

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

**Monday, Sept. 10, 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 5:01P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Ms. Joan Moore, Chair  
Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards  
Ms. Julie Preast  
Mr. Bill Schell  
Mr. Edward Vossen  
Mr. Rick Yost (arrived at 5:15 P.M.)  
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene  
Mr. John-Mark Palacios (Ex-Officio)

**Excused Members**

Mr. Joseph DeFronzo  
Mr. Hal Forslund  
Mr. Jim Hudson  
Ms. Dawn Arvin  
Mr. John Mildenberger

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Mr. Steve Schimmel  
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 5:30 PM)  
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II  
Mr. Michael Malham, Planner II

**Others in Attendance:**

Ms. Kim Delaney

**A quorum was not present for this meeting until 5:15 P.M.**

As a quorum was not present, the Chair advised that the agenda and minutes would not be approved until such time as a quorum was present. The Chair directed the meeting be moved ahead to FDOT comments. Before moving ahead to FDOT Comments, Mr. Natoli requested clarification of the June minutes. He stated that on number eight "Comments from the Public" he did not recall Mr. Brannschweiger's comment regarding saving the public's money by not including bike lanes on roadways. Committee members stated that he did make that comment. Mr. Natoli then stated that Mr. Brannschweiger had stated that cyclists should not be allowed to ride on the sidewalks especially when there are signs that state that bicycles should share the road and/or when there are bicycle lanes present. Mr. Natoli wanted the record to state that when he disagreed, he was disagreeing to Mr. Brannschweiger's statement to have all cyclists banned from the sidewalks. Mr. Natoli stated that not all cyclists should be forced into the road as some of the cyclists may be children.

**(A quorum was obtained at 5:15 P.M.)**

Mr. Natoli also requested that in number seven, it should read that two 45 degree fillers have been installed on the sidewalk at Parkside. He is aware that there are still issues but this should clarify matters.

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Mr. Natoli to approve the agenda. This motion was seconded by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the June 11, 2012, minutes as amended was made by Ms. Lenartiene. This motion was seconded by Mr. Edward Vossen. There were no objections. The minutes for the June meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made to approve the July 9, 2012 minutes by Ms. Julie Priest. This motion was seconded by Ms. Lenartiene. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. FDOT COMMENTS**

Mr. John-Mark Palacios, of FDOT advised that Broward County now has ads on the back of buses to remind drivers that the law requires that there is a three foot separation between a vehicle and a bicycle. He advised that there is also a video which will be aired at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Mr. Palacios stated that he has passed the bike lanes on Martin Downs and advised that the bike lanes look good. Mr. Natoli noted that even though filler

has been placed on the sidewalk the grass is already wearing out because people are walking and riding their bicycles straight ahead.

As Kim Delaney with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) was in attendance to make a presentation, it was determined to skip down to Agenda Item D in order for her presentation to be made early in the meeting.

## **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. SR 76/ I-95 INTERCHANGE UPDATE**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.01

After the last MPO Board meeting, it was agreed to have a September update on this project and to support the County's Interchange improvement. Ms. Beltran said that there are two projects involved. The Ultimate Interchange Improvement, FDOT's project, is described in the Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study which included the presentations of the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) and the expansion of the bridge over the Turnpike. The County's Interim Improvement Project received State funding in the form of a County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) Grant whose funds would be available in FY 2014-15 to make Interim Interchange Improvements. Since the Ultimate PD&E Study has lasted longer than anticipated, concerns were raised as to the necessity of the County's Interim Interchange Improvement. Ms. Beltran stated that she and several people from the Engineering Department went to FDOT's District Office in Fort Lauderdale to meet with Secretary Jim Wolfe to discuss these two projects. Mr. Wolfe agreed that due to the level of service numbers, Martin would be best served by placing the Ultimate Project on hold indefinitely and allowing the County to move ahead with their Interim Improvement Project as this project addresses the level of service issues until after FY 2020. FDOT's number two priority would then become widening SR-76 from Lost River [east of the Interchange] to Monterey Road instead of west of the interchange which would include the Ultimate improvements. In light of these facts the DDI was moot as the Ultimate Project was no longer an issue. The public hearing mainly consisted of information on the chosen Interchange Project Alternative 2A, with concerns regarding noise levels and through traffic in the interchange. The last update is concerning the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding cycle. The Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC) is the governing body for decisions regarding these State funds. The TCTC is comprised of two members each from the St. Lucie TPO, Martin and Indian River MPOs. The TCTC has a list of prioritized, regionally significant projects from each County. Due to scheduling difficulties of meetings between the three Counties it was determined that if a project has already been approved by the TCTC and is on this list, staff may submit an application without holding a meeting. The County's Interim Project design came up as the State agreed that this project should move forward in FY 2014, making design funding necessary in FY 2013. The

funds in the TRIP cycle are for FY 2014. Staff worked with FDOT and it was determined that there were residual TRIP funds in the cancelled Transit Depot Project. The majority of this project was funded using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009) (ARRA) funds but there were \$189,000 in TRIP funds supplementing this project due to the transit capacity element included. An application for \$189,572 was submitted for FY 2013 funds which were originally intended for the Transit Depot to be used for the design of the Interim Project. The MPO is currently awaiting the Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) from FDOT. Using these funds this year insures that funds which were allocated to Martin remain here. Mr. Natoli inquired as to why the Ultimate Improvement Project is still being designed as things will have changed by the time the project will be constructed. Mr. Palacios stated that since the design was already contracted out and underway, a decision had to be made as to the most cost effective way to proceed, complete the design so it would be ready to use if needed or risk a law suit from the contractor. Mr. Palacios stated that only sections will have to be updated; the majority of the plan will still be usable.

## **B. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.02

Ms. Beltran stated that this is based on the 2035 LRTP and normally these plans have capacity projects. However there were projects slated that were deemed undesirable, such as widening US 1 to eight or ten lanes. It was determined to use Congestion Management Strategies to address the issue instead. A project recently discussed were lights on the Big John Monahan Bridge. After a recent review the level of service on Indian Street, the road leading up to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge and a priority project, it was determined that the level of service has not reached capacity and should be ample until approximately FY 2037. The Board deemed the funds allocated for the widening to be more beneficial on different projects, one of which was lighting on the Big John Monahan Bridge, estimated at \$600,000. Staff is recommending combining the two line items CMP and LCI with non-capacity making one line item CMP/LCI/Non-Capacity Project which would have \$3 million in the five year increment. Combined, these two items would receive about \$600,000 annually over the five year increment which would total \$3 million creating greater spending flexibility. This recommendation was sent to Federal Highway Association (FHWA) and FDOT's staff for review and there were no objections. The Public Involvement Plan requires a public hearing, scheduled for October 22, 2012. Staff requests a recommendation of this amendment for Board approval.

**A motion to recommendation for Board approval, combining the two line items into one titled CMP/LCI/Non-Capacity Projects was made by Mr. Natoli. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vossen. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. FY2013/14 – FY2017/18 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.03

Ms. Beltran stated that this list, once approved by the Board, will go to FDOT. The list will then serve as the basis of FDOT's Tentative Work Program and the MPO's upcoming Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This will be the final year for Enhancement Priorities due to the new Federal Legislation Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP 21). These funds will be blended with other programs to become the Transportation Alternatives Program. Ms. Stacy Miller of FDOT requested that there only be one list of projects that compete for Surface Transportation Program/SU funding. Of significance was the U.S. 1 Corridor Project which is a transit project. Ms. Beltran stated that it was learned that SU Funds could be used to supplement the transit operating budget since Martin contracts out to a provider. Martin would be able to capitalize 40% of the operating budget of the fixed route service on U. S. 1.

Mr. Natoli asked how the High Meadows [bicycle/pedestrian] project got on this list. Mr. Malham stated that this was the first project from the Action Plan that could qualify because it was not being funded by any other source, and it didn't have any significant right-of-way or environmental constraints. Mr. Natoli asked why this information was not brought to the committee prior to the project being placed on this list. Mr. Malham stated that there was not enough time but it was appropriate to add it to the list because it was on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. Mr. Natoli stated that he would like to brain storm to see how to get more of the BPAC projects on the list. Ms. Beltran stated that it can be reviewed at a future date.

Mr. Palacios stated that the LRTP plan for the Willoughby Extension is shown as two lanes however FDOT has received an application from the County for the County Improvement Grant Program (CIGP) but it is shown as a four lane road. He asked if the LRTP would be amended to reflect this change. Ms. Beltran stated that she will check it out and get back with him.

Ms. Julie Priest requested information on priority project #11 regarding sidewalks and bike lanes on Dixie Highway from Wright Boulevard to Baker Road.

**A motion was made by Mr. Natoli to approve the three priorities, the Statewide [Surface] Transportation Plan (STP), Enhancement and Transit Priorities. The motion was seconded by Ms. Priest. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **D. REGIONAL WATERWAYS PLAN SCOPE OF SERVICES**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.04

Mr. Malham introduced Ms. Delaney who is heading up the planning of a waterways scope for Palm Beach County. As Martin and St. Lucie Counties have agreed in their Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) to develop a regional waterways project, an overview of the Palm Beach scope was presented to the Citizen's and Technical Advisory Committees (CAC and TAC) and each recommended approval of the scope. This is also being presented to the BPAC for their approval. Ms. Delaney represents the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) which services Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. She has been working with staff in Martin and St. Lucie Counties to develop a scope of services for a Waterways Plan to begin this fiscal year. The entire document is on the TCRPC's website for public review, but provided a brief overview of the project. In Palm Beach County, the Intracoastal is a major waterway which interconnects 23 municipalities. The RPC was asked to develop a plan which would address land use, economics and transportation. The public wanted to have greater access, natural resource protection and recreational facilities. The majority of the County doesn't utilize the waterway by motorized vessels, many use kayaks, canoes, walk the beaches, fish or dine waterside. One strategy to improve public access is street-end parks on roadways terminating at the Intracoastal. The RPC also located ramps and public parking to facilitate this. It also had an economic effect with new businesses opening to sell or rent kayaks, paddle boards and other water vessels. The RPC also stabilized banks and other areas to be designated portage, embarking and debarking areas. Water based transportation was another area of interest. Water taxis and ferries were evaluated. Ms. Delaney said Palm Beach County uses them for events like Sunfest when there is limited parking. This could benefit events in Martin County. High speed ferry service was also considered though it runs outside of the original scope being the Intracoastal. Ms. Delaney said in Martin and St. Lucie Counties the relationship between land use and transportation activities is significant, which is what spurs efficiency. Anticipating the growth between these uses by the City and the County can add to the economic yield which can be achieved through this land/water connection. This advance planning could benefit Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Ms. Delaney stated that Martin has implemented programs to preserve the waterway coastlines which Palm Beach is just beginning to implement throughout this two year planning effort. Ms. Delaney suggested that Martin and St. Lucie consider looking at some of the same areas natural resources, economics, environmental systems, land and water transportation, land use patterns to correspond with the waterways, parks and recreational facilities, public assess and any other areas which may come up along the way. The TCRPC requests that a steering committee be established, and Ms. Delaney reviewed a proposed project schedule. There would be two venues, one in Martin and the other in St. Lucie to broaden the public input. The steering committee would be appointed by the MPO Board, consist of approximately eight to ten members and represent a cross section of the community. Mr. Palacios asked what

method the RPC would use to reach out to people residing on houseboats. Ms. Delaney stated that there are many unregulated moorings in the vicinity and she's unaware if they are registered voters or have land addresses. She added that an unregulated mooring does not have a lot of structure to it and they will add this to their list to prove due diligence and make an effort to contact these people. Mr. Schell added that these types of residences are often transient and voter registration may not be relevant, however their focus generally is more on electronic information. Ms. Prest inquired if there would be a website where people could obtain this information. Ms. Delaney confirmed stating that the RPC will have it listed on their website and that of the T/MPO.

**A motion was made by Ms. Prest recommending approval of the Regional Waterways scope of services to the MPO Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schell. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. LANDSCAPE CRITERIA**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.05

Ms. Beltran advised that during the last Legislative session, the State changed the amount designated for landscaping to 1.5% of the budget. These funds should be spent on "gateway" corridors and tourist areas, with the main focus being "bold" landscaping, using large or Palm trees. It was noted that if there are only trees, irrigation is not necessary, however Ms. Beltran added that FDOT has agreed to work with locals in the future if they desired more landscaping and to provide an irrigation sleeve during the construction process. Mr. Palacios confirmed that the contract would require watering trucks to provide water for the first six months after planting to cover the warranty in order to get the tree established. It was clarified that this is a financial cap and the District has requested of each MPO to provide a landscape criteria. Mr. Malham identified specific corridors which would be candidates for the "gateways". He briefly described the process by which the locations were selected. Ms. Prest advised that she was against the reduction because if sidewalks are constructed without trees to provide shade, people will be less likely to use them. Mr. Natoli stated that he didn't agree with the selected projects. Ms. Beltran clarified that the MPO is not making the policy they are only making the criteria based on the policy approved by the Legislature, to focus on the major gateway corridors. Mr. Palacios stated that the BPAC could make as their criteria the recommendation that the landscaping would shade the sidewalk or bike facility. Mr. Malham advised that the scope of some of the existing projects included funding but if additional landscaping was desired on any projects, the City or County would be responsible for all additional expenses. Ms. Prest stated that BPAC members should fight for projects like the sidewalk and bicycle corridors, and reminded the committee that shade trees are important since Martin is a proponent of Livable Communities. There was

additional discussion on the percentages. It was clarified that that the only thing that the committee is voting on is the criteria, they cannot change FDOT's allowed percentage.

**A motion was made by Ms. Prest to recommend the amended Landscaping Criteria Ranking Form which was seconded by Ms. Lenartiene. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

It was noted that when this is presented to the MPO Board Mr. Malham will report that the CAC and TAC approved the Landscape Criteria as presented, but the BPAC recommended changes to the ranking system.

Ms. Beltran requested that pending approval of the committee, that presentation of Agenda Item G (Informational) precede the presentation of Agenda Item F (Approval). She advised that they were presented to the other committees in that order and were more comprehensible. The committee agreed to the request.

#### **F. TITLE VI AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.06

Ms. Beltran stated that the MPO is preparing for a Federal Audit which is coming up in December, so addressing the Community Characteristics Report and the Title VI now is timely. An example of how Title VI and the Community Characteristics Report can assist in planning comes in the area of transit. One of the route changes included stops at the Health Department, which is across the street from the new Sailfish Splash Water Park. Normally ridership is down in the summer months; however, with the opening of Sailfish Splash, mothers noticed the water park while going to the Health Department and would take their children. This was a win-win situation. Ms. Beltran advised that staff is recommending this Plan for Board approval as it is a Federal requirement.

**Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene made a motion to recommend this item for Board approval. This motion was seconded by Mr. Vossen. There were no oppositions. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **G. COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS REPORT**

MEMO: temp13BPACa02.07

Mr. Malham said that Title VI states that any agency which receives Federal Funds cannot discriminate based on race, color, national origin, minority status or any other protected class. He stated that the planning areas used for this evaluation initially came from the Comprehensive Plan. For study purposes they were separated into groups including minorities, age, poverty, mobility and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) data. Mr. Malham stated that it is a requirement that these forms of evaluation be performed. He highlighted and discussed the different areas. Mr. Malham advised that due to the size of the document that it was not in the agenda package but could be located at:



[www.martinmpo.com/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/Comm\\_Profiles\\_082912.pdf](http://www.martinmpo.com/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/Comm_Profiles_082912.pdf).

Ms. Beltran advised that this item is informational only but is helpful to understand given that the Title VI Plan is also on this agenda.

**7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Beltran advised that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) had been approved and sent to Tallahassee this summer. However, they were returned to all of the State's MPO's because Central Office wanted additional information included on them. Martin has responded to Central Office with the requested information.

Ms. Moore stated that she has recently biked on Jensen Beach Boulevard which has no bike lanes. She stated that it was 7:00 AM on a Sunday morning and it was horrible as vehicles were passing her at 55 miles per hour (MPH) and no one was moving over to share the road.

Mr. Schell asked about the status of the bike lanes between Seabranck Park and the Peck's Lake area. Mr. Malham advised that they are still working on the Gopher Tortoise issues with hopes to be back with some positive answers soon.

Ms. Lenartiene asked for the status of the audible signal at Savannah Road. Mr. Malham stated that staff will get back to her regarding this matter.

Mr. Natoli and Ms. Moore commended Mr. Malham for all his effort, hard work and for everything he has done for BPAC. Ms. Prest commented on his outreach with many different agencies and applauded his outreach skills.

Mr. Natoli stated that he was working with a resident who requested a sidewalk on U.S.1 between Wright Boulevard and Baker Street. Mr. Edwards noted that there are some commercial properties in that area and when they develop that property, they will be required to add a sidewalk. Although it doesn't run the entire length in question, it will help the missing link. Florida Avenue was also mentioned by Mr. Natoli. There are no sidewalks between A-1-A, the Railroad and heading toward Johnson Street. Mr. Edwards stated that it is another area that is on Stuart's radar. Mr. Malham stated that bike lanes in that area are on the Action Plan. Mr. Natoli noted that after the election there will be a changing of the guard. He is looking for input on the overall goals of Martin County. Originally, in Chapter 2 of the County Comp Plan there were Overall Goals, but they were removed last year and we don't want them taken out we want them placed back in. Mr. Natoli said that he is soliciting input for goals for the Comp Plan. He stated that if this County is going to be pedestrian/bicycle friendly it won't work placing a sidewalk or bike lane here or there. He remarked that it is about mixed use and creating a livable community. Mr. Natoli said he would send an e-mail to Michael with his thoughts for an overall goal. Ms. Prest stated that the BPAC would like these goals to be implemented. Mr. Natoli suggested BPAC members send emails to get projects included in the Comp Plan. Mr.

Malham stated that using the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) would be easier. The LDRs require developers to make modifications to their site plans. There is a specific project on Citrus right now which has gone through the design process with sidewalks. Ms. Moore suggested that BPAC use this method. Ms. Preast had the impression that sidewalks were required for all new projects. Mr. Malham said this is true although developers can pay a fee in lieu of building sidewalks. Mr. Edwards advised that the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process also allows for trade-offs of this nature.

**8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**9. NOTES.**

Ms. Beltran stated that the items listed are informational.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

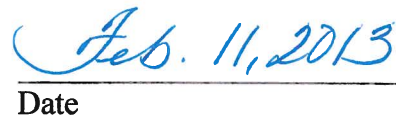
Ms. Moore advised that the next meeting will be a Joint BPAC, CAC and TAC meeting on November 14, 2012, at 1:30 P.M. when FDOT will present the Tentative Work Program.

**11. ADJOURN**

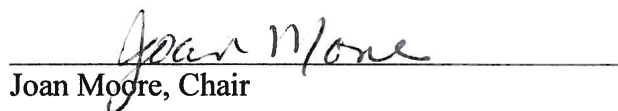
The meeting was adjourned without a motion at 7:25 P.M

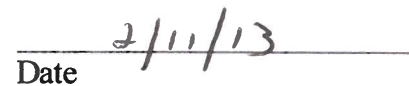
**Recorded and Prepared by:**

  
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II

  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
Joan Moore, Chair

  
Date