvements, stormwater for the corridor was studied exposing the need for five pond sites which will require ROW. He advised that Access Management in the corridor will remain a Class Five restricted and stated that there will be some minor changes based on the new permits/requests from Martin County. He showed the six signalized intersections, the twelve directional median openings and the six full median openings.

Mr. Nunes noted that there was a Noise Analysis performed and that barriers were evaluated for 107 receptors predicted to be affected by the proposed improvements. He advised that the results will be displayed at the public meeting on September 12, 2013 at the Wolf High Technology Center at Indian River State College Chastain Campus beginning at 5:30 PM. Mr. Nunes advised that there were areas that qualified for the noise barriers; Martin's Crossing, Somerset, South River Condominiums, White Marsh Townhomes and Cabana Point. He advised that the next step will be to coordinate with the property

owners. Mr. Nunes opened the floor for questions. Ms. Rauth asked if FDOT considered making the outside lane 11 feet [SR 76 Section from SE Cove Road to South of SR 714] instead of 12 feet as the inside lanes are 11 feet and increasing the bike lane from four to five feet. Mr. Nunes stated that it was not considered. Mr. Rauth stated that the County is having 11 foot lanes on CR 714 on the Veteran's Memorial Bridge in order to accommodate a five foot bike lane. Mr. Nunes stated that FDOT did receive that as a request. Mr. Cocco asked if this project terminates just south of Martin High School on Kanner to which Mr. Nunes confirmed.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Landry handed out the MPO newsletter to the committee. Mr. Stokus stated the icons on the front of the newsletter should include an airplane for the air travel. Ms. Rauth stated that the dedication for the Veteran's Memorial Bridge will be November 16, 2013, but it will not be opened until sometime in December.

Ms. Landry mentioned that she will bring Sunshine Law pamphlets to the next meeting so that everyone will have all the rules with which to abide. She advised that an important rule to remember regarding the receipt of emails is not to hit "reply to all" as that is an infraction of Sunshine. Committee members may not discuss matters which may come before this committee. She stated that includes anything to do with transportation. Ms. Landry stated that once the meeting is adjourned, you may not go to another member and ask their opinion on a matter that was before the committee. She stated that members may talk to one another about anything except for something that may be discussed at a meeting whether it is a current or future project. Ms. Landry also stated that members may discuss anything with the MPO staff but they may not share that information with other members. Ms. Landry advised that if a member has something to say, that member needs to say it prior to the meeting being adjourned.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

None.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is a Joint BPAC, CAC & TAC meeting scheduled for November 13, 2013 at 1:30 P.M. at the Blake Library in the John F. Armstrong Wing.

10. ADJOURN

Seeing no additional items remaining on the agenda, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:32 P.M.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret A. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II

Date: 2/3/14

Approved by:


Sam Amerson, Chair

Date: 2/03/14