

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

MINUTES

Monday, May 9, 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 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Joan Moore, Chairperson
Mr. Ken Natoli (arrived at 5:05pm)
Ms. Dee Spera
Officer Dan Pantel (arrived 5:05 pm)
Mr. Rick Yost
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene

Excused Members

Mr. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. Edward Vossen
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Hal Forslund (Gone until November)
Mr. Jim Hudson (Gone until November)
Mr. John Mildemberger
Mr. John-Mark Palacios, FDOT
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:
Larry Hymowitz, FDOT

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Ken Natoli moved to accept the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dee Spera. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Beltran stated that all of the Enhancement projects which had been brought to each of the Committees and the MPO Board were able to be funded due to the fact that other projects which had been previously planned, failed to meet the necessary requirements. Funds were redistributed to coincide with the proposed time frames of other projects. For instance, the Town of Sewall's Point will enter into an agreement with FDOT to include the Town's enhancement project in the State's resurfacing project, resulting in a more efficient expenditure of funds.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

None.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

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

MEMO: temp11BPACa06.01

Ms. Beltran gave a brief history of the cycle of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and how it is developed. Mr. Michael Malham explained the Draft TIP in detail. Mr. Malham directed the Committee to the Draft TIP in their agendas. He advised the Committee that the first portion of the Draft TIP is the formal requirements of all TIPs, i.e. certifications, joint certifications and special items. He then directed them to the Glossary of terms to familiarize the Committee with the acronyms used. Mr. Malham stated that the TIP contains a comprehensive and prioritized list of projects that will be funded during Fiscal Years (FY) 2011/2012 – 2015/2016. Mr. Malham highlighted the individual projects and discussed projects which were added or removed. The Capital Improvement Plans included are the approved CIPs from Martin County, the City of Stuart, and the Town of Sewall's Point. Updated CIPs can be amended into the TIP once they are approved.

Mr. Malham stated that having District-wide and grant items listed in the TIP should allow changes to be made by administrative modification rather than amendment. This should streamline the amendment process.

It was noted that the Safe Routes to School Program may not be funded in future years depending on new Federal Legislation. It will not affect the budget for a couple of years. Mr. Malham pointed out the total amount of funds (\$107 million) in the Financial Summary which will be available to the County. The final component of the TIP is a map which shows the name and location of each of the projects.

The TIP has gone out to each library in Martin County as well as at the front desk in the Administration Building for the 45 day public review period. The Draft TIP will be going to the MPO Board on May 23, 2011. The next meeting is currently scheduled to be a subcommittee meeting and it really should be a regular meeting in order to make a recommendation to the MPO Board to approve the Final TIP.

Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene made a motion to make the June meeting a regular meeting as opposed to a subcommittee meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ken Natoli. There were no additional questions. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Natoli asked when would input from the BPAC need to be given in order to have a project in the TIP for next year. Ms. Beltran advised that the deadlines from FDOT are earlier this year as a result of the 2010 Census data because there may be some re-districting, and FDOT wants all of the approvals in place before then. If the BPAC can get a priority list as part of the Master Planning effort, the projects can actually be addressed as Enhancement Projects. If you have a project identified, it can be brought to the screening committee who will look at the pre-application. There is a draft list of priorities in the agenda package and the BPAC may want to talk to staff about being an applicant for one of those projects. Then a pre-application can be submitted, and those will probably be scheduled by December. If the pre-application is in place by December, when the new year starts, the same process of prioritizing, that this committee went through in the last meeting, will occur. All the Committees will meet together for presentations from the different agencies, someone from the County will make the presentation for sidewalks, bike lanes, or whatever the project is, then the three Committees will discuss it together and each Committee will prioritize the projects at their next meeting. Even though you will not have the opportunity to be a part of the priority list this year, you will still have the chance to be a part of the Enhancement cycle. The funds for the Enhancement cycle are based on population, gas tax and factored into a formula. The different types of funds are determined in different manners.

Mr. Larry Hymowitz, from FDOT stated that the priority list that is in the TIP is all roadway based, and he asked if something was hindering staff to include other modal programs or if they could, just break it out by mode. Ms. Beltran responded that this priority list was actually one from the 2030 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP), and staff plans to include the different

modes by adding the list that was approved last year. This new list has all the modes: sidewalks, bicycle lanes, highways and transit.

B. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN

MEMO: temp11BPACa06.02

Mr. Malham began discussion on the Goals and Objectives. He said that he has worked on the items which were submitted by Mr. Natoli. He advised that the implementation strategies are included in the Goals and Objectives. He highlighted what still needs to be completed. He added that, as this is only a draft, there are a lot of blanks, and people should email him their recommendations.

Mr. Hymowitz noted that in Goal Five it states, "to work with the MPO to maintain the list of unfunded bicycle and pedestrian facilities." He inquired if this was a County plan. Ms. Beltran advised that it is an MPO plan. Once the Goals and Objectives are in place, they go to the MPO Board for approval then it will go to the County Board. The Martin MPO does take the initiative, because Martin's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan is actually the Transportation Element of the County Comprehensive Plan. He asked if County staff works with the MPO on this, as he sees it in other counties. Ms. Beltran advised that some MPO's are independent agencies; however, Martin's MPO is hosted by the County in the Engineering Department. Due to this fact, Martin's MPO works directly with the Local Agency Program (LAP) Coordinator and the County's Engineering Department staff

Mr. Hymowitz, from FDOT, noted that one of BPAC's Goals and Objectives is to be a walkable and bikable location. He previously noted that BPAC is an advisory committee to the MPO. He stated that the MPO didn't want the multi-modal path to be built on SR 710. He said that the County almost ordered FDOT to take out a shared use path on SR 710. They have allowed it to remain in only the PD&E study. Mr. Hymowitz thinks that the County will have difficulties if they were to try to design or build it at this point. He sees this as an inconsistency between the goals of the County and those of BPAC. These goals do not appear to be in the spirit of the letter which FDOT received from the County. Ms. Beltran clarified that the reasons the Board only wanted the path in the PD&E was due to a misunderstanding of the cost to build it, as well as some reoccurring eminent domain issues. It happened at the same board meeting that the Board learned that FDOT had programmed the MPO's Discretionary Funds on one of their Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) projects, instead of using those funds for the MPO's number one priority, being CR 714. Hence, Ms. Beltran thought it was also a bit of a timing issue. Ms. Beltran did not feel that this should be seen as the overall view of the MPO Board as several of the members are very supportive of the multi-use paths. At this particular juncture, the Board was only trying to better use their Discretionary Funds.

Since this was being discussed, the Chairman suggested jumping ahead to the notes portion of the Agenda where a letter from FDOT was listed. This letter

applauded the County for having the PD&E Study go ahead with the multi-use path included. They did stipulate that it is not to be built; however, it will be addressed again at a later date. Things may change over time.

The Enhancement funds and their projects were brought up, as well as the failed CRA sidewalks from last year's Enhancement application cycle. Ms. Beltran discussed the last year's screening process that has been implemented in order to streamline projects. The CRA sidewalks project which failed did not have public support. Had there been a screening process prior to that CRA project, it would have been learned that the project did not have public support before going through the MPO process. There is now a pre-application and a screening process, this way hopefully all obstacles will be learned and resolved prior to going through the MPO process. The Board and all of the advisory committees have been delighted that funding for each of the three projects was able to be accommodated. Since each of these projects have been screened, there should be no problems with implementing them.

Mr. Malham stated that he will get a status on SR 710. Mr. Natoli stated that we need to get some input on the multi-use path before FDOT gets too far along. It was suggested that Mr. Pat Glass come back to a meeting.

Mr. Natoli suggested under Goal 3D, that the BPAC organize a "speaker series" where people would go to schools and lecture on safety walking and/or bicycling. He suggested that this "speaker series" should be done at least once a year to advise children how to ride with traffic, obey the rules of the road, and other ways to be safe even when walking. It was noted that Officer Dan Pantel does this type of program for the D.A.R.E. Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). This program is not about safety, but about drugs. Officer Pantel advised that he is retiring from the Police Department at the end of June, 2011.

The Sheriff's Department does have a trailer which has 30 bicycles in it, and it can be used throughout the County not just in the City of Stuart. Officer Pantel is going to be hosting a Safety booth with the Sherriff's Department, at the Treasure Coast Cycling Association Bicycling Event next month.

Under Goal 2D, maintenance and cleaning of the bike lanes should be added. We need to identify who actually does it. Mr. Hymowitz, from FDOT, stated that he would get the information of a company that would do maintenance on the bike lanes, to Mr. Malham. It was suggested that there should be an "adopt a bike path" program. This would be good exposure and cheap for a bike store to do.

Each member should bring their maps to the next meeting so the committee can continue to mark up the maps with suggestions as to where bike paths are needed. The list of routes that was provided is a compilation of routes from the committee members. It was suggested every member should bring their route suggestions so the committee could begin to prioritize the routes.

Mr. Malham reviewed the Action Plan and clarified the direction given by the Committee. Mr. Malham is working with the Engineering Staff to compile a Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision Report so that the Committee will have strong support for the necessity for multimodal paths and/or bike lanes and be able to better evaluate projects.

Mr. Hymowitz, of FDOT, stated that it should be designated on the map approximately three miles to a transit accessible route for a bicycle. For walking it should show a quarter of a mile of a transit stop. This will get target areas such as schools, hospitals, libraries, business districts and shopping areas.

**C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS –
BUILD-A-BIKE EVENT**

MEMO: temp11BPACa06.03

Ms. Moore advised the committee that half of the bicycles are in, and one was damaged, but the representative is coming in to rectify the situation. The rest of the bikes will be in soon. Ms. Moore stated that she spoke to a person at the bicycle shop and they will get any issues remaining resolved this week. The photo of the Gordon & Doner team should be taken prior to the children's race, with the children in front of their bicycles. The Gordon & Doner stickers for the bicycles should be in by now. Ms. Moore will do a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on MCTV to advertise the event.

Mr. Malham will look for the Build-A-Bike banner. Someone needs to advise Gordon & Doner to bring their banner if they have one. Officer Pantel talked about the billboard at the corner of Kaner and Monterey. As the billboard is owned by an attorney, they will not list another attorney on the billboard. Officer Pantel said that they would put the Build-A-Bike on the billboard as a PSA using the memorial name under the BPAC. It would need to be displayed very soon.

Ms. Moore stated that the Gordon & Doner team should be at the Gazebo near the Courthouse to present the bikes and have pictures made about 10:30 AM. The Sheriff's Rodeo begins at 11:00 AM and the kids will need to walk down to Stuart Middle School for the race. Since the park is under construction the TCCA race will be nearer to Confusion Corner.

7. NOTES

- Letter from MPO Board to FDOT RE: SR 710 Multimodal Path

8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Natoli asked about doing some promos for the CRA's to promote walkability. Need to see about doing PSA's for television and radio regarding "Share the road".

With an older population, the County may want to consider wider sidewalks, not as much up and downs, and benches, which will make it easier for senior citizens.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10. NEXT MEETINGS

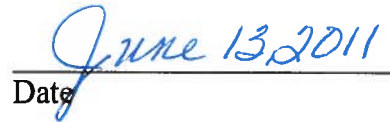
- June 13, 2011 (Regular Meeting)
- July 11, 2011 (Regular Meeting)

11. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

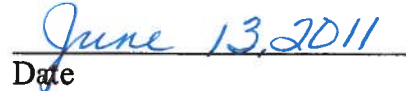
Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II


Date

Approved by:


Joan Moore, BPAC Chair


Date