

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

MINUTES

Monday, March 14, 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 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Joan Moore, Chairperson
Ken Natoli (arrived 5:07 pm)
Joseph DeFronzo
Kevin B. Edwards (arrived 5:09 pm)
Robert Taylor
Jim Hudson
Dee Spera
Officer Dan Pantel
Rick Yost
Cheryl Lenartiene
John-Mark Palacios, FDOT

Excused Members

None

Members Not In Attendance:

Hal Forslund
John Mildemberger
Edward Vossen
Officer James C. Brooks
Eric Cerniglia
Barbara Timmerman

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO/Transit Planning Manager (arrived 5:21 pm)
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II
Michael Malham, Planner II

Others in Attendance:

Bret Baronak, Palm Beach MPO
Terry Rauth-Martin County Engineer
Thomas M. Egan (arrived 5:21 pm) guest

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES:

- January 10, 2011 – Regular BPAC Meeting Minutes
- February 14, 2010 – Subcommittee Summary

Mr. Michael Malham stated that some minor spelling errors have been corrected since this was distributed with the agenda package and page seven paragraph two was removed as it was unclear as to who made this comment.

A motion to approve the January 10, 2011, minutes with the amendments as noted by Mr. Malham, was made by Ms. Dee Spera and seconded by Mr. Robert Taylor. There being no objection the minutes were approved unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

None.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. STUART NEWS ARTICLE FOLLOW-UP

MEMO: temp11BPACa04.01

The Committee was of the impression that Mr. John Mildenerger was quoted very accurately in Ms. Eve Samples' newspaper article and did express the desires of the BPAC Committee. Ms. Moore stated that the education of motorists is very important. That an automobile driver is to give a cyclist a space of three feet per the Florida Statutes, is virtually unknown by most drivers. Many states have similar rules as Florida, but since Florida does have an enormous amount of tourists the tourists may not be aware of the active biking populous and that they are to give a space of at least three feet to the biker. It was mentioned that maybe there isn't as much public awareness of the riders as needed. Mr. Ken Natoli asked if the newspaper columnist [Ms. Samples] would be able to come to the meeting next month. It was discussed that whenever things are mentioned on TCPalm or some blogs regarding bikers on sidewalks, it's always done in a negative light. It frequently is the same people on the blogs. Officer Dan Pantel suggested that members of BPAC post some positive information on the blogs to

counteract the negatives. It was also mentioned that some have complained about the audible crosswalk signals. Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene stated that she'd be happy to respond to the audible crosswalk signal blog as it has helped her a lot, and she's thankful to have that audible signal.

Mr. Natoli asked if a letter had gone out to the Engineering Department thanking them for the audible signal. Mr. Malham replied that it has recently been learned to whom the letter should be addressed, so it has not been sent to date. This letter will also need to be copied to the County Commissioners as they approved the audible light. With the help of the Commissioners, more research is being done to identify areas in need of audible crosswalk signals. Ms. Lenartiene will see if she can get in writing, the areas in need of audible signals, from someone who works on this sort of thing. She will talk to her friend on Wednesday about that issue.

B. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

MEMO: temp11BPACa04.02

Mr. Malham indicated that he was going to need some additional information so he is going to postpone reviewing the Enhancement Projects until the April 11, 2011, meeting, so that meeting will have to be a regular scheduled meeting and not a subcommittee meeting. Mr. Malham will send an email to the organization to advise them that this is a regular meeting, not a subcommittee meeting as originally planned, and if anyone is unable to attend that they will need to have an excused absence.

**C. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN PLAN -
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

MEMO: temp11BPACa04.03

Mr. Malham introduced Ms. Terry Rauth, Deputy County Engineer, to discuss the projects. Ms. Rauth discussed the Seabranh Park areas. There is no room for bike lanes on Old Dixie as the right-of-way is the edge of pavement. The same problem is occurring between Cove Road and the railroad tracks because the property belongs to the FEC. To use the FEC right-of-way, the County pays an annual fee which currently is approximately seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for the parking spaces in Hobe Sound near the railroad. The Community Redevelopment Area's (CRA's) lease land but the County doesn't have funding in order to lease land in perpetuity so it [the County] is looking for other solutions. The County is looking to continuing the multi-modal path to the Seabranh State Park. It was going to go along the perimeter, but the residents in Loblolly have objected to having the path behind their homes. Representatives from Tallahassee came down and decided with the Seabranh State Park Representative, to allow the path to go through the Park on the firebreaks. That way there will be no scrub clearing, and there will be some distance between the path and Loblolly. Loblolly residents are not totally pleased, but the County doesn't want to lose the five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000.00) grant, and it will be a beautiful ride through the Park. Ms. Rauth would like the BPAC to help

figure out a route from Cove Road other than Seabbranch. More bikers are using the multi-modal path, and Ms. Rauth wondered if they could widen the sidewalk, would people ride it. Ms. Moore indicated that it is not a smooth ride on that sidewalk. Ms. Rauth reiterated that it is a multi-modal path, and not specifically for bikers. She did state that it was saw cut, which normally is better for biking, but it is for everyone's use. The County, with great difficulty, was able to acquire an easement from Seabbranch State Park to build a ten foot wide sidewalk. However, for the next phase, instead of procuring an easement, the County will build the sidewalk and the Park will maintain it. Ms. Rauth had a map which she distributed to the committee so the members could see the area to which she was referencing. Discussion ensued regarding different possibilities of bike lanes. Ms. Rauth also mentioned that the Friends of Jonathan Dickenson are applying for a grant to resurface old U. S. Highway One that runs along the FEC, but they don't have the match money. However, since it is hard for the County to build in the Park, they [the County] stated to the Friends of Jonathan Dickenson that if they were able to get the grant, the County would provide the match funds. They will continue to work on this idea. It was noted that the bikers would enjoy it if the bike lanes could meet up with the East Coast Greenway, in Palm Beach County. The group consensus was that even bike lanes on Old Dixie is a good alternative to U. S. Highway One. The County is about eight million dollars behind in resurfacing already and to add bike lanes, it's an additional ten foot of pavement. The County would like to see the cycling community go to the Federal legislature to seek funding for this type of expenditure, as the money isn't there and gas tax funds decrease all the time. In the future, the County may be able to increase the width of the sidewalk, but the County just can't add bike lanes in this area, they may look for other nearby locations to consider.

The East Coast Greenway path was discussed. It is still unsure as to where the alignment for the pathway will be placed. Ms. Rauth stated that she thought the pathway would be nicer being in the Park. Mr. John-Mark Palacios, from FDOT, stated that FDOT is trying to work on a path in the Jonathan Dickenson Area. Ms. Rauth stated that if they [the County] are able to get the path to go through the Park [Jonathan Dickenson State Park], that the Park would not charge the bikers a fee to use it. As the County has been able to work with the Park regarding the sidewalk on Jensen Beach Boulevard, [there wasn't enough right-of-way for the sidewalk], but the Park let the County place the sidewalk inside the Park. Seabbranch Park is hoping that if the path goes in the Park, that the Park could become a trailhead, and maybe people would park their cars there to walk the trail, and deposit some money in the donation box. Jonathan Dickenson is considering the same opportunity of adding some parking spaces, let it serve as a trailhead, and maybe people will deposit some money in to the donation box.

It was mentioned that a new law was going into affect soon allowing motorized vehicles to ride on multi-modal paths. Ms. Rauth clarified, after speaking to Mr. Mark Nelson of the Park, that the new law is really geared more to people with disabilities and that only vehicles you can straddle can be ridden on the path.

There also is a maximum width so that you can't have golf carts, ATV's and vehicles of that nature.

Mr. Malham introduced Mr. Brett Baronak of the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Mr. Baronak mentioned that he and Mr. Malham are frequenting the meetings of the other, in an effort to learn from one another, and work in conjunction with one another as some trails cross county lines. Especially plans like the East Coast Greenway Trail. Mr. Baronak also rides his bike in the Martin area often.

Ms. Moore offered, that people suggest areas for bicycle paths as an Enhancement Project, and when it gets into the design process, it is learned that there are right-of-way problems. People are unwilling to give right-of-way for the projects and then the project dies. This committee needs to make sure that the corridors which are being chosen, are areas that would be able to work. Mr. Malham handed out a form to the committee (See file) which has questions that help define if the project is viable, can get funding, and if right-of-way can be obtained.

Mr. Kevin Edwards, inquired as to the residents of Loblolly objecting to the alignment. It was learned that this is the alternate alignment. Mr. Edwards stated that it would be a gigantic shame if this project was nixed. It was mentioned that the residents are concerned of an increase in crime should the path be allowed. Another comment was that people have been seen in that area in camouflage, with pit bulls. It was brought to the attention of the Loblolly residents that having people in the area walking or biking, with cell phones to report suspicious activity would be a safer alternative to the current activities. The residents were aware of this quasi-unsavory behavior, and stated that they just stay away from that area.

Ms. Rauth mentioned that potentially Gomez Road could be extended as there are a few private parcels, but there are a lot of wetlands, and it could be a bit of work. It was inquired if the BPAC could recommend this project alignment. Ms. Rauth stated that it won't go to the Board for a while as it is an approved project.

The BPAC would like to send a letter to Ms. Rauth only, endorsing this project, and Ms. Beltran will put the letter under Notes in the MPO Agenda Package in order to keep the MPO Board advised.

A motion was made by Mr. Ken Natoli and seconded by Mr. Jim Hudson to do a letter to the MPO Board recommending approving the park alignment for this project. There being no objections to the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Malham added that other enhancements will be covered later.

Ms. Beltran addressed Mr. John-Mark Palacios, of FDOT to advise of a safety concern that has been noted. Ms. Rauth stated that there is a signal being installed

by the U. S. Highway One, Publix and the Oceanographic Park entrance. The Committee said that there are no sidewalks at this location. The County Traffic Division has been trying to contact people to get something done, however they are not getting anywhere to date. It was noted that Ms. Lisa Wichser is working on this project. Mr. Palacios stated that maybe the sidewalks are going through design. He'll check to see if it has been omitted or what the status is at this time.

Ms. Lenartiene checked into the types of vehicles that can use of the Seabranh Trail, referenced previously, during the committee's discussion. She stated that safety trumps all. There are some regulations and the mobility vehicles cannot adversely affect the safety of walkers and bikers. It appears to be handled case by case.

Ms. Beltran advised that the Enhancement Committee met recently. This is a new committee which was assembled because in the past committees have submitted grant applications only to learn that the grants don't pay for everything, but this issue doesn't come up until the project is ready for construction. This preliminary committee reviewed the three applications, the Dixie Highway bicycle lane, from the City of Stuart and from the Town of Sewell's Point. These will be brought to this Committee in April, for approval. Pre-Application doesn't begin until fall, so it would be helpful if this Committee will prioritize into this pre-application process. This will be needed prior to the November deadline, and it will go into the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which this committee has discussed.

7. NOTES

- SR 710 PD&E Study Update.

Mr. Malham advised that Mr. Pat Glass and Mr. Roberto Gutierrez the Project Managers for the SR 710 PD&E Study, went before the MPO Board on Feb. 21, 2011, and gave a review and update on the project. The Board voted four to two to remove the multi-modal path from the project. The Commissioners who voted for the path were Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Hayes. All others voted against the path, with the exception of Commissioner Mortell as he had left prior to this vote. Mr. Malham is waiting to hear information from both Palm Beach and Okeechobee Counties as to where they stand on this issue. Martin County would not want to be a missing link if the other counties are going forward with this multi-modal path. Clarification as to the reasons for the failed vote ensued stating the need to purchase large amounts of right-of-way due to positioning of underlying gas pipes. Mr. Natoli asked if there was any way to salvage the path without spending \$30 Million dollars for the additional right-of-way. Ms. Beltran suggested that Staff would like a recommendation from this advisory committee to research this project. The SR 710 is a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and Martin County needs to find out what Okeechobee and Palm Beach Counties are doing. Ms. Beltran addressed Mr. Palacios, [FDOT representative] and he will see who to contact at District One in order to gain clarity of the situation. Mr. Malham indicated that Nicole Harris would be the

person to contact at FDOT's District One. Mr. Malham has been attempting to contact her since this has occurred. Mr. Baronak, from the Palm Beach MPO stated that Palm Beach is supportive of a pathway along that road, as that will provide connectivity. It would provide for a regional greenway if this could come to fruition. Mr. Baronak states that the location is fairly critical as it relates to the other counties. He will check into the location to get updated also.

Mr. Natoli reiterated that this needs to be looked into to see if this can be done any less expensively.

Mr. Palacios stated that he needs to review the cross sections from FDOT's plans as he thinks that's where the largest land acquisition will be taking place due to the need for a swale. It was suggested that a copy of the cross section be checked out to see if there could be any additional options. Mr. Palacios said he will check with Mr. Glass, as he would be able to advise if the options had been looked at prior and what their results had been. Mr. Malham stated he will follow up with this issue.

If a better solution could be discovered, it could be taken back to the MPO Board for a second review.

- Audible Crosswalk Update.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee voted to make a motion to the MPO Board requesting that the County install audible crosswalks at the intersection of Savannah and 24th Street, near Jensen Beach Elementary School. The Board approved that, and have requested that some additional areas of need be brought to their attention for possible fulfillment. Ms. Lenartiene mentioned doing a letter as a thank you for the installation of the audible crosswalk sign which she will send to the MPO Board, there were no objections by the committee.

Ms. Beltran added that Commissioner Ciampi asked that Staff ask FDOT about the resurfacing project for Martin Downs, to see if audible crosswalks could be installed on this main street in Palm City. Ms. Lisa Wichser, the Traffic Engineer is looking into this, as there are six or seven crosswalks along the area. It was determined that these intersections were complicated so it would be appropriate to see if these intersections could be used.

- Gordon & Doner Thank You Letter.

Gordon & Doner has underwritten BPAC's Build a Bike Project and has issued a two thousand (\$2,000.00) check to the Treasure Coast Cycling Association (TCCA). The logo will be requested in PDF format. It was inquired as to if they have any stickers which could be placed on the bikes. Mr. Malham will follow up with these items and will forward them [Gordon & Doner, P. A.] a copy of the next agenda to keep them in the loop. Ms. Moore asked that a Build-A-Bike agenda item be placed on the agenda for

each meeting until the day of the event. Ms. Moore stated that she was going to see how many bikes they are going to have and then Big Brothers and Big Sisters will need to be contacted in order to get the names of the recipients. John Silvia, with ProCycle Bicycle Shop, a local establishment, has expressed an interest in supplying the bikes this year. [His staff donates their time and expertise to provide safety checks for each bike after they have been assembled by the volunteers.] Officer Pantel stated that he has plenty of bells and head lights for the bikes, and believes that he has enough helmets. He will check. The committee decided that the bikes should be purchased from Mr. Silvia at the local ProCycle Bicycle Shop instead of purchasing them from a major chain, as he has supported this event favorably in the past. Ms. Moore will contact the Boys and Girls Club, and Mr. Pantel stated that the Sheriff's Office has been contacted

Mr. Pantel made a motion that the bicycles be purchased from Mr. Silvia at the ProCycle Bicycle Shop. This motion was seconded by Kevin Edwards. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Natoli addressed the committee regarding the minutes from the previous subcommittee meeting. He stated that a guest, Harvey Finegold, who was in attendance at that meeting, had brought photos of places that are highly bicycle and pedestrian friendly and extremely safety oriented. There was no mention in the minutes of the pictures and the safety designs which were exhibited. There was no mention of the pipes in the road separating the cars from the cyclists or walkers. Mr. Natoli thought that a mention was in order in the event that Martin County could possibly use the idea of pipes on bridges to protect cyclists and walkers and may serve to slow the vehicles down. They may not be able to be used everywhere, but possibly on the bridges. Mr. Palacios, from FDOT, stated that FDOT may not be in favor of the pipes as it provides a safety issue for automobiles. If a barrier is to exist, they would prefer a barrier wall.

It was mentioned that Ms. Eve Samples, from the Newspaper, will not be able to attend the next meeting. Mr. Natoli stated that the Committee needs to stay on the issue of bringing awareness to the public due to the three recent local biking fatalities. There also was a fatality in Tampa. Mr. Malham indicated that the next meeting which was determined to be a regular meeting earlier tonight, is going to be busy with the Transportation Enhancement Projects, SR 710, and finalizing the Goals and Objectives, so having Ms. Samples here would be better served at a future meeting. Ms. Moore will send out an email advising the Committee that the April meeting will be a regular meeting.

Ms. Beltran made the comment that the Public Involvement Plan was recently approved. The BPAC Committee should be thinking of items to do when the agenda's are not quite so full. Items like Public Service Announcements, place an

ad on the billboard at Monterey and Kanner, regarding bicycle safety and ideas of that nature to get the word out to the public.

Thomas Egan, a visitor to the BPAC Committee for the second time, introduced himself. He distributed a suggestion for painting bicycle lanes in order to draw more attention to them. (See hand out).

Mr. Natoli suggested that the committee should request that this be tried out in a small area, and if it works, maybe more could be planned. Mr. Palacios, from FDOT, indicated that there will be some resistance in using the color yellow as yellow is used for demarcating a different traffic direction by FDOT. He mentioned that the National Association of City Transportation Officials recently released a document called the Urban Bike Design Guide. This guide shows the bike lanes totally colored green, as another option for visibility.

The Treasure Coast Cycling Email Blast has a segment in it stating that Ms. Moore wants feedback from the cycling community. She received an email regarding the lack of sidewalks on Indian River Drive, in Jensen Beach. She has expressed to the writer that the problem is right-of-way acquisition. She advised that it is a priority on the list, and will remain on the list to see if a solution to this issue would be able to be found.

Ms. Moore brought up bike racks on busses. There had been two companies that provided them in the past. Staff will be following up on this project.

Discussion ensued regarding connectivity of different areas while drawing potential bike path lines on the map that was included with the Agenda. Connecting Greenways is very important especially the regional Greenways. The alignment for the East Coast Greenway is still being worked out.

It was suggested that there may be Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) funds available (check CRA in Hobe Sound) for the 707 area depending on what funds were not used on the Town Center.

Mr. Malham suggested that the members should again, take the maps home and continue to draw lanes on them to bring to a future meeting.

Ms. Beltran suggested that Staff needs to take these maps from the advisory committees and compare them to the 2035 plan and come up with a list that can be placed in the agenda package. With this rough list the committee can set up a priority list so that it can be taken to Engineering and they [Engineering] would be able to advise what is feasible, what couldn't work, and various other issues. Staff could bring the maps back to the BPAC committee and a determination as to which priorities would be easiest and best to obtain, could be made.

It was brought up that there has been Resurfacing near the Martin County High School and it has a white sign with very small letters that says "Share the Road".

It should be the standard cautionary, yellow bicycle sign. It should be looked into and changed.

Mr. Kevin Edwards advised that he will be absent at the May BPAC meeting.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

10. NEXT MEETINGS

- April 11, 2011 (Regular Meeting) (Changed from a subcommittee on Mar. 14, 2011)
- May 9, 2011 (Regular Meeting)


11. ADJOURN

Mr. Natoli made a motion to adjourn this motion was seconded by Ms. Lenartiene. There being no objection, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

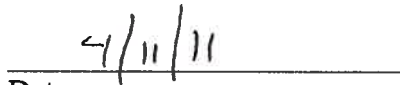
Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Assistant II


Date

Approved by:


Joan Moore, BPAC Chair


Date