

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

MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2011 - 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, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Joan Moore, Chairperson
Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice Chairman
Mr. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. John Mildenberger (arrived 5:10 P.M.)
Mr. Edward Vossen
Mr. Rick Yost
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene (arrived 5:21 P.M.)
Mr. John-Mark Palacios, FDOT (arrived 5:11 P.M.)
Mr. John Fanticola (For Barbara Timmerman)

Excused Members

Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Mr. Hal Forslund (Gone until November)
Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Jim Hudson
Ms. Dee Spera

Members Not In Attendance:

Officer Michael Pope
Officer James C. Brooks
Mr. Eric Cerniglia

Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II
Mr. Michael Malham, Planner II
Mr. Gavin Jones, Senior Planner

A quorum was present for this meeting by 5:10 P.M.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Ken Natoli moved to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph DeFronzo. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Natoli stated that he had an excused absence, but wasn't listed. Mr. Natoli also stated that he wanted clarification on 5. FDOT COMMENTS regarding bringing Mr. Pat Glass, of FDOT, back to the Committee for a presentation on SR 710. It read *that Mr. Palacios stated that it would be more beneficial to bring him to the committee after the project has gone to design.* Per Mr. Natoli, this should be clarified to read, *Mr. Glass should return to the committee for a presentation on SR 710 at the beginning of the design phase.* Changes were made for the final minutes.

Mr. Ken Natoli moved to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Joseph DeFronzo. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. Palacios wanted to insure that BPAC was aware of the Sidewalk Box Funds that FDOT sets aside for the discretionary use for the MPO Board. Each year \$100,000 is set aside for these funds, but the MPO Board has expressed desires to utilize those funds for use on the Indian Street Bridge Project. These funds are normally used for sidewalks, bike lanes and transit facilities. Mr. Malham clarified that the Board is looking for all funds to be used for the necessary improvements to complete CR 714. Mr. Natoli, stated that there will be bike lanes and sidewalks on CR 714 out to the Turnpike so it's not as bad as it may seem. Ms. Moore clarified that the fund is normally \$200,000. Mr. Malham stated that all of the MPO's discretionary funds will be dedicated to the improvement and completion of CR 714 through approximately the duration of the box fund availability which would be FY 2015-16. Mr. Palacios stated that what Congressman Mica has proposed in the new bill is to eliminate all the individual programs, i.e. Safe Routes to Schools, Enhancements, etc, and just have a general fund. Mr. Malham stated that the committee could wait and see what the fall out will be and continue to develop the Action Plan and see if there are any recommendations where potential funding sources will be. Ms. Moore stated that she would like the committee to express to the MPO Board that they are disappointed that the MPO is taking the box funds. She reflected that over the years BPAC increased the value of the projects, had larger projects, and most of those funds went to sidewalk improvements. Mr. Malham stated that the box funds have actually been used for other projects in the last few years anyway, according to the TIP. Mr. Natoli noted that he too would like to advise the MPO Board that it would be good to use those box funds for sidewalk and bicycle facilities. No other comments were offered.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN

MEMO: temp12BPACa01.01

Mr. Malham distributed a table of dates of tasks to be accomplished. The Plan can be presented to the MPO Board for approval in December. The committee can initially present this Draft to the Board in September. This way the Board will be able to see what BPAC is doing and the progress that is being made. The ending date is the December 12, 2011, by which time Mr. Malham hopes to have the document recommended for approval by the CAC and TAC so it may be presented to the MPO Board at their meeting on December 19, 2011.

Mr. Malham has been working on the outline which was included in the agenda. Mr. Natoli stated that the first thing on the Executive Summary should be that the goal of the committee is to make Martin County the most bike/pedestrian friendly place, like the vision statement. This should be at the top so that people can see what the Executive Summary and the Goals and Objectives are, and they will know what this committee is working toward and achieving.

Mr. Malham discussed the purposes of the plan and identified existing plans. He noted that the BPAC's Goals and Objectives definitely support what is in the Comprehensive Plans for Martin County as well as the neighboring Towns. He advised that the BPAC's Executive Summary worked closely to the Regional Transit Development Plan (RTDP) for the Port St. Lucie Urbanized Area 2010-2019, the local Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs), and the Martin County Parks and Recreation System Master Plan of November, 2004.

Mr. Malham addressed the methodology set forth in the outline. He mentioned projects in the plans that BPAC can piggyback on to streamline achieving their goals. He noted the Goals, Objectives and Strategies and what this committee would like to see happen in this area and then the recommendations, priorities, and steps to take in the future.

The maps and data collection are the final areas to the outline. Mr. Malham requested everyone to continue updating their maps and give them to him when they can so that he may incorporate the information with the previously collected data so that they may be scored, or rated.

Ms. Moore suggested adding a map designating the crashes. Mr. Natoli suggested that the map should be an eye catcher, it should have good graphics. Before this project has been finalized, the committee needs to have a map made that shows parks and recreation areas, trails, walkers on trails, and things that get people excited. An inquiry was made as to who the audience would be for this map. It was determined that the map would be placed on the website and that the information is for the general public, the other advisory committees, the MPO Board, the Board of County Commissioners, the Engineering staff, the CRA staff,

anyone who would look at the map and say that they want a project proposed. They could offer a project that would promote safety for children, a nature stroll, or a walk to a business district. It was mentioned that possibly the map could be a cross between what the BPAC currently has, and one of the business promotional ones that Stuart had years ago. The general public would be drawn to and be interested in a map which shows various points of interest throughout the City or County, displaying the bike lanes, sidewalks or multi-modal paths connecting the locations. This could interest the business owners too, as a form of business promotion. Mr. Malham stated that the map is more to get the Board of County Commissioners and the Metropolitan Planning Organization on the same page as far as seeing potential project development. It was noted that it could be an excellent feature showing the local businesses to help identify potential routes and promote the businesses as well.

Mr. Malham went through the Goals, Objectives and Strategies and stated that no significant changes have been made since the group last saw them.

Mr. Malham discussed the Potential Projects list for the Action Plan. He noted that four or five projects have been added since the last meeting. They were sidewalk projects and the Seabranh Phase Two bike lanes.

Mr. Natoli suggested enlarging the maps by showing them on the overhead projector so that the committee could see them better. Mr. Malham noted to the committee that he is working with dated material, as it is data from 2009. He said that he's working with IT staff and Engineering staff to get updated information. He's not sure how long it will take him to get this information. Mr. Malham briefly went through each map advising what the map showed from sidewalks, bike lanes, gaps in sidewalks and what the legend on the map exhibited.

Mr. Natoli stated that a new school was built, and he proposes a multiuse trail on Sand Avenue. He stated that they have one four foot bike lane and maybe the County can re-stripe the road to allow for 2 two foot bike lanes, one in each direction. As the speed limit is low it would be better than nothing.

Mr. John-Mark Palacios proposed new sidewalk and bike lanes on Bridge Road, east of Federal Highway to Beach Road. East of Federal to Gomez needs a sidewalk on the north side of the road.

Mr. Natoli suggested connecting trails from Jonathon Dickenson State Park. It was noted that there is a shared use path in the Park. Mr. Palacios stated that the East Coast Greenway has suggested going into the park but coming out at the entrance of the park. They are trying to get a shared use path along U. S. Highway 1 to County Line Road. If that is in this plan, it would show support and better the odds of getting this project into the U. S. Highway 1 plan. The shared use path will be in addition to the bike lanes. The East Coast Greenway couldn't run the path through the park as originally planned due to right of way opposition

with Jupiter Hills Country Club. There were also some concerns of being able to close the park at the bike path.

Mr. Malham stated that the Martin MPO has a bicycle and pedestrian “scoring sheet” in the 2030 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Malham went through the methodology used in prioritizing the facilities and the criteria of the scoring. Mr. Malham requested that the committee review this as he would like to begin talking about the priorities at the August meeting and would like to begin prioritizing at the September meeting. October will be a subcommittee meeting and the list of priorities will begin going to the other advisory committees for recommendation to the MPO Board. The Committee was pleased with the process and timeline. Mr. Malham was complemented by the committee on the work and effort he has been putting into this project.

Ms. Moore veered from the agenda and inquired of the committee if anyone has trouble seeing traffic while driving, when turning off of Baker Road on to U. S. Highway 1 heading north. She stated that the way the turning lane is designed that it’s a difficult angle to see on-coming traffic.

7. NOTES

Ms. Moore thanked Mr. Palacios for the quick response to the question for the Treasure Coast Cycling Association (TCCA) regarding paving.

Mr. Mildenberger offered thanks to FDOT for the bike lanes on A-1-A on the island. Mr. Palacios stated that it’s the result of having a strong policy/State law stating that there must be facilities for the bike lanes.

8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. DeFronzo stated that he’s noticed a lot of bikers on the road who are not riding the correct way. They are riding against traffic and he’s seeing it at all times of the day and night. It’s gotten very prevalent on Kanner Highway. It was suggested that the committee should do a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on MCTV. Ms. Moore volunteered to do the PSA. Mr. Natoli inquired if the committee could get a PSA on the billboard at the corner of Monterey and Kanner. In the past, the committee has had PSA’s on there. It could be simple, just say, “Bicycles must ride with the traffic”. It’s happening a lot on U. S. Highway 1, also. Mr. Malham stated he would look in previous files to see if he can find the prior PSAs. Ms. Moore said that she would contact the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) to see if they have any PSA the committee can use. Mr. Palacios stated that he would check to see if FDOT has some of the PSAs for bicycles. We need to encourage riders politely, who are breaking the law, to ride with traffic.

Mr. DeFronzo stated that Martin County resurfaced Dixie Highway about five years ago and the markings on the bicycle lane have worn off. Mr. Malham stated that he would try getting the schedule of the lane markers to see when it will be done again. Mr. Palacios stated that he will bring this to the attention of FDOT. If it’s on a State road, he can direct

the information to the maintenance department to see if they can refurbish the markings. Mr. Palacios asked that the committee give him specific locations so that he could advise the crews. It was also noted that the bike lanes on the Jensen Beach Causeway have that same issue.

Mr. Mildenberger stated that he attended the Sewall's Point meeting on June 23, 2011. He stated that FDOT has indicated that they are definitely putting the bike lanes in. At the prior meeting, he stated that Commissioner Bausch spoke against the bike lanes. Mr. Mildenberger stated that a Commissioner suggested painting the bike lanes a different color, to help the residents see them better. Mr. Palacios stated that FHWA has approved green as the standard color for bike lanes, however, the biggest problem with colored lanes is that the color wears off quickly and it becomes a maintenance issue. If the Town is behind it, and are willing to commit to maintain the bike lanes when the color wears out, then maybe Mr. Palacios could talk to the project manager. While they are doing the resurfacing, there may be some other options. Mr. Palacios stated that this project is still in design. Mr. Mildenberger has the support of the committee to be an advocate for that project. Mr. Vossen stated that he has seen articles in the magazines where the bike lanes are colored, or the concrete is tinted with color and it's gotten favorable results.

Mr. Natoli offered thanks to all those who participated in the Build-A-Bike Project. He thought Ms. Moore did a great job organizing the event, and he hopes the committee will do it again next year.

Mr. Natoli asked if anyone was aware of the time frame for the [proposed] House Bill that is trying to be passed. Mr. Palacios stated he thought it was in September. Mr. Natoli asked if it would be ok for the committee to make a recommendation to the MPO Board to send a letter to the legislators to not support the bill, and leave in dedicated bike lanes.

Mr. Natoli made a motion to recommend to the MPO Board that a letter be drafted to the legislators regarding the [proposed] House Bill, requested that they leave in the dedicated funding for bike lanes and sidewalk programs. This motion was seconded by John Mildenberger. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Natoli advised the committee that the TIGER III Grants are Federal Grants which have a minimum of \$10 million. The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is applying for a trail in Indiantown. Mr. Malham stated that these are more construction and implementation projects. Mr. Natoli inquired if Stuart would be competing with Indiantown if they applied for a Grant for a trail project. It was decided that BPAC should be in support of Indiantown and not compete.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

August 8, 2011 (Subcommittee)
September 12, 2011 (Regular Meeting)

11. ADJOURN

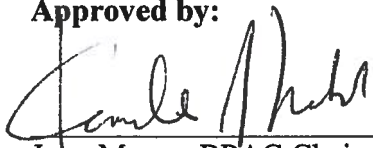
Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II

9/12/11
Date

Approved by:

 vPE chair for
Joan Moore, BPAC Chair

9/12/11
Date