

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

**Monday, July 9, 2012 - 5:00 P.M.
Martin County Administration Building
Growth Management Conference Room, 1st 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 5:03P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Joan Moore, Chair
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Ms. Julie Preast
Mr. Steve Schimmel (arrived 5:06 p.m.)
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene
Mr. John-Mark Palacios (Ex-Officio)

Excused Members

Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jim Hudson
Ms. Dawn Arvin
Mr. John Mildenberger
Mr. Rick Yost

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. Hal Forslund
Mr. Ronald Shewmaker
Mr. Bill Schnell
Mr. Edward Vossen
Officer Michael Pope, (Ex-Officio)
Officer James C. Brooks (Ex-Officio)
Mr. Eric Cerniglia (Ex-Officio)
Mr. Martin Paulk (Ex-Officio)

Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator (arrived 5:53 PM)
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II
Mr. Michael Malham, Planner II

Others in Attendance:

Rick Lussy, Candidate for Property Appraiser

A quorum was not present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

As a quorum was not present, the Chair advised that the agenda would not be approved.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A quorum was not present. The Chair advised that approval of the minutes would be tabled until the September meeting.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. John-Mark Palacios asked if staff had gotten a response from FDOT regarding his inspection report of the Martin Downs Boulevard sidewalk. Mr. Malham stated that he got a negative response from FDOT. He stated that they will not be addressing the sidewalk in front of the Publix at Mariposa Circle as construction was almost complete at the time. Mr. Palacios stated that he was talking to the designer today and he was of the opinion that they were going to place a corner end on that sidewalk to fix the 90 degree angle. Mr. Malham stated that was the initial request, but due to issues on the swale, more would have to be done to address the issue. Mr. Edwards stated that a corner piece was added on the Parkside entrance. Mr. Palacios asked that FDOT look at more than just those two sidewalks as there were more which needed addressing. Mr. Malham stated that it was requested that FDOT look at other sidewalks also, but they only focused on the one sidewalk on which they had a request. Mr. Palacios advised that he will check it out on his way home tonight.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. CYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MEMO: temp13BPACa01.01

Ms. Moore suggested that the committee begin to put something together regarding the rights of cyclist and pedestrians which could be simple enough to place in the local Home Owner Associations newsletters. She had the idea after a guest at the last meeting mentioned cyclists being rude to pedestrians. She advised that if it were in a simple format it could be copied and pasted into the associations' newsletters. She would like it to be emailed so no printing would have to take place. It would be educational for cyclists, pedestrian as well as drivers who may not be aware that Florida has a Three Foot Law, or that a cyclist should act like a pedestrian when riding on a sidewalk, plus it could answer a number of potential issues. She would like it to be very brief and basic. When asked if there were formal bicycling associations Ms. Moore noted that there is the Treasure Coast Cycling Association (TCCA) but she did not think that those cyclists were the

offenders mentioned at the last meeting. It was said that those riders are not normally on the sidewalks, however all riders would be included. Ms. Julie Preast suggested that this be done in bullet format, for maximum readership. Mr. Schimmel suggested that the committee get a QR Code which would direct people to a website containing, "Bicycling Rules for Safety information". This QR Code, which is free, could be specific to this safety information, and could be installed in parks or other places frequented by pedestrian or cyclists, eliminating the need to distribute paper, or placed on bumper stickers.

Mr. Rick Lussy, was called upon by the Chair and asked to introduce himself. Mr. Lussy, stated that he was a Candidate for Property Appraiser, and that he was interested in bicycle safety.

A number of safety suggestions were offered as the committee tried to narrow the list to a few bullet points. It was noted that pedestrians should also obey certain rights and responsibilities and they determined that there should be two sets of five bullet lists:

- Motorist responsibilities
- Cyclists responsibilities

Suggestions offered were:

Motorists to cyclists

- Drivers need to provide three feet between their vehicles and a cyclist
- When a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to safely share, the cyclist is entitled to use the entire lane

Bicyclists to pedestrian

- Cyclists need to announce themselves by audible bell, horn or voice to pedestrian
- Cyclists need to yield to the pedestrian
- Pedestrians should not wear headphones so loud that they can't hear an external audible sound
- Someone holding a white cane with a red tip or a dog in harness, may not be able to see and/or hear you, and you should watch out for them

Ms. Preast stated that she felt that a cyclist on a sidewalk using a bell is inappropriate. Ms. Lenartiene stated that she is of the opinion that cyclists on the sidewalk believe that they own the sidewalk. Being blind, it is difficult to react when they come up on her and she has no idea which direction they are going so a bell is good for her.

Ms. Moore clarified that these aren't enforceable rules, they are suggestions for people to become aware. It was also noted that people whether on foot, a bicycle or in a car should exhibit courtesy to others as a whole.

Mr. Palacios stated that he's working with Broward County on a campaign to place a graphic on the rear of buses stating the Three Foot Law between vehicles and bicycles. It was suggested that the graphic regarding the Three Foot Law mentioned by Mr. Palacios be submitted to the HOA's and COA's. Mr. Palacios stated that a lane under 14 feet is generally considered too narrow for a car to pass a cyclist and the cyclist is allowed to "take the lane" leaving all cars to have to ride behind the cyclist.

There were suggestions to advertise the Three Foot Law on MCTV, and Ms. Beltran advised that advertising should come through the MPO not BPAC. She reminded the committee that this is a brain storming session and advertising is listed in the Action Plan as outreach and education. Mr. Malham mentioned that the "campaign" which BPAC had proposed in the Action Plan is tentatively scheduled for a January kick off. It was asked if they could advance it for the back to school season. Mr. Malham stated that there is a Commit to be Fit program, under the umbrella of the Safe Routes to School, which could be a good way to tie it into the school program. Mr. Schimmel asked if we could put a laminated, bullet point sign possibly with a QR Code, in bicycle stores or the bicycle section of stores like Wal-Mart so people could see them while they are making their selection. Mr. Malham stated that he doesn't want to rush things or throw information out piecemeal. It needs to be organized in order to be presented in a responsible, concise manner. He will take inventory of what the MPO already has in house and will report back to the BPAC. Mr. Malham reviewed an FDOT website with Bike/ped material. Mr. Palacios said the publications listed on the website could be ordered. Mr. Schimmel suggested BPAC try to partner with a bank in order to help distribute this information by asking that they print the bullet points on their envelopes or something of that nature. It was noted that the MPO needs to be careful in these areas, and the Action Plan really needs to be used in the manner designated for implementation. It was noted that in the past, utility bills were instrumental in disseminating information to the public, perhaps that could again be the means of distribution for the bullet points. Ms. Beltran advised that there are strict guidelines to follow when working with another public entity, and BPAC will need to execute the project in compliance with the funding grant.

B. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

MEMO: temp13BPACa01.02

Mr. Malham stated that one of the strategies was to seek specific partners within the community as mentioned which he will be doing in the upcoming months. Currently the infrastructure is the dominant focus as opposed to the outreach as this is the time of the year when budgets are being structured and

the State Parks Park Management Plan update cycle is rapidly approaching. Mr. Malham noted that identifying bicycle and pedestrian partners is a main focus, as is soliciting improvement ideas from the public. Mr. Malham stated that BPAC can change the order of events in the Action Plan, but as there were so many strategies that the need to find a way to complete them in a timely manner is important. Ms. Preast informed the committee that most condo/homeowner association newsletters go out the first of January. If documentation hasn't been received by them in September or October when they are getting their typeset ready, the information will not make it to the newsletter losing out on the entire season and a whole group of people. Ms. Preast also suggested that the MPO should send the bullet points as a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to the radio and television stations as they will read the points between segments. Ms. Beltran stated that staff will have to refer to the Public Service Announcement section in the Public Involvement Plan to insure compliance. Ms. Moore stated that the deadline for this information should be together by the November meeting. Ms. Beltran reminded the committee that a joint CAC, TAC & BPAC meeting will be held in November so FDOT can present the Tentative Work Program. Ms. Beltran stated that this information may be well received by the other advisory committees and FDOT. Ms. Moore suggested that this information be ready to present by the November 14, 2012. Mr. Malham stated that it will be ready. It was suggested that Mr. Malham contact the Home and Condo Owners Associations to ask for their newsletter deadlines and request that they reserve a small amount of space on their newsletter for the bullet points. Mr. Malham reminded the committee that this information may also be included in the MPO's newsletter to help increase distribution.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9. NOTES.

Ms. Beltran stated that recently an MPO Process sheet was brought to the committees which delineated the process, as well as roles and responsibilities of the advisory committee members. She stated that there are specific rules that are to be followed for those committing to be an advisory committee member. After researching the Roberts Rules of Order it was learned that the committees may not adjust the quorum if a member was excused, though it had been practiced in the past. In order to have a quorum, there needs to be a quorum of the membership, as this committee today was not able to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting. Ms. Beltran confirmed Ms. Preast's comment that if a member has three unexcused absences, the member would forfeit his/her membership on the committee. It was also noted that if a member needed to call in, they could be on a conference call, at which time they would be counted as being present. Ms. Lenartiene stated that depending upon the changes in the

transportation system, it could be beneficial to her if she could Skype into the meeting. It was acknowledged that should she or any other member need to appear by Skype it would count as being present, just as many meetings are already attended by telephone or Skype.

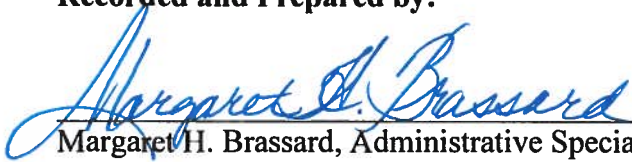
10. NEXT MEETING

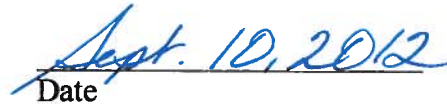
Ms. Moore advised that the next meeting will be September 10, 2012, and the meetings will be bi-monthly.

11. ADJOURN

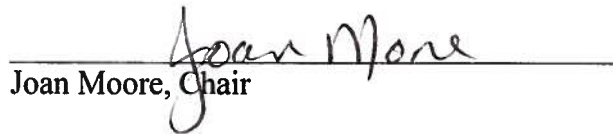
The meeting was adjourned without a motion by the Chair, at 5:50 PM

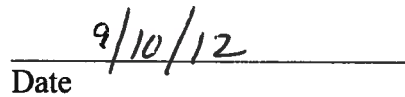
Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II


Date

Approved by:


Joan Moore, Chair


Date