

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

MINUTES

Monday, June 13, 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. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Jim Hudson
Ms. Dee Spera
Officer Dan Pantel (arrived 5:06 pm)
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene
Mr. John-Mark Palacios, FDOT
Mr. John Fanticola (For Barbara Timmerman)

Excused Members

Mr. Hal Forslund (Gone until November)
Mr. Edward Vossen
Mr. Rick Yost
Mr. Ken Natoli

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. John Mildenberger
Officer James C. Brooks
Mr. Eric Cerniglia

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:
Officer Mike Pope

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Robert Taylor moved to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Kevin Edward stated that he had advised the secretary of his absence prior to the meeting and wished his status be amended from Absent to Excused.

Ms. Dee Spera moved to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kevin Edwards. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. John-Mark Palacios of FDOT advised of a project meeting in Sewall's Point. This meeting is the Community Awareness Meeting at the Sewall's Point Town Hall which is located at 1 South Sewall's Point Road in Sewall's Point, FL. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. regarding the Sewall's Point A-1-A resurfacing project.

Mr. Palacios stated that SR710 had previously been approved by the MPO Policy Board, however it is now being pushed back. It has not gone to design yet. It was requested that Mr. Pat Glass, of FDOT return to this committee and give an update. Mr. Palacios stated that it would be more beneficial to bring him to the committee just prior to the project going to design.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FY 11/12 – 15/16 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

MEMO: temp11BPACa07.01

Ms. Beth Beltran stated that some minor changes have been made to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) since the BPAC committee saw it on May 9, 2011. Projects are now identified as being Capital or Non-Capital, as requested by Federal Highway. In addition, the 5310 Project shows the FY2012 allocation. Ms. Beltran suggested that when the BPAC Committee comes up with their project priorities as a result of the Action Plan their projects will be included in the TIP. Ms. Beltran advised that the TIP is updated annually and shows the projects and where funds are spent. She advised that most of the information is derived from the Tentative Work Program which is presented by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mr. Malham stated that there are some blank areas along with the public comments. He stated that he will be picking up the public comment forms from

the public libraries this week. The Draft TIP, along with the public comment forms, have been on display for approximately 45 days in an effort to comply with Federal requirements. The public comments will be added to the TIP on Page 10.

Mr. Palacios, from FDOT, inquired as to the fiscal years funded with the Safe Routes to School. Ms. Spera inquired if the funds were Federal or State funds and will be there funding in the out years. Ms. Beltran stated that the funds are both Federal and State and that the Feds are going to have to approve another extension of the Federal Transportation Authorization for funding to be available after September 30, 2011.

Ms. Beltran stated that the U. S. Highway 1 Retrofit is a signature project of the 2035 Plan in an attempt to improve and make U. S. Highway 1 more livable, walkable, and bicycle and transit friendly.

Mr. Palacios inquired as to the Hobe Sound sidewalks as they were still listed on the TIP. Ms. Beltran stated that the sidewalks were going to cost more in design and oversight than to construct so that project was canceled and those funds were redistributed to fund this year's Sewall's Point project application for Transportation Enhancement funds.

A Motion was made to accept the Final TIP as presented and recommend it to the MPO Board for approval by Ms. Joan Moore. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe DeFronzo. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

B. MARTIN COUNTY 2007-2009 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COLLISION REPORT
MEMO: temp11BPACa07.02

Mr. Michael Malham noted that Martin County has a higher rate of bicycle accidents compared to the state average. The vehicle collisions were also included. The only years which were included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision Report study were 2007 to 2009. As a whole, Florida has experienced a decrease in bicycle accidents. Mr. Malham did state that pedestrian accidents are down for Martin County. He addressed the individual points on the Collision Maps. He advised that the second map is a bike only map while the third map is pedestrian collisions. Most of the information was obtained from Martin County, and should be considered when the BPAC prioritizes their list of bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Edwards asked if the increase in the number of accidents could be because the reporting of accidents has improved, giving a perception of more accidents. It would be beneficial to get with the police department, and the person in the Engineering Department which compiles these reports in an effort to see what the percentages were prior to the improved reporting. Officer Dan Pantel stated that statically, Martin County has a high capacity of accidents. He did concur that the low sample size really does inflate the numbers. He stated that

if the damage incurred is less than \$500, the people do not have to report the accident, and many accidents may not have been counted.

It was noted that Officer Pantel is retiring and Officer Mike Pope will be taking his position on the BPAC committee. The committee welcomed Officer Pope.

Officer Pope advised the committee that frequently, bicycle accidents involve people under the influence, homeless people, or foreigners. This could be because bicycling is their main mode of transportation. The Golden Gate area has a high number of accidents because there are a lot of bicycle riders.

It was mentioned that scooters are becoming more frequent on sidewalks since legislation was passed allowing this last year. This could be dangerous as pedestrians may not be able to hear the electric scooters, plus many pedestrians are on a cell phone or listening to an ipod or other mode of personal entertainment. Scooters are also becoming very fast, some as fast as 30 miles an hour, and to have that on a sidewalk could be very dangerous. Pedestrians do have the right of way, but if they can't hear the scooter coming or hear it at the last minute and erroneously move in the same direction as the scooter, the pedestrian could be hit.

Mr. Malham stated that he has been getting collision reports from the County, and will continue to do so in order to keep track. A copy of the reports which he has obtained, is in the agenda package. This report lists Traffic Crash Statistics, Top Three Intersections by Crash Count, Collision Data and various other methods of tracking accidents, injuries and fatalities.

C. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN

MEMO: temp11BPACa07.03

Ms. Joan Moore commended the superb job that Mr. Malham has been doing on the action plan for the BPAC. She was very impressed with the handout that was presented to the Committee.

Mr. Malham is now in the Electronic Review Committee's system so he can review project and add comments. Mr. Malham had gone to a meeting in Fort Pierce, hosted by FDOT, to learn how to improve pedestrian safety. Mr. John-Mark Palacios stated that he would send Mr. Malham an email regarding recent issues from FDOT.

Mr. Malham wants to highlight the accomplishments made by the County in order to get future funding. (See the Potential Projects List which Mr. Malham provided.) He also has a list of roads whose names change in different areas, or towns. Mr. Malham stated that there will be a lot of issues with projects which run through parks. (See map in agenda).

Mr. Robert Taylor said that the BPAC should prioritize the projects so maybe they could get in next year's budget. Ms. Beltran stated that there is a TIP amendment on SR 710 which is going before the Board on June 20th. If this amendment is approved there is a possibility that the MPO's SU/discretionary funds will resurface Pratt-Whitney Road from SR 76 to the Palm Beach County line, and there will be bike lanes on both sides of the road.

Mr. Palacios stated that Bridge Road doesn't have bike lanes east of U. S. Highway 1 and it is a highly traveled road and should have them. It was noted that the members should continue to identify places to which people want to walk or bike, on the Martin County Bicycle Map. Many of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) projects are on this map. Mr. Malham stated that he will work with Engineering to see if they have any other GIS layers to over lay on his map and see if he can obtain any additional data.

Officer Pantel stated that a sidewalk is needed on the North side of Martin Downs going west of 42nd Street toward Citrus. After coming off the bridge towards Martin Downs, there's a gap from Martin Down to Armellini.

It was clarified by Mr. Palacios, that there is going to be a six foot sidewalk on the Indian Street Bridge, not a multiuse trail as someone had been incorrectly advised. The bridge is being constructed with a sidewalk as well as a bike lane.

Mr. Malham stated that the Committee may want to wait to prioritize these projects since more info is needed. The next step is mapping the capital improvement Plan (CIP) the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) projects and renewing the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan (CGMP). It was suggested that if developers are going into an area, using the Hobe Grove DRI as an example, then BPAC needs to work with them from the beginning to try to have them install bike lanes and multi-use paths.

7. NOTES

Mr. Malham discussed the memo from John Griner, Seabranh Preserve State Park Manager. He stated that a Public Hearing will be held on June 23, 2011, at 6:00 PM at the Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996 in the John F. Armstrong Wing. This Public Hearing is to seek approval of the proposed land use amendment. This amendment would allow the alignment of the Greenway Trails to run inside of two different parks, the first park is Savannas Preserve State Park, the second is Seabranh Preserve State Park. An invitation was extended to all the committee members to show their support by attending the public hearing.

Ms. Moore stated that Officer Dan Pantel is retiring from the Stuart Police Department and also leaving this committee. She stated that Officer Pantel has been a valuable member of BPAC for many years and heartily thanked him for his years of service on the committee, for his efforts at the Build-A-Bike events, as

well as his service to the community and his participation in the D.A.R.E. [Drug Abuse Resistance Education] program at local schools.

Ms. Moore reported on the recent Build-A-Bike event. She stated that the event was a success, however there were a few issues that arose unforeseeably. She noted that there were different people in charge of the event, and that the bikes were a little more expensive this year than last. She had advised the Boys and Girls Club that due to the increased costs of the bikes, that there would only be 17 bikes this year, not 18 as had been in prior years. Ms. Moore reported that the Boys and Girls Club brought 18 children to receive bikes, one being 14 years old and much taller than the younger children receiving the bikes. The Boys and Girls Club representative went directly to the representatives of the sponsor, Gordon and Doner, and requested an additional bike be provided for the older boy, to which they ever so graciously agreed to provide. Ms. Moore stated that she has spoken to a representative of the Boys and Girls Club about this issue. She advised that the Boys and Girls Club was aware from the beginning that there was only going to be 17 bikes, and that it was not right that they had gone directly to the sponsor to request the bike for the older boy. Ms. Moore advised that the Boys and Girls Club should have at least, advised her of this situation prior to addressing the sponsor.

Ms. Moore asked the committee if they would like to consider providing bicycles for older, larger children in the future. The discussion was more negative than positive as the bikes are more expensive and they would not be able to provide as many bikes. Also, they want to make an impact on the children to teach them early, the rules by which a bicyclist must abide, and to have them participate in the rodeo. Mr. Edwards suggested keeping the bikes small.

Ms. Moore stated that she was planning to send thank you notes to the Treasure Coast Cycling Association, the Boys and Girls Club, John Goings of ProCycles, Gordon and Doner, and the committee members who assisted in the Build-A-Bike event.

8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Taylor appreciates the articles the club submits via email to the committee members and he provided the club with an article from USA Today stating that Florida is rated seventh in the United States for being bicyclist friendly. Mr. Palacios, from FDOT, stated that it's an improvement as Florida was rated twelfth last year.

Ms. Beltran asked if the committee wanted to change the July meeting to be a subcommittee meeting due to people going on vacation and the seasonal members already being gone. Ms. Moore stated that it would make two consecutive meetings be subcommittee meetings and she didn't think it would be a wise move. Mr. Malham will email the committee to see who will be in attendance at the July meeting.

Mr. Palacios stated that the St. Lucie BPAC is developing a bicycle association. They now

have a local chapter called the South Florida Bicycle Coalition. They want to see if anyone wants to join the coalition. They would like it to be a regional coalition.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None.

10. NEXT MEETING

July 11, 2011 (Regular Meeting)

11. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

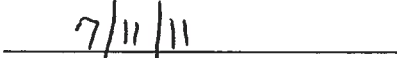
Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II


Date

Approved by:


Joan Moore, BPAC Chair


Date