

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

MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, October 10, 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

Chairman Joan Moore called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Joan Moore, Chairperson
Mr. Ken Natoli, Vice Chairman
Mr. Joseph DeFronzo
Mr. Robert Taylor
Mr. Edward Vossen
Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene
Mr. John-Mark Palacios (Arrived at 5:02 pm)

Excused Members

Mr. Hal Forslund (Gone until November)
Mr. Jim Hudson (Gone until October)
Ms. Dee Spera
Mr. John Mildenberger
Mr. Rick Yost

Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Kevin B. Edwards
Officer Michael Pope
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

There was a quorum for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe DeFronzo. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting was made by Mr. Ken Natoli. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cheryl Lenartiene. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

5. FDOT COMMENTS

Mr. Palacios mentioned that the SR 710 corridor is coming up for design. Mr. Palacios asked if the BPAC members wanted to ask the Project Manager to attend a meeting and present information prior to final design. There was an overwhelming “yes” from the committee. Mr. Malham advised Mr. Palacios that there will be a joint committee meeting held on November 16th and the next meeting, December, will be a subcommittee meeting so January would be the best option.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN ACTION PLAN

MEMO: temp12BPACa03.01

Mr. Malham noted that quite a bit of progress has taken place. He hopes that the committee will come up with the top ten projects. Mr. Malham stated that he would also like to come up with strategies and identify the next steps, after it has been approved by the MPO Board and what steps BPAC wants to see accomplished.

Mr. Malham pulled up the Action Plan on the smart board for the committee’s review. Mr. Malham and Mr. Natoli had discussed rearranging the Action Plan which was accomplished. Now the secession is: Introduction, Goals and Objections, Recommendations, Methodology, Population Analysis Existing and Related Plans. Mr. Malham gave a brief synopsis in each area to highlight the changes.

Mr. Malham noted that this Action Plan builds from and enhances the prior Action Plan from 1998. He did state that he has created a template for an annual assessment which includes strategies, objective and accomplishments in order for the committee to keep track of what is being done and then this information can be included in other reports. Mr. Malham pointed out areas of the template, and advised the committee so they would understand how to evaluate the projects. Mr. Taylor asked if it would be better to have a top 20 instead of a top 10, because after 10 everything is lumped in as one. Mr. Malham stated that he’s basically got the list in the top 30, but the list is well over 80 projects. This list belongs to the members of BPAC and it can be the

top 20, top 30 whatever the committee wishes. The main objective is to identify 10 projects of which the committee is in full support, and as a group will continue to push to obtain. Mr. Natoli stated that there is a lot of good information listed.

Mr. Taylor stated that when Martin County is resurfacing, BPAC should be aware as it would be good to have the County add some additional asphalt for bike lanes. Mr. Malham noted that the Committee is on a list to be advised of new construction projects. Mr. Palacios, who works at FDOT, stated that their office performs a Multi-Model Scoping Form when a new project is coming through on State roads. This is where they look at plans like Action Plans, Master Plans, whatever has been submitted to the County, or other City Agencies for input, to insure that this type of information does not get overlooked. This is one way that FDOT tries to complete priorities. Ms. Moore remarked that is a portion of the reason why the BPAC even works on this plan so that every department knows the vision of the Martin County BPAC. Mr. Malham noted that he has communicated with Ms. Samantha Horowitz to see about having the Action Plan referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. It would be better to have it referenced in the Land Development Regulations, because it is already referenced in the 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) which is referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. Another way to do it is to get it into the Land Development Regulations. The Bike/Ped Plan in 1998 was referenced in that document, so if BPAC can do something similar to that and as other developments come along, we can try to find a way to have some of these improvements included.

Discussion began on the scoring and ranking system. Mr. Malham advised that adding ten bonus points to any project in the top 30 could push that project up to the top 10. Mr. Malham asked the committee to be cognizant of the feasibility of a project. He directed the committee to a section in the ranking that had negative points because these projects are not feasible for Federal dollars. Negative numbers can be obtained for various reasons, right-of-way is one of them. Mr. Malham advised that for certain projects that are much needed, they could be listed as a priority corridor, which is how it was done in the RLRTP. Then whatever projects fall into that area will be our priorities or the committee can pick and choose which projects are wanted.

Mr. Natoli discussed a project on Monterey Road to Palm City Road to just east of Dixie Highway. There is a small section without a bike lane and it's a major cog which connects a North-South and an East-West route.

Mr. Taylor asked about using roads which are noted to be thoroughfares. Mr. Malham stated that it all depends on if the route is arterial or connector, it's not necessarily a bike thoroughfare, it's just a thoroughfare for vehicle traffic. Mr. Taylor addressed the Pine Lake area and he asked why would someone

want to spend the money for that small amount of traffic, why is it so high on the priority list? Mr. Malham added that this list is comprised of all proposed projects which came through this committee, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, or the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). If the committee doesn't want the project, it can be removed, but if it's something that could be long term, it may be best to keep it on. Mr. Palacios, seeking clarity, asked if the road is easy enough to ride on, and low volume, should it be a low priority. Ms. Moore stated that it may not always be low volume. Mr. Palacios stated that it is better determined as level of service, if volume is a factor. Mr. Natoli suggested Pine Lake stay on the list but the bike lane on Monterey really needs to be added.

Mr. Malham gave the committee information regarding deciphering the number system used for ranking the projects. (See handout: Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan-Potential Projects) These numbers included such items as proximity to a school or park, number of bike/ped collisions from 2007–2009, arterial or connector, population within ½ mile, employment, proposed projects in the TIP or RL RTP, identified as previous priority, bus stop within ½ mile, right-of-way availability, wetlands, flood, critical habitat, historic properties within 100 feet, and contaminated facilities.

Further discussion ensued then the committee made a list of the top 20 priorities which are as follows:

Top 20 Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Projects						
RANK	RANK	RANK	RANK	RANK	RANK	RANK
1	14	WILLOUGHBY BLVD	BIKE LANES	COVE RD	MONTEREY RD	44
2	13	SALERNO RD	BIKE LANES	U. S. HIGHWAY 1	DIXIE HWY	40
3	6	CITRUS BLVD	BIKE LANES	MARTIN HWY	WARFIELD BLVD	37
4	12	SALERNO RD	BIKE LANES	KANNER HWY	WILLOUGHBY BLVD	37
5	19	INDIAN ST	BIKE LANES	DIXIE HWY	ST. LUCIE BLVD	36
6	76	SW FARM RD	BIKE LANES	ANDALUCIA CT	SW FAMEL AVE	36
7	79	SE OCEAN BLVD	BIKE LANES	PALM BEACH RD	MARTIN AVE	36
8	20	HIGH MEADOWS AVE	BIKE LANES	MARTIN DOWNS BLVD	MURPHY RD	35
9	16	COMMERCE AVE	BIKE LANES	MARKET PL	SALERNO RD	34
10	24	PALM CITY RD	BIKE LANES	MONTEREY RD	US 1	34
11	55	DIXIE HWY	SIDEWALK	WRIGHT BLVD	EXISTING TERMINUS NEAR BAKER RD	31
12	23	MONTEREY RD	BIKE LANES	PALM CITY BRIDGE	DIXIE HWY	29
13	29	SAVANNAH RD	BIKE LANES	CARDINAL AVE	JENSEN BEACH BLVD	26
14	57	NEW ROUTE	SHARED USE PATH	SEABRANCH PRESERVE SP ENTRANCE	PECK LAKE PARK	26
15	58	BRIDGE RD	BIKE LANES	US 1	BEACH RD	25

16	2	BRIDGE RD	BIKE LANES	KANNER HWY	FLORA AVE	24
17	68	DIXIE HWY	SIDEWALK	GREEN RIVER PKWY	SAVANNAH RD	22
18	30	INDIAN RIVER DR	BIKE LANES	PALMER ST	ST. LUCIE C/L	21
19	69	DIXIE HWY	SIDEWALK	SAVANNAH RD	SEAHORSE PL	21
20	28	DIXIE HWY	BIKE LANES	SAVANNAH RD	PALMER ST	20

Mr. Natoli suggested that the Committee needs to begin to plan for greenways, not to get them built anytime soon but to begin planning for them. They would not be a construction item, there would be no charge, it would just be a plan. He stated that to have it on a map with a number on it is a good start.

Mr. Malham stated that maybe there should be a top five, which would consist of the separation between bike lanes, sidewalks and shared-use paths.

It was noted, that sometimes resurfacing projects may get completed however bike lanes or sidewalks are not added, they fall through the cracks, like what happened on Gomez. It got resurfaced, but no bike lanes. Mr. Natoli stated that if it had been on the list it would not have fallen through the cracks.

Mr. Palacios stated that since Warfield Boulevard, in Indiantown is already slated for work that this project could be moved down and replaced with a wanted project that is lower on the list. It was noted that being high on the list does show support and that it is more desired which could assist in the decision making when it comes to being awarded the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant III (TIGER III). Mr. Natoli stated that Warfield Boulevard is very important to Indiantown, this project should remain on the list and the committee can come back to this project later if they wish to discuss it more.

Cove and Salerno Roads were discussed regarding their needs for bike lanes and/or sidewalks. The determining factor between the two roads as they run the same direction, is the fact that Cove Road goes from U. S. Highway 1 to I-95, however, if Salerno were improved with bike lanes there would be bike lanes from Kanner Highway all the way over to U. S. Highway 1. The Committee determined that each project needed to remain on the list, however, it would be more beneficial to have Salerno completed first.

At final count, there were three sidewalks, and one shared-use path out of the list of top 20 Potential Projects. Mr. Malham did note that only one person made a request, and that was Ms. Spera, she requested that at least one sidewalk make the top ten, so she will be pleased.

Mr. Malham suggested looking at the sidewalks and making a top five list there also.

Top Five Sidewalk Priority Projects						
RANK	ITEM NUM	PROJECT	IMPROVEMENT TYPE	FROM	TO	SCORE
1	65	Alice Street	SIDEWALK	Dixie Hwy	Existing Terminus on Alice Street	
2	70	Baker Road	SIDEWALK	Green River Parkway	Cardinal Ave.	
3	68	Dixie Hwy	SIDEWALK	Green River Parkway	Savannah Road	
4	62	High Meadows	SIDEWALK	Bane Berry Drive	Swallowtail Way	
5	64	Osprey	SIDEWALK	Dixie Hwy.	E. of Railroad	

Shared Use Path Projects						
RANK	ITEM NUM	PROJECT	IMPROVEMENT TYPE	FROM	TO	SCORE
1	57	New Route	Shared Use Path	Seabranh Preserve SP Entrance	Peck Lake Park	26
2	42	New Route	Shared Use Path	US 98	JD State Park	-4
3	74	New Route	Shared Use Path	Citrus Blvd.	Citrus Blvd. Via Canal, American St. Indian Mound Dr.	22
4	61	New Route	Shared Use Path	Sand Ave.	Citrus Blvd. Via Trmpk Underpass	13
5	37	New Route	Shared Use Path	Willoughby Blvd.	Thru Atlantic Ridge State Park	7
Plan	39	New Route	Shared use Path	Locks Road	Over Canal to Mapp Rd.	
Plan	61	New Route	Shared Use Path	Sand Ave.	Citrus Blvd Via Trmpk Underpass	

Ms. Beltran stated a concern about having the Shared Use Path Projects as a separate list on the Action Plan. Ms. Beltran stated that many of these projects would be in the planning phase as many of these are new routes. This committee was very specific in telling the consultant for the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) that this committee wanted to see bicycle lanes parallel to pedestrian facilities, even if there was a shared use path, the BPAC wanted to see a bicycle lane. This is stated in the Objectives in the RLRTP and to separate these out is self-defeating.

It was noted that the FDOT standard for a sidewalk is five feet, however the standard in Martin County is six feet.

**B. CITIZENS' REPORT - FY2012/13-FY2016/17
TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM
MEMO: temp12BPACa03.02**

Ms. Beltran pointed out the Key Projects in the Citizens Report and stated that the priorities in the Bicycle/Pedestrian Action Plan will have more opportunity for future funding and will hopefully be in a future Tentative Work Program.

Ms. Beltran stated that two of the Enhancement projects that were funded this year were the City of Stuart Sidewalks (FY 2013/14) and Old Dixie Highway Bike Lanes (FY 2014/15). However, the bike lanes need to be funded the same year as the resurfacing along Old Dixie Highway which is scheduled in FY 2013/14, because the final layer of asphalt covers all the surface making for a smooth, unbroken lane. Staff is requesting that the funds scheduled for the City of Stuart sidewalks are switched from FY 2013/14 to FY 2014/15, and the funds originally scheduled for the Old Dixie Highway Bike Lanes in FY 2014/15 be switched to FY 2013/14.

A motion was made by Mr. Natoli to accept Staff's recommendation to request FDOT to allow the switching of Enhancement Funds from the City of Stuart Sidewalk Project currently scheduled in FY 2013/14 to fund the Old Dixie Highway Bike Lanes Project, and the funds currently scheduled for the Old Dixie Highway Bike Lanes Project in FY 2014/15 be used for the City of Stuart Sidewalk Project. The motion was seconded by Joan Moore. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Moore updated the committee on the alignment of the multi-modal path which is projected to run on the fire breaks through Seabranck Preserve State Park. The committee was reminded that there was going to be another Public Hearing at the Blake Library on October 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM to review the new proposed alignment. The committee was invited to attend this Public Hearing as BPAC supports this initiative. Mr. Natoli was advised that BPAC, as a committee, cannot send an email to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding this alignment, however, Mr. Natoli could send an email to the BOCC as a private citizen, not under the guise of a BPAC committee member.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

- November 16, 2011 – Joint BPAC/CAC/TAC Meeting – Blake Library @ 1:30pm
- December 12, 2011 (Subcommittee)

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM without a motion.

Recorded and Prepared by:

Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist, II

Date

Approved by:

Joan Moore, Chair

Date