

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 - 1:30 P.M.

**Martin County Airport-Witham Field
Maintenance Building Conference Room**

1895 Flying Fortress Way, Stuart, FL

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sam Amerson called the meeting to order 1:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Sam Amerson, Chairman

Samantha Horowitz, Vice-Chair

Joe Capra (arrived at 1:37 pm)

Arlene Tanis, FDOT

Mark Cocco

Dan Hudson

Terry Rauth for Don Donaldson

Lee Hoefert

Kim DeLaney (arrived at 1:39PM)

George Stokus

Members Excused:

Stuart Trent

Chon Wong, FDOT

Members Absent:

Barbara Timmerman

Rogelio Gonzalez

Todd Cox

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Michael Malham, Planner

Claudette Mahan, Associate Planner

Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II

Others in Attendance:

Kim Graham, City of Port St. Lucie

A quorum was present for this committee.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Amerson would like to add, under the agenda items, but prior to item A, discussion from Ms. Beth Beltran, on the proposed TIP amendment regarding the Transportation Enhancement Projects.

Ms. Terry Rauth moved to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Mr. George Stokus. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Terry Rauth made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. George Stokus. There being no additional discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Beltran advised the Committee that the three Enhancement Fund Projects which were presented at the last meeting were all funded. (See handout presented by Ms. Beltran.) The reason that they were all funded was because prior projects which were scheduled for funding failed for various reasons, as they had not been pre-screened before being approved through the MPO process. Although all the advisory committees liked the three projects, the BPAC, CAC and TAC each recommended a different #1 Priority to the MPO Board. The Board approved the redistribution of Enhancement Funds to fund all three projects, and submitted a letter to FDOT. FDOT approved, but needed a TIP Amendment in order to move forward with this as they are Federal funds. Staff is requesting a recommendation to the Board to approve the TIP Amendment.

Joe Capra made a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the TIP amendment. A second was made by Lee Hoefert. Mr. Amerson thanked all the personnel involved with these projects. Ms. Rauth advised the Committee that Enhancement Projects are better served when not on State roads as the cost increases greatly due to the Federal requirements. The motion was called and there was no objection. The motion passed unanimously.

A. DRAFT FY2011/12 – FY2015/16 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

MEMO: temp11TACa09.01

Ms. Beltran gave an overview of the process of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and advised that this year the deadline has been moved up due to the affects of the 2010 Census. She advised that the new Draft TIP which will be discussed by Mr. Michael Malham, and will be displayed at each public library in Martin County, as well as at the Reception desk at the Administrative Center effective May 5, 2011. Mr. Malham stated that the purpose of the TIP is to provide a comprehensive list of projects throughout Martin County, which will be funded using Federal, State and local funds between the Fiscal Years (FY) 2012-2016. Mr. Malham summarized each section individually and explained the differences in the

current TIP and the Draft TIP and why they have occurred. He pointed out cost breakdowns, funding codes and the map designating the location for each of the projects.

Ms. Arlene Tanis from FDOT, praised the efforts of Mr. Malham noting that FDOT uses the TIP a lot, and the layout of this particular TIP are very methodical and informative.

Mr. Malham did note that there was an error, an administrative modification back in December, which had been approved by the MPO Board. However, the MPO Board has made a shift in priorities with SU funds and depending on what happens with that funding category, the projects may change. Ms. Tanis also advised that FDOT is still in lockdown and according to Antoinette Adams in the Work Program Office, there may be some last minute changes. Ms. Tanis stated that hopefully, the changes will just be an item or two, but no one knows. Ms. Tanis stated that FDOT just got notice of this change last month.

Ms. Beltran did state that the MPO Board does want to see what funding sources will pay for which projects and the amount associated with those funding sources when the State comes in October to present the new Tentative Work Program. Ms. Beltran stated that FDOT has programmed the MPO's SU funds on State projects in the past and the Board wants to insure that it doesn't happen again. The Board wants their funds to go to CR 714, which is their number one priority project. Ms. Beltran stated that a letter recently went to FDOT stating that the MPO wants their SU funds to go to SR 714, not to FDOT's projects on Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) roads.

Mr. Capra stated that right-of-way on CR 714 needs to be obtained as soon as possible in order for design to begin work. Ms. Rauth stated that the lack of funds is the big issue as all funds have been spent. She also stated that design is being done in-house and what is currently programmed for right-of-way is about the same as what is currently estimated to purchase the right-of-way.

Ms. DeLaney advised of the FDOT funding for passenger rail service, which are both in 2014, for the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway. The two fund sources are FM #4301261 (FEC/Amtrak-passenger service) for \$100 Million and FM#4301271 (Florida East Coast-Track upgrade) for \$118 Million. It may be a good idea to protect those funds for them to be shown in the TIP. These are FDOT funds. This is 100% of the costs estimated for the eight stations, eight platforms the track and the three connections in Jacksonville, West Palm and the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) which is being built now. Ms. DeLaney advised that what is not included in these funds are the actual trains. These two lines should be included the TIP so it's obvious if an adjustment is made.

Ms. Tanis stated that there was another FM project for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) fund. She stated that there will be a teleconference in the near future to discuss TRIP and she'll get back to the MPO with better details as this project should also be included in the TIP. Ms. Delaney stated that she'll contact the neighboring MPOs to see if they have this in their TIPs as well. She requested that Ms. Tanis forward the FM numbers relating to the TRIP funding to her, to which Ms. Tanis agreed.

Ms. Beltran requested a recommendation to the Board with the changes. This will be re-addressed in June.

B. BUS SHELTER PROGRAM

MEMO: temp11TACa09.02

Ms. Beltran directed the Committee to view the photo in the agenda of the bus shelter which is recommended by staff. The funds for this project were Federal Highway funds, however they were flexed to the Federal Transit Administration because bus shelters are a transit project, not a roadway project. The photo doesn't show a trash receptacle but there will be a receptacle with the shelter. The cost of the shelters will vary due to the location. If a shelter is on a State Highway, there are more restrictions and requirements and it increases the costs greatly. Ms. Beltran wants to get a recommendation from this committee to take to the MPO Board so they can recommend it to the Board of County Commissioners as they have the final say and are the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the photo and suggested that an ad could be on one side and the other side could have a system map, with bus schedules. They liked the solar lights, the perforated sides which allow air flow and vision for safety. It was suggested that bike racks should be installed.

It was noted that the consensus was that the shelters were to be uniform County wide, however each area could have their own emblem on the top, which would also be more cost effective.

Ms. DeLaney stated that there would need to be a review filter to approve what could and could not be placed on the shelters, and others agreed. The ads could list civic and local events like fireworks or something at the Lyric Theater. The funds from the ads would go towards the maintenance of the shelters. Discussion continued, including placing public service announcements on the shelters and having an Adopt-a-Shelter Program to help with the maintenance.

Ms. Delaney made a motion to recommend to the MPO Board, the design concept of the shelter, and that the system map would be on one side while the other side would be for Public Service Announcements.

Ms. Delaney also suggested that the committee consider allowing the shelters to house art displays. That could be touchy as the decision as to what is acceptable art comes to issue. Screening, again, would be a requirement.

Mr. Capra inquired if these shelters could be placed in conjunction with school routes too? Ms. Beltran noted that school bus routes change. As children grow and change schools, some routes become obsolete; where as a public bus stop is geared more towards employment centers, shopping centers, places where the public desires to go. It could be looked into, however. It was noted that school bus shelters may require more maintenance which is something to consider.

Ms. Beltran is requesting a recommendation to go to the MPO Board. The motion on the floor was made by Kim Delaney and she left at 2:48 PM, prior to the motion being seconded. **As the motion on the floor is now being called, Ms. Rauth stated that she would second the motion. There was no objection. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. COMMENTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Capra suggested that when jobs are considered to be built on a five-year projection, would there be a way that this committee could make an outline of the upcoming projects and the anticipated timelines to see if the local businesses would want to participate in making bids? This would help strengthen the local economy and give a local incentive, not preference. This would give local businesses time to enhance their facilities to accommodate the project if they wanted to take the risk and hope to get the job. It's no guarantee, but it could be a good incentive to stimulate the local area, not just the builders, the suppliers too. Mr. Capra stated that just looking at the Enhancement Fund projects, the supplies are already estimated. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Capra's suggestion.

Ms. Beltran stated that she was approached by Tammy Simoneau, about giving a presentation to the Transportation Committee for the Economic Council regarding the MPO process and how to look on the MPO website and pull up the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). What is being discussed at this Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, is really beyond the scope of this committee's duties. This committee was put into place by Federal Legislation to review and make recommendations to the MPO Board. Ms. Beltran said that it is up to the businesses to be informed.

Ms. Rauth stated that maybe encouraging the area Chambers to come to our meetings so that they could find out about the projects. Mr. Amerson suggested that the Committee write to the Chambers' Executive Directors inviting them to the meeting. Ms. Beltran stated that as part of the outreach specified in the Public Involvement Plan (PIP), she would send out an email to the Chambers, and copy this committee, to inform them as to what the MPO is doing, and providing them with a meeting schedule

to see what kind of a response that she would receive. This is certainly a part of the PIP, but we need to be careful to stay in line with the parameters of this committee's duties. If a good response is received we can discuss how to proceed. If a poor response is received, we can assume that people are not interested in being involved.

Mr. Amerson requested an update on this method of increasing public outreach, and continue to follow up in future meetings, to see if any more responses are forthcoming.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

None.

9. NOTES

There were a couple of items of correspondence in the notes, for informational purposes.

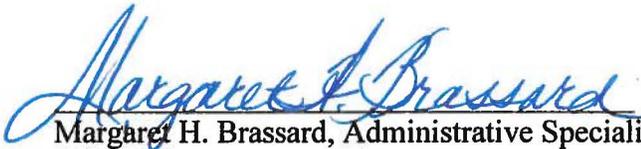
10. NEXT MEETING

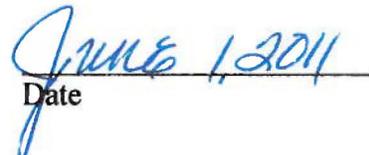
Next meeting will be June 1, 2011 at the Martin County Airport-Witham Field, Maintenance Conference Room at 1:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

No motion was offered to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II


Date

Approved by:


Sam Amerson, TAC Chairman


Date