

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, April 11, 2011 - 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, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Ms. Joan Moore, Chairperson  
Mr. Ken Natoli  
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards  
Mr. Robert Taylor  
Mr. Jim Hudson  
Ms. Dee Spera  
Officer Dan Pantel (arrived 5:05 pm)  
Mr. Edward Vossen  
Mr. Rick Yost  
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene  
Mr. John-Mark Palacios, FDOT

**Excused Members**

Mr. Joseph DeFronzo

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Mr. Hal Forslund  
Mr. John Mildenerger  
Officer James C. Brooks  
Mr. Eric Cerniglia  
Ms. Barbara Timmerman

**Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO/Transit Planning Manager  
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II  
Mr. Michael Malham, Planner II

**Others in Attendance:**

Ms. Terry Rauth, Martin County Deputy Engineer

Mr. Etienne Bourgeois

Mr. Sam Amerson

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

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**Mr. Ken Natoli moved to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**Mr. Natoli moved to accept the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**5. FDOT COMMENTS**

None.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

MEMO: temp11BPACa05.01

Ms. Beth Beltran explained the Transportation Enhancement application cycle and the project screening selection process. She then introduced each of the project applicants (applications are on file). The first to present was Mr. Sam Amerson from the City of Stuart. Mr. Amerson began the presentation by describing the Dixie Highway (CR 707) Beautification and Sidewalks TE Project Application. He referred them to the aerial map exhibits identifying the location of the project. He mentioned several improvements to the area, including a signalized intersection and crosswalks and a recent CDBG project to add street lighting, parking, and landscaping. He stated that the goal of this project was to provide interconnectivity within the nearby low to moderate-income communities and nearby businesses, parks, and public buildings along Dixie Highway.

Mr. Robert Taylor asked if any consideration had been given to widening the sidewalk to 8' to allow for recreation cycling. Mr. Amerson responded that drainage issues had been a limiting factor in determining the width of the sidewalk. Mr. Amerson stated that there may be a possibility of widening the sidewalk depending upon the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Natoli asked a question regarding the location of the sidewalk near abutting facilities. Mr. Amerson stated that this was due to existing curb and gutter.

Ms. Dee Spera asked if any local funds would be spent for this project. Mr. Amerson replied in the negative. However, the City would be contributing to this project by conducting the design and permitting services.

The second presenter was Mr. Etienne Bourgeois from CAPTEC on behalf of the Town of Sewall's Point. Mr. Bourgeois began his presentation by describing the East Ocean Boulevard TE Project Application. He described the location of the project and its specific components, including median improvements, stamped concrete, landscaping, and audible crosswalk signals. He explained a 3R project is currently being completed by FDOT and that the Town of Sewall's Point would like to use the TE funds for landscaping, irrigation, lighting, and signal improvements.

Ms. Moore asked if bike lanes would be included this section of roadway regardless of the Town's TE project. Mr. Bourgeois replied in the affirmative and explained the project would be incomplete without the additional TE improvements. She also mentioned that the Town of Sewall's Point rejected proposed improvements several years ago. Mr. Bourgeois stated that he could neither confirm nor deny this statement. He stated the goal of this project would be to tie-in the FDOT improvements together the Town's proposed improvements. A question was raised regarding the width of the median. Mr. Malham stated that the Town's proposed typical section for the median is consistent with the latest FDOT typical section.

Mr. Bourgeois described the cost of the project and stated the Town would cover the difference from what is currently available.

The third presenter was Ms. Terry Rauth with Martin County. Ms. Rauth began her presentation by describing the SE Dixie Highway/CR-A1A TE Project Application. She stated the project was identified and developed to coincide with an existing resurfacing project in an area where the County has right-of-way (ROW) and would be a part of the East Coast Greenway. Ms. Rauth described several other projects being completed or funded by the County including Seabranche Phase II and a Recreational Trails Grant through Jonathon Dickinson State Park.

Mr. Ed Vossen asked a question regarding the possibility of constructing bike lanes on A1A south of Cove Road. Ms. Rauth stated that there was very limited ROW and leasing it from FEC would be cost prohibitive. Mr. John-Mark Palacios asked a question regarding ROW near an intersection. Ms. Rauth explained that it would be require leasing from the FEC, which would be cost prohibitive. This concluded the project presentations.

Mr. Edwards asked a question regarding the total amount of funding for TE projects. Ms. Beltran stated the available funds would only be available to fund

one project. She also explained other projects could be identified and included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Mr. Natoli stated that there were three projects before the Committee: one that included trees and pavers [East Ocean Boulevard], another one for sidewalks [Dixie Highway (CR 707) Beautification and Sidewalks], and another for bike lanes [SE Dixie Highway/CR-A1A Bike Lanes].

Mr. Palacios mentioned that one of them, the bike lane project, was regional in nature due to the fact that it would be part of the East Coast Greenway.

Mr. Kevin Edwards stated that the sidewalk and bike lane projects both added facilities where they currently do not exist.

Ofc. Dan Pantel stated that there are a lot of pedestrians along Dixie Highway near the proposed sidewalk project.

Mr. Palacios stated that once Martin County resurfaces the section of Dixie Highway without bike lanes, the County won't add them until much later.

Ms. Moore asked if Box funds would be available for these projects. Ms. Beltran stated that there are SU funds available that could be used at the discretion of the MPO Board.

Ofc. Pantel asked if ranking the bike lane project number one would increase the chances of the Jonathon Dickinson State Park Recreational Trails project being funded. Ms. Rauth replied that the Park's application indicated the County's intent to pursue funding for the bike lane along Dixie Highway.

Ms. Spera asked if Safe Routes to School funds could be used to fund the City of Stuart's sidewalk project. Several members identified nearby schools that would benefit from the project. Ms. Beltran replied that it would depend on future funding levels for the program.

Ms. Moore asked the Committee if the decision had been narrowed down to the City of Stuart's sidewalk project and Martin County's bike lane project. Members replied in the affirmative.

Further discussion ensued regarding the prioritization of the TE projects.

In reply to two questions regarding the other MPO Advisory Committees and previous year's ranking, Ms. Beltran stated the rankings determined by the Citizens Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees and that the City of Stuart/ Rio CRA project received funding in the previous year.

The costs of each project were again described.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was a safety issue for pedestrians within the area of the proposed Dixie Highway sidewalk project. Ofc. Pantel and other members responded with several examples.

Mr. Natoli mentioned the timing issue may not be favorable to Martin County, since if they are not funded through this TE cycle, they never will be built.

Ms. Rauth asked if the Committee could recommend that SU funds be used for the sidewalk project. Ms. Beltran replied that the SU funds could be used. However, the priorities are currently highway projects.

A hand vote was then taken. Seven members voted to rank the Martin County Bike Lane project number 1, and three members voted to rank the City of Stuart Sidewalk project number 1.

**Mr. Vossen made a motion to rank the SE Dixie Highway/CR-A1A Bike Lane TE Project #1, the Dixie Highway (CR 707) Beautification and Sidewalk TE Project #2, and the East Ocean Boulevard TE project #3. The motion was seconded by Mr. Natoli. The motion carried**

In response to a question about the recommendation of the Committee, Ms. Beltran stated that part of the recommendation to the MPO Board could also include a request to use Box funds for the City of Stuart Sidewalk project.

## **B. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES**

MEMO: temp11BPACa05.02

Ms. Beltran explained that this item arose from concerns about the responsibilities of Advisory Committees. She stated the purpose of the Committee is to review information and for making recommendations and comments to the MPO Board. She stated that MPOAC Staff agreed with this statement.

Mr. Natoli mentioned that in previous discussions, thank you letters were identified as okay. Ms. Beltran agreed. She further explained that Advisory Committees do not normally send correspondence to other agencies or departments, but rather make a recommendation to the MPO Board.

Ms. Moore stated that in general, communication from the BPAC should go to the MPO Board. In light of this information, Ms. Beltran stated that the BPAC could recommend that the MPO Board send a letter to the Engineering Department and Board of County Commissioners in support of the proposed alignment for the Seabranh Phase II TE project.

**Mr. Natoli made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board send a letter to the Engineering Department in support of the proposed alignment for the Seabranh Phase II Project. The motion was seconded by Ofc. Pantel. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. John-Mark Palacios asked a question about Plans Review and if they would have to go before the Board. Ms. Beltran stated that she would include these and future comments and recommendations in a memorandum to the MPO Board for each meeting.

**C. SR 710 PD&E STUDY UPDATE**

MEMO: temp11BPACa05.03

Ms. Beltran explained an issue that arose during the MPO Board meeting regarding the dedication of SU funds for the SR 710 project. Because of this issue, the TIP Amendment was pulled from the MPO Agenda while the FDOT works to reallocate these funds from an SIS [Strategic Intermodal System] facility to another MPO priority project.

The second issue was the MPO Board vote to remove the multimodal path from the SR 710 PD&E study. A letter was sent from the Board to FDOT explaining this vote. FDOT has since sent a letter to the MPO Board explaining the actual cost of the multimodal path and asking them to reconsider their decision.

Mr. John-Mark Palacios stated the 2035 RL RTP Needs Plan includes the proposed SR 710 multimodal path. Ms. Beltran stated that this was mentioned by Mr. Pat Glass but would have to review the plan to identify the specific location in the document.

Mr. Palacios further explained the right of way for the multimodal path would have to be acquired regardless of the MPO Board's decision for drainage maintenance. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the right of way and alternatives for the multimodal path.

Mr. Natoli explained that it may be beneficial to have Mr. Pat Glass return for another presentation to discuss the project alternatives. Further discussion ensued regarding methods to support the SR 710 multimodal path.

**Mr. Natoli made a motion to tell the MPO Board that [the BPAC] is in favor of the multiuse trail understanding that there are right of way and alignment issues to be worked out. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS**

MEMO: temp11BPACa05.04

Ms. Moore explained that this item includes all public involvement efforts made by the BPAC and focuses on the Build-a-Bike event. She explained this event is an opportunity to inform the public about cycling and pedestrian safety. It began as a memorial to a past chairman of the BPAC, Donald Roseman, and that the BPAC is responsible for the event.

Ofc. Pantel suggested that maps be made available during this event to show the community what the BPAC does. Ms. Beltran stated that it may be too soon to show the map with potential projects and may be better suited to a public meeting regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Ms. Moore explained efforts made to date that included ordering bikes and identifying recipients through the Boys' & Girls' Club.

Mr. Malham stated that he would go through old files to look for related radio

announcements and flyers for the event. Ms. Beltran asked if anyone would be willing to be interviewed for MCTV. Ms. Moore stated that she would be willing to do so.

Ms. Spera mentioned that it would be helpful for the announcer to regularly promote the event during the TCCA Cycling Classic. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Dan Burden, an advocate for pedestrian issues, would be at City Hall in Stuart on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The roadway project on Colorado was discussed.

Mr. Natoli asked if the next meeting was a regular meeting. Ms. Beltran replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Beltran stated that next year a joint meeting will be held to review and discuss the TE projects and then have separate Committee meetings to rank them.

**E. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN PLAN –  
GOALS and OBJECTIVES**  
MEMO: temp11BPACa05.05

Mr. Natoli stated that due to time constraints, it may be beneficial to table this item for the next meeting. Ms. Moore explained that any discussion related to potential projects should be directed to staff.

Mr. Malham stated that he had compiled a list of projects identified in the previous BPAC meeting and that this list would be reviewed during the next meeting.

Further ideas for potential projects were discussed.

Mr. Malham stated that he would begin developing strategies for the next meeting as well as an outline for the Action Plan. He also stated that he hoped the Committee could help to identify origins and destinations in an effort to better evaluate potential projects.

**7. NOTES**

- Audible Crosswalk Thank you Message from Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene  
Ms. Beltran stated the thank you message was forwarded on to County Staff and the MPO Board.

Mr. Natoli asked if the Committee should also send a thank you. Ms. Lenartiene stated that after discussion with Mr. Malham, she thought a personal thank you message would have been more appropriate than writing on behalf of the BPAC. Ms. Moore and Mr. Natoli replied that it would have been fine to write on behalf of the BPAC.

Mr. Natoli stated a motion was made to write a thank you letter on behalf of the BPAC.

Ms. Moore stated that she would write another letter to the Engineering Department on behalf of the BPAC.

- Audible Crosswalk Signal Installation Request  
This item was included but not discussed.

**8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

**9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**10. NEXT MEETINGS**

- May 9, 2011 (Regular Meeting)
- June 13, 2011 (Subcommittee Meeting)

**11. ADJOURN**

**Mr. Natoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards. There being no objection, the motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

**Recorded and Prepared by:**

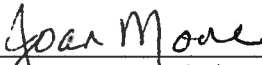



Michael Malham, Planner II



Date

**Approved by:**

  
Joan Moore, BPAC Chair

Date