

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

**Monday, February 13, 2012 - 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

Chair Joan Moore called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Joan Moore, Chair
Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice-Chair (arrived at 5:12 PM)
Mr. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Mr. Jim Hudson
Ms. Dawn Arvin (arrived at 5:07 PM)
Mr. Ronald Shewmaker
Ms. Dee Spera
Mr. Bill Schell
Mr. Rick Yost (arrived 5:11 PM)
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene
Mr. John-Mark Palacios (Arrived at 5:02 pm)

Excused Members

Mr. Edward Vossen
Mr. John Mildenberger

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Hal Forslund
Mr. Robert Taylor
Officer Michael Pope, (ex-Officio)
Officer James C. Brooks, (ex-Officio)
Mr. Eric Cerniglia

Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ms. Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II
Mr. Michael Malham, Planner II
Mr. Gavin Jones, Senior Planner

There was a quorum for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Jim Hudson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Edwards. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the Joint CAC, BPAC and TAC meeting on November 16, 2011 meeting was made by Mr. Jim Hudson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dee Spera. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

None.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MEMO: temp12BPACa05.01

Ms. Beth Beltran refreshed the committee that the By-Laws require an annual election of the Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the calendar year. It was noted that MPO advisory committees holding meetings prior to this committee, nominated and elected the standing officers for the current year. The Chair and committee had no objections.

Ms. Dee Spera made a motion to reinstate the current Chair Ms. Joan Moore, and Vice-Chair Mr. Ken Natoli. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

B. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP)

UPDATE 2011 – FINAL REPORT

MEMO: temp12BPACa05.02

Ms. Beth reminded the committee that the Draft Congestion Management Process (CMP) was presented to each of the committees at the joint meeting on November 16, 2011. There were a few minor changes which were included, and now will be presented in final form by Mr. Gavin Jones, MPO Senior Planner. Mr. Jones stated that there was some re-working of the costs of congestion. He gave a brief history of the process used to identify the selected roadway, and how using small scale operational improvements in advance or in lieu of widening a roadway can benefit a road and extend its long term usefulness. He advised that the road selection was SR 714 from Citrus Boulevard on the west to the Turnpike entrance on the east. He advised of all roads considered and the reasons why they were not selected, consisting of timelines for major road improvements or upcoming parallel

relief roadway improvements which were financially feasible. After this elimination process, AECOM made their recommendation of improvements to SR 714 at the MPO Joint Committee Meeting in November. The only revision to the Final Report was the reworking of the costs of congestion in relation to the value of the improvements in the future, which was included in the Agenda package. Mr. Jones stated that this revised version was adopted by the Citizens' and Technical Advisory Committees, and he is looking for an adoption by the BPAC at this time. The Final CMP will be presented to the MPO Board on February 20, 2012, for final adoption. Mr. Jones clarified for Ms. Moore, the tables that were adjusted which showed today's estimate of the cost of congestion, the cost of today's delay, and the benefit-costs ratios which lend themselves to the investing of funds in order to apply the recommended improvements. It was noted that the cost of not making the improvements was greater than the cost of making them.

A motion to approve the adoption of the Congestion Management Report for final presentation to the MPO Board was made by Ms. Spera which was seconded by Mr. Hudson. No objections were stated. The motion passed unanimously.

C. SR 710 (BIG JOHN MONAHAN) BRIDGE

MEMO: temp12BPACa05.03

Ms. Beltran offered a brief history of the widening of the Big John Monahan Bridge, SR-710, from a two lane to a four lane facility. This bridge crosses over the C-44 Canal, Okeechobee Waterway. The Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) has met with the District Office of FDOT to request overhead lighting on the bridge, not just the pedestrian lighting in the barrier walls. The CAC and TAC have been advised and each have requested that the bridge be lighted and that this matter be recommended to the MPO Board. At the TAC meeting, Ms. Carolyn Gish of FDOT, explained that the bridge alone, could not be lit as it would create a "tunneling" effect, so the 1.2 mile transition areas on SR-76 would also need to be lit. FDOT performed a Safety Lighting Justification Report and deemed that lighting on the bridge was not warranted. The Martin Board of County Commissioners voiced their concerns at the January 24, 2012 meeting, and requested that a letter be sent to FDOT requesting lighting on the bridge and that this matter be taken through the MPO Process. The Engineering Department has raised issues concerning this matter stating that FDOT has installed and maintains lighting on other Strategic Intermodal Systems (SIS) facilities and bridges, and this particular roadway/bridge is an SIS facility. Staff is recommending that the BPAC make a recommendation to the MPO Board to submit a letter to FDOT as well as the Martin Delegation, requesting that overhead lights be installed and maintained on the Big John Monahan Bridge and the transition areas. Mr. John-Mark Palacios stated that FDOT would be willing to install the lights if someone would pay for them.

This project was brought to the MPO Board in September, 2011 because FDOT was requesting a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment. The design build contractor would pay the cost to purchase additional right-of-way to make improvements, in order to shorten the length necessary for the bridge span, which would save FDOT approximately \$8 to \$10 million. It was mentioned at the TAC meeting, that some of the \$8-\$10 Million in savings should be used to provide/maintain the lighting on the bridge and the approximate 40 additional light poles which would encompass the transition to the bridge. FDOT is providing conduit on the bridge to enable lighting in the event funding were to be provided in the future. Ms. Moore inquired as to why FDOT didn't see the urgency of lights now. Ms. Beltran stated that their reasoning and justification for not installing lights was based on past crash data, and there haven't been a lot of crashes in this vicinity. However, there was a fatality recently, near the bridge area. Mr. Palacios stated that typically lighting is needed in areas of intersections. Again, a concern noted at the TAC meeting was that this is a rural area, with a lot of cyclists and pedestrians, and the adequacy of lighting the bike lanes was questioned. Mr. Palacios clarified that overhead lighting does not provide sufficient illumination for pedestrians and cyclists, as does the low level lighting. Overhead lighting is better for automobiles. Mr. Edwards suggested moving the bike lanes inside the barrier wall next to the pedestrians. It was noted that the lights are embedded in the barrier wall and Ms. Beltran stated that Ms. Gish mentioned in the TAC meeting that the lights "should" light up the bicycle lane. Many committee members expressed doubt for the light being sufficient for the bike lanes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hudson to recommend that the MPO Board write a letter to FDOT and the Martin Delegation requesting overhead lights be installed and maintained on the Big John Monahan Bridge, in addition to the proposed low lights for the pedestrians. This letter should include language referencing the use of funding which was saved by the land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeFronzo. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

D. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN
MEMO: temp12BPACa05.04

Mr. Malham reviewed the highlights, visions and goals he hopes BPAC/Martin County is able to achieve with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. He discussed the evaluation process for the projects and how the scoring system worked to comprise the top 10 projects. Maps were shown (See handouts) of proposed, existing or envisioned bike paths, bike lanes or sidewalks. Mr. Malham discussed all the various groups from which he received input relative to developing good places for pedestrians and bikers. He advised of his appreciation to the CRA, Parks and Recreation, as well as each of the MPO committees for all of their support and information.

Mr. Malham advised of a new project which was added by the CRA which stretches from the Rio-Jensen Skatepark at Langford to the Bowling Alley. Mr. Malham advised of the strategies identified for the near future designating the next steps to move the projects forward. Some of these steps are already in process, others will be incorporated in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013. He will be presenting this to the Parks and Recreation Department this week, and to the MPO Board for final approval on February 20, 2012.

Mr. Natoli advised that goal 1-A needed to be amended to reflect "...a safe local road network with sidewalks..." Mr. Natoli also suggested that this should go to the Board of County Commissioners and Mr. DeFronzo wanted it to go to the CRAs. Mr. Malham stated that the Stuart CRA has requested that he make a presentation to each of the CRA's to get their input. Mr. Malham advised that indirectly the BOCC has approved the Action Plan because it has been referenced in the RL RTP and the BOCC has approved that document as part of their Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Malham did state that he will present the Action Plan to the City of Stuart on February 27, 2012 at 5:00 PM, and to the BOCC at a future meeting, even though four of the five County Commissioners are on the MPO Board, it will be seen by a different audience. He stated that he is requesting a recommendation from this committee of the Action Plan to the MPO Board.

Mr. Natoli made a motion that the Final Action Plan be approved and submitted to both the MPO Board and the Board of County Commissioners for their approval and endorsement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards. There were no objections to this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

MEMO: temp12BPACa05.05

Mr. Malham advised the committee that the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) guides the MPO's actions in obtaining input for the transportation process when it comes to explaining to the public and regulatory agencies what actions are being taken. It highlights what has taken place and what will be taken on for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Malham noted that the BPAC Committee is currently the only MPO advisory committee that is at capacity. He noted the committee has a new member, Mr. Ron Shumaker.

Mr. Malham advised that staff is required to meet with other MPOs, and having met with the Palm Beach MPO, this requirement has been met. Evaluating the PIP, all of the documents listed in the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RL RTP), the Transportation Improvement Program

(TIP) as well as special documents must go out for a 45 day public review period, to which each occasion has been met.

Participation was made with the Indiantown Charrette with the TIGER III Grant application, which was unsuccessful, but a lot of valuable community input was gleaned. Some of the projects were incorporated in the Action Plan.

Mr. Malham stated that he is making the circuit with the development of the Bike/Ped Action Plan, making presentations to the CRA, the City of Stuart, Parks and Recreation, and the NACs.

Ms. Moore inquired as to special requests section, if the audible traffic signal would qualify. Mr. Malham stated that this is more in relation to the planning process as opposed to the physical implementation.

Mr. Malham stated that all documents on the website are searchable, a public service announcement for transit was developed by some Jensen Beach High School Students and that has aired on MCTV.

Mr. Malham indicated that they plan to do even more public outreach next year concerning the Bike/Ped Plan, and he drew the committee's attention to the new website. He guided the group through the website using the "smart board" so the committee would be able to navigate to whatever documents they wanted to locate.

A motion to approve the annual Public Involvement Plan with all changes as presented, was made by Mr. Hudson and seconded by Mr. Natoli. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Moore welcomed the new members.

Ms. Moore also inquired if contact has been made to last year's sponsor of the Build-A-Bike. Ms. Margaret Brassard stated that she would be glad to contact them. Ms. Moore would like this to be on the next agenda. Mr. DeFronzo stated that he is a member of the Treasure Coast Cycling Association and he believed that the event would be the first week end in June. Confirmation will be received at a later date.

Mr. Natoli reminded the committee that people should support that cell phones should be banned while driving as many cyclists are killed by distracted drivers. Ms. Beltran stated that banning cell phones while driving was a legislative priority for the MPOAC and that the Martin MPO has approved the MPOAC legislative priorities. Mr. Natoli wanted it on the record that banning cell phone usage while driving is one more endorsement in which this committee is in favor.

Mr. DeFronzo reminded Mr. Palacios that SR 76/Kanner Highway is a State Road, and after a project was completed a number of years ago, FDOT placed a small white “Bikes Sharing Roadway” sign, going eastbound just prior to Martin County High School. This is a maintenance issue and the sign needs to be changed to be something that meets the current Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Design (MUTCD) Standards and not have such a small sign. Mr. Palacios stated that they do have a sign that states “Bikes may use full lane”. Mr. DeFronzo stated that if that sign were to be placed there that it would have to be for the entire length of the road, to U.S. Highway One as there are three lanes and basically no shoulder. There is no markings either, it would need to be more of an upgrade than basically changing out the one sign.

The other issue, Mr. DeFronzo advised of was going eastbound on Monterey Road, just east of Dixie Highway. Technically, there is no bike lane just past Dixie, however it begins shortly after crossing Dixie. There is an open drainage inlet that does not have a grate that is bicycle safe. The grate is between Dixie Highway going eastbound on Monterey Road and is before the actual bike lane begins, however, it still is a hazard and should be corrected whether it is a bike lane or a shoulder.

Herb Hiller will be in town to discuss the East Coast Greenway in March. An exact date was not given.

It was noted by Mr. Palacios that the State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Denis Scott recently retired. They will be seeking a new coordinator.

Mr. Edwards advised of a new sidewalk on Martin Downs Boulevard between High Meadow and Sand Trail, along Martin Downs Country Club. It’s a nice walkway, off of the roadway which meanders through the trees. It was a deficiency identified by the BPAC.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9. NOTES

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

- March 12, 2012 (Regular)
- April 9, 2012 (Subcommittee)

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM without a motion.

Recorded and Prepared by:

Margaret H. Brassard
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II

March 12 2012
Date

Approved by:

for Joan Moore
Joan Moore, Chair *VICE CHAIR*

3-12-12
Date