

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

**Monday, May 14, 2012 - 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) 221-1498**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Joan Moore , Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Joseph DeFronzo  
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards  
Mr. Ronald Shewmaker  
Mr. Steve Schimmel  
Mr. John Mildenberger  
Mr. Edward Vossen  
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene  
Mr. John-Mark Palacios  
Mr. Bill Schnell

**Excused Members**

Mr. Jim Hudson  
Mr. Rick Yost

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Hal Forslund  
Ms. Dawn Arvin  
Officer Michael Pope, (ExOfficio)  
Officer James C. Brooks (Ex-Officio)  
Mr. Eric Cerniglia  
Mr. Martin Paulk (Ex-Officio)

**Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II  
Mr. Michael Malham, Senior Planner

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

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Ed Vossen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ken Natoli. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 9, 2012 was made by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ken Natoli. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. FDOT COMMENTS**

Mr. John-Mark Palacios directed a question to Mr. Ron Shewmaker to see if he had received an answer regarding a right-of-way (ROW) issue on SR 714. Mr. Shewmaker replied that Mr. Juan Santana came out and took pictures. Mr. Shewmaker is not sure of the determination as of yet.

Ms. Beltran reminded this committee that they are to follow the Sunshine Rule, and she was unsure if Mr. Shewmaker had contacted FDOT directly. Mr. Shewmaker stated that he had. Ms. Beltran advised Mr. Shewmaker that in the future, he should contact the MPO staff so that it could be coordinated with FDOT. Mr. Shewmaker stated that he contact FDOT as a member of the Palm City Farms Trail Association because it was an issue for the Trail Association not an issue for cyclists or pedestrians, and he contacted Mr. Palacios to learn who at FDOT may be able to assist the Trail Association with the issue.

### **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **A. CRA SIDEWALKS MODIFICATION**

MEMO: temp12BPACa08.01

Mr. Malham stated that this came to the committee back in September when the scope had to be modified to include 35<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets and Noble Avenue. It has been learned that Noble Avenue has high drainage issues and will dramatically increase the budget so the desire is to continue the project excluding the Noble Avenue portion. Ms. Moore asked if Noble Avenue was being excluded due to drainage issues, and Mr. Malham stated it was more due to the cost as it would put the project so far over budget. Mr. Malham stated that it only benefits three homes and the benefit is not worth the cost. Ms. Lenartiene asked if the road is safe for people to walk on if a sidewalk will not be built. It was noted that there are only three homes on this street and it is more of an alley than it is a road. Ms. Lenartiene stated that if the road is not heavily traveled then it should be safe enough to get out of the way of any motorist. Mr. Malham assured her that there is not a lot of through traffic. As these are Federal funds, the approval of the advisory

committees and the MPO Board will be necessary. The County is asking that the 350 feet of sidewalk be removed from the scope.

**Mr. Vossen made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to remove Noble from the scope. Mr. Mildenberger gave a second. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. FINAL UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

MEMO: temp12BPACa08.02

Ms. Beltran stated that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the transportation planning activities for the next two years, and it insures that a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative approach to transportation planning is followed. The UPWP is required in order to receive Federal and State transportation funding. Activities included in the current UPWP are the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, the new MPO Website, transit planning and coordination with FDOT and the area MPOs. Ms. Beltran addressed the major sections of the UPWP, including the important task element for this committee, "5.10 Bicycle/Pedestrian and Greenways Planning Task."

Tasks in the new UPWP include the U.S. 1 Retrofit study which is a regional project to increase mobility on U.S. 1 between Ft. Pierce and Stuart without expanding the roadway. The Household Travel Study will help determine where people are traveling to and from, how they want to travel and what modes they would choose to use. The MPO will hire a consultant in order to accomplish this study in an effort to better serve the community. Ms. Beltran stated that the Board reviewed the document today, knowing that it was being brought to this committee afterwards and did recommend the UPWP for approval. Mr. Mildenberger asked how the consultant planned to develop the household survey. He stated that people may not choose to ride a bicycle on U.S. 1 in its current state, however, they may choose to ride in areas that have been made more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Ms. Beltran stated that the selected consultant would have this type of knowledge as this type of survey asks the questions which would help them glean this information. It was asked that if a half million is spent in performing this study, would there be any funds available to provide any projects to fulfill the results of the study. Ms. Beltran stated that once the study is completed priorities can then be scheduled, which is how the Bicycle/Pedestrian Action Plan was designed. This summer the MPO can speak to FDOT regarding their priorities and there will be support of the projects in the Action Plan. FDOT can review the projects to see which ones can be considered for inclusion in their Tentative Work Program. Some projects may not get funded, but some may, which is why you have to be prepared with your list of priorities. It was noted that the list of priorities makes it possible for projects to be built when any funds become available. Mr. Mildenberger asked if the BPAC could get a presentation of the findings prior to implementation, Ms. Beltran replied absolutely, staff will have to take this back through the MPO Process. Mr.

Natoli noted all the advisory committees, different organizations and the MPO Board that the Action Plan was presented to and he suggested that this should go to the Board of County Commissioners as they are the only ones in Martin County that can really help us implement projects.

**A motion was made by Mr. Natoli to approve staff's recommendation of approval for the UPWP. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mildenberger. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. DRAFT FY2012/13-FY2016/17 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

MEMO: temp12BPACa08.03

Ms. Beltran stated that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has a five year planning horizon. The purpose is to provide a comprehensive list of public transportation projects that are funded using both Federal and State funds. Some of these projects have regional significance and they are the MPO's project priorities. They are based on the cost feasible plan from the LRTP, and it is updated annually. Of significance is the fact that the TIP must be consistent with the local Capital Improvement Program, so you will see each of the CIPs of Martin County, the City of Stuart and the Town of Sewall's Point in the appendix. Ms. Beltran continued to describe the organization of the TIP. Now that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Action Plan has been approved, next year's TIP will likely include project priorities that are not funded that have justification through the Action Plan. Ms. Beltran explained the Interactive TIP, and how to access it on the computer.

Ms. Beltran stated that the Board approved the Draft TIP with the understanding that FDOT will re-distribute funds from the Indian Street Project to the lights on the SR 710/Big John Monahan Bridge with the balance of the funds going to SR 76 the number two priority.

Mr. Natoli noted the right turn lane on Willoughby Road which is proposed should go to the bottom of the priority list. It was questioned how questions or comments would affect this if the Board has already approved it. Ms. Beltran stated that this is still the Draft TIP and that the Final will come back before each committee and the Board in June. Mr. Natoli stated that right turn lanes make it difficult for cyclists and pedestrians as it speeds up through traffic, makes it harder to cross the street, and the west bound traffic has more congestion. He stated that right turn lanes and turn right on red are two of the worst things for pedestrians. Mr. Malham stated that this project has been around for a number of years, a recommendation can be made to lower the project priority but this is CIGP funding [State and local Funds] which the County has applied for and received funding. Mr. Malham suggested that prior to trying to kill the project, more needs to be learned about it as the project got on the list due to a safety or some other issue, and

so this should be looked into. Mr. Natoli remarked that if this project got this far, and this committee has never seen it before, that too poses an issue, and the committee needs to be able to see information of this nature prior to it getting this advanced. Mr. Malham stated that he is unsure how this project got on the books but the County did spend some time and effort on this project so until more information is known, the committee may not want to make any drastic changes. It was noted that once the Veteran's Memorial Bridge opens this entire corridor will change. Mr. Edwards stated that in the future that entire area will have to be re-evaluated but for now they are trying to connect Willoughby to a few other areas which are in the LRTP. Ms. Beltran stated that more information on this project will be brought to the next meeting. It was noted that what these committees do can make a big difference and that these committees really need to have a further advanced vision horizon.

Mr. Natoli asked if there will be bike lanes on A-36, Willoughby. Mr. DeFronzo stated that there are no lanes south of Pomeroy. Mr. Natoli stated that this is a resurfacing project and asked if there will be bike lanes in the resurfacing project. Mr. Malham stated that he has been told that due to limited funding they may be axed. Mr. DeFronzo stated that since the asphalt is so distressed that he would settle for paved shoulders. Mr. Natoli asked why that project hasn't come to this committee. Mr. Malham stated that all these programs have come to this committee through the Tentative Work Program. Ms. Beltran confirmed that the Tentative Work Program came through the committees, and emphasized the importance of members reviewing the agenda and back up materials prior to the meetings. MPO staff will check with the Engineering Department to see if there is anything that can be done to keep the bike lanes in. Mr. Palacios asked if this project was in design at this time. Mr. Malham stated yes. Mr. Palacios asked if Mr. Malham would request the design plans on Willoughby north of Salerno so that the committee could comment on them. Mr. Yost asked if the bike lanes were going to remain on that stretch of roadway. Mr. Malham stated that he will check into that and get back to the committee.

**A motion to approve the Draft TIP with all comments to be included in the Final TIP was made by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene and seconded by Mr. Joseph DeFronzo. There was no addition discussion. The Motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Moore noted that Ms. Dee Spera (Commissioner Fielding's appointee) and Mr. Bob Taylor (Commissioner Smith's appointee) are no longer with this committee. She said that she has sent a letter to Ms. Spera but not Mr. Taylor's yet. Ms. Moore stated that Ms. Julie Preast has been contacted to see if she would like to fulfill the position. Ms. Moore said that she felt that Ms. Preast would be an asset. Ms. Beltran stated that staff is following up on that matter.

Mr. DeFronzo asked if anyone knew when the Kanner Highway Public Hearing schedule was to be held as the website said spring, 2012. Ms. Beltran stated it was set for June 28, 2012 at the Indian River State College Chastain Campus. She will get back to the committee with the time as it has yet to be determined. At the MPO Board meeting today, it was requested that the meeting be televised so she was going to follow up with that information.

Mr. Ronald Shewmaker stated that there is a nice strip of land that is owned by Martin County, he suggested that a sign be placed on this piece of property so people would be aware that it is public property, and maybe a sidewalk could be built there so people could use and enjoy it. It was noted that since a sidewalk was built on Old Dixie should the sign that indicates that cyclers are able to ride on the street be removed. Mr. Edwards stated that not all cyclists will ride on the sidewalk, so it is important to keep the signs there to remind the motorists that bicyclers will still be riding on the roadway.

Mr. Natoli stated there is an eight foot multi-use trail on Martin Down Boulevard near Publix that is going to have the 90 degree turns on the sidewalk as discussed in this committee a few weeks ago. Ms. Beltran asked Mr. Palacios if Ms. Betsy Jeffers was the Project Manager for that project as she had seen the letter that the MPO sent to FDOT regarding the 90 degrees sidewalks on the previously discussed roadway. He stated that she was. Mr. Palacios stated that they are working on this as they need the sidewalks to be closer to the roadways so the motorists can see cyclists and pedestrians at the intersection instead of before it. There could be drainage or other reasons which are prompting these odd turns, but he will check with her on this matter. Mr. Natoli will forward the street location to Mr. Malham so he can follow up with Mr. Palacios regarding these sidewalk issues. Mr. Natoli stated that in order to achieve the first goal of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, this Action Plan needs to go to the Board of County Commissioners so maybe at the next meeting we can discuss making this a Board agenda item. Mr. Natoli stated that he would go with Mr. Malham to present this agenda item as he believes that some of the commissioners may be against this and he would be there to share the comments.

Mr. Mildenerger inquired if there were going to be any bicycle signs on East Ocean from Stuart Middle School into downtown which has recently be resurfaced with the on street parking. He believes that it would encourage motorists to be more understanding of bicyclers in the roadway. Mr. Edwards stated that he would check it out. Mr. Mildenerger inquired if it would be possible to get signs leading to I-95 and U. S. 1 between the bridges coming from Hutchinson Island, as traffic going south on Sewall's Point Road because they think they are on St. Lucie Boulevard. People are confused in that area and they begin to drive faster, or call for directions and it's more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians as the drivers are not paying attention. Mr. Palacios said that he will talk to FDOT to see if he can bring attention to this matter. It could

be a major problem in an evacuation event if people were to end up in Sewall's Point because they didn't know how to get to U. S. 1 or I-95.

**8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**9. NOTES.**

None.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

**June 11, 2012**

**11. ADJOURN**

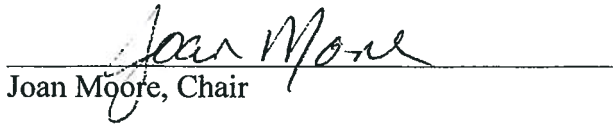
**The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM without a motion. There being no objections, the meeting adjourned.**

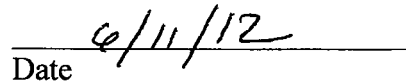
**Recorded and Prepared by:**

  
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II

  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
Joan Moore, Chair

  
Date