

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012 – 1:30 P.M.**

**Martin County Airport Maintenance Building Conference Room  
1895 Flying Fortress Way,  
Stuart, FL**

**[www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com)**

**(772) 221-1498**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Sam Amerson, Chair of the TAC Committee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Sam Amerson, Chair  
Samantha Horowitz, Vice Chair  
Robert Kellogg  
Stuart Trent  
Arlene Tanis  
Paul Nicoletti  
Terry Rauth  
Lee Hoefert  
Chon Wong  
George Stokus

**Members Excused:**

Mark Cocco  
Kim DeLaney  
Roje Gonzalez

**Members Absent**

None

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Michael Malham, Planner II  
Gavin Jones, Senior Planner  
Margaret Brassard, Administrative Assistant II

**Others in Attendance:**

Krysti Brotherton, Martin County

**A quorum was present for this meeting.**

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

Mr. Amerson stated that there will be an additional agenda item 5X. Ms. Beltran clarified that it will become the first agenda item.

**Mr. Lee Hoefert made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of agenda item 5X. This motion was seconded by Mr. George Stokus. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Terry Rauth. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samantha Horowitz. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **X. COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) SIDEWALKS MODIFICATION.**

MEMO: temp12TACa3.0X

Ms. Beltran stated that this additional agenda item, the CRA sidewalks modification, was requested by the Engineering Department as a result of a request by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Ms. Beltran introduced Mr. Michael Malham, MPO staff, and Ms. Krysti Brotherton, Martin County's LAP Coordinator, to present this project and answer any questions.

Mr. Malham directed the committee to recall back in September, 2011 there was a request for a scope modification which was being made to an Enhancement application from 2009. When this [CRA Palm City] application was modified, the funds went toward three streets one of which was Nobel Avenue. After further engineering design, studying and evaluation, it was determined that Nobel was going to be more costly and a greater liability than the amount of benefit it would provide, creating an overage in the budget. It was suggested that Nobel Avenue be removed from the project as it was only going to benefit three homes, of which the amount of yard space which would be required from these homes to allow for the required drainage, would be great. Ms. Rauth stated that the road is very narrow, it's almost alley-like and there would be a major impact on the three yards and driveways. Ms. Brotherton stated that this project would require a major financial investment to build a culvert, and consideration was given to placing the sidewalk on the opposite side, but there is a considerable amount of landscaping which would have to be moved, again at a major cost. Mr. Amerson inquired if the residents had been advised that they may get sidewalks, and if so, were they disappointed to learn the change in plans.

Ms. Brotherton stated that the design engineer for this project spoke to Mr. Freeman of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) about the drainage issues as this was a CRA project. She was not aware whether the residents had been advised of the change in the CRA's Public Involvement Process. Ms. Brotherton stated that they are trying to build projects within the grant funding limits available but installing the necessary drainage for this project would exceed the cost benefit. Mr. Nicoletti asked if there was another project that would take the place of this one. Ms. Rauth stated that the County is actually short funded and having Nobel with all the drainage issues, just accentuated the matter. Ms. Brotherton stated that the design is continuing, they are just re-designing the scope, and are hopeful that some low bids come in so that they may remain within budget. Ms. Rauth stated that everything else is remaining the same in the project, but DOT is very specific and noted that anytime something is added or deleted to/from a [Federally funded] project it has to go back through the MPO process. Mr. Malham used the map to provide location reference of the project limits to Ms. Arlene Tanis of FDOT. Ms. Rauth added that the sidewalk on Butler Road will actually connect to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge project as well as a sidewalk which runs to the back of the right-of-way (ROW) of the bridge project, and there is another sidewalk which goes up the bridge so there is a dual sidewalk.

**Mr. Paul Nicoletti made a motion to remove Nobel [Avenue] from the scope of this project, as recommended by staff. This motion was seconded by Mr. Stokus. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A. FINAL FY2012/13 AND FY2013/14  
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

MEMO: temp12TACa03.01

Ms. Beltran introduced the new TAC member, Mr. Martin Paulk, General Manager for MV Transportation, the new public transit provider for Martin County.

Ms. Beltran gave an overview of the UPWP stating that it outlines transportation planning activities to be conducted by the MPO during the next two fiscal years. It is required in order to receive Federal and State transportation funds. In addition, Ms. Beltran mentioned several activities identified in the current UPWP, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, the Enhancement Project Application process, transit planning and staff support to the Local Coordinating Board of the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Ms. Beltran stated that at the last Regional Transit Organization (RTO) meeting, a representative from the City of Port St. Lucie requested that the Public Transportation task in the Martin UPWP be combined with the Public Transportation task in the St. Lucie TPO's UPWP. Ms. Beltran gave an overview of the RTO, a working group made up of representatives from Martin

and St. Lucie Counties that addresses the operational and financial functions of regional transit. At the last RTO Board meeting, it was discussed that the only signatories to the RTO Interlocal Agreement are the Martin MPO and St. Lucie TPO and that the transit operators are not members of this working group. Ms. Beltran stated that this is significant in the fact that the two Counties' transit systems operate extremely different. Ms. Beltran stated that the Council on Aging in St. Lucie County (Community Transit) is a sub-recipient of Federal and State transit funds, whereas Martin has moved away from that and they now have a contract operator, M.V. Transportation. The County is in control of the funds and MV Transportation performs the service as a vendor. Ms. Beltran went on to explain the changes in the transit system since Martin County hired a contract operator, including a US 1 Route that connects to the St. Lucie transit system and runs south to the IRSC campus on Salerno Road and a no fare policy for the fixed bus route system in Martin County. Ms. Beltran presented a chart showing the 132% increase in ridership since the bus routes were changed. She added that the importance of the increased ridership is that these figures are reported to the Federal Government in the National Transit Database (NTD) which is factored into what the County will receive in future formula funds ---- the greater the ridership, the more funds are received. Mr. Amerson inquired if they have seen an increase in younger riders on public transit. Ms. Mahan stated that certain stops have seen increases of mothers with young children especially the Winn-Dixie at Salerno Road and in the Golden Gate area. Ms. Beltran stated that the U. S. 1 Route is the "spine" of the service and the Stuart route has been manipulated so that it connects to the U. S. 1 Route.

Ms. Beltran stated that the MPO staff definitely supports regionalism, in many aspects, the Waterway Plan, the U. S. 1 Corridor Retrofit, the Model Validation Project just to mention a few. Ms. Beltran stated that staff supports working with the RTO, but does not support combining Public Transportation tasks with the St. Lucie TPO. Staff stated that in the best interest of Martin, it is important that Martin remains in control of their Public Transportation funding. Ms. Tanis stated that she, too, was at that RTO meeting, when it was suggested combining the Public Transportation tasks, but she felt in was as a last minute comment. It was noted that a St. Lucie representative directed that the issue be taken back to the M/TPOs for reviewing. Ms. Tanis stated that the RTO is coming into its own and DOT has indicated that they will do what they can to support it. Ms. Tanis stated that the Transit Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), the RTO's Advisory Committee, will be meeting soon and will be deciding on a skeleton of a Work Program, tasks will be coming out of this new program and DOT will assist in supporting it. DOT may not pay for the entire thing, but they will help on the marketing, branding, getting a professional company to make commercials etc... so these will need to be addressed in the future.

Ms. Beltran stated that she is looking for a recommendation of the UPWP to the Board for approval, recommending that the Public Transportation tasks of Martin's UPWP and St. Lucie's UPWP are not combined (but that staff should

continue to coordinate with the RTO, St. Lucie, and FDOT on transit items), and to recommend that transit operators should be included as members on the RTO Board. Ms. Tanis stated that a lot of positive progress was made by the RTO and the many committee meetings. She also noted that there are two things being funded by FDOT currently. There is a \$500,000 infrastructure, no match necessary, discretionary grant, and the RTO technical committee came up with 17 logical locations for shelters, it was agreed to use shelters not just benches, and the City of Port St. Lucie said that they would take the responsibility of managing the contract. Ms. Tanis stated that she can't offer specifics as the new fiscal year doesn't begin until July, but she has been advised that the DOT will continue to support this effort in terms of how to market the shelters and the service to help increase the ridership. She's aware that the M/TPO has expended staff time in this RTO effort, so FDOT will be providing more funds in that area too. Mr. Stokus inquired as to how a bus stop at the airport could be obtained as there are a couple of call centers located on the property. He advised that he would talk to Ms. Mahan, the Transit Planner, after the meeting.

**Ms. Terry Rauth made a motion to recommend the Final FY2012/13 and FY 2013/14 UPWP to the MPO Board for approval, recommend that the Public Transportation tasks not be combined, but direct staff to continue to coordinate with the RTO, St. Lucie, and FDOT on transit items, and to recommend that the transit operators be included as members on the RTO Board. This motion was seconded by Mr. Stokus. There were no additional comments. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. DRAFT FY2012/13-FY2016/17 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

MEMO: temp12TACa03.02

Ms. Beltran advised the committee that the TIP has a five year planning horizon and is based on the Cost Feasible Plan for the LRTP. These projects are Federally and State funded, have regional significance, and take into account the Priority Projects that go through the Advisory Committees and are approved by the Board every year. Ms. Beltran went on to explain the contents on the Draft TIP. Ms. Beltran noted the major projects in the TIP are the number one priority, CR 714 from the Turnpike to Mapp Road which is fully funded through FY 2015, the second priority is SR 76 from the Interchange to Monterey Road, the third priority is the Indian Street Project which will be changing over the summer as FDOT is working with Martin to move funds out of this project and placing them on other projects as was discussed at the last meeting. The fourth project is Willoughby Boulevard, which has not had any Federal funds allocated to it, although it is a local priority. The fifth priority is SR 76 from the Interchange west to Pratt Whitney, and a major project also listed is the Veteran's Memorial Bridge which is under construction and slated for completion in FY 2013. Passenger rail service along the FEC Corridor is also listed as there are still \$118 million dollars allocated to this project. Ms. Beltran advised that only the funded phases are shown in the TIP during the five year period and expenses are

consistent with the revenues. Ms. Beltran advised of the actions which the MPO is taking to fulfill the Public Involvement Plan and stated that there will be a Public Hearing on the TIP at the June MPO Board meeting. It was advised that some of the incongruence's which were discovered during the Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting this morning have been fixed though others will be fixed prior to the final draft document coming before the committees at the June meeting. There will not be any major changes, just addition of some items which were left out and other details. FDOT updated the snapshot being used from February to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which will alter some of the information but not by a lot. Ms. Tanis stated that with the State using the most current snapshots available, it should reduce the amount of amendments necessary. Ms. Tanis also stated that there is a time lag in the Transportation Disadvantaged numbers information and that may have to continue to be manually input. The information should be available by the next MPO meeting. Ms. Tanis stated that the constrained amount of money is still there, the Work Program shifts funds around on a daily basis so you will see dollar figures change but nothing that would trigger an amendment. She also advised that FDOT does not anticipate any sweeps this year.

Mr. Kellogg asked if anyone had spoken to Commissioner Bausch regarding the signalization at the intersection of Sewall's Point Road and A-1-A. Ms. Beltran stated that she has sent an Outlook Invite to Mr. Bausch, and Mr. Kellogg to have a meeting to discuss the MPO's Priorities for the next year.

Ms. Beltran stated that staff is requesting that the committee recommend the Draft TIP to the MPO Board with the understanding that Funds will be redistributed from Indian Street to SR 710 Bridge Project for lighting and the remainder of those funds will be allocated to the SR 76 Project, the number two priority. This was recommended to the Board at the last meeting and the Board did approve the recommendations from the advisory committees. The approval of the Draft TIP also is with the understanding the May 3<sup>rd</sup> snapshot will only have minimal changes.

Mr. Amerson asked where you can see the FY funding on Willoughby, and Ms. Rauth stated that \$500,000 is in the current year for ROW acquisition and there are going to be more discussions as to if the City is going to apply again for CIGP funding, maybe the City would want to match it. When the CIGP comes out again, they will look into it to see how much funding will be available. Ms. Rauth stated that it's still a long way before there will be any construction dollars. Ms. Rauth stated that after next year, the County doesn't have funding for resurfacing. Mr. Capra asked if there would be a possibility of the extension of ITS lines being put into this program in the next round of discussions. Ms. Beltran stated that this question has been asked by Sewall's Point and the resulting answer is that Federal funds cannot be used for that purpose. Mr. Capra clarified that he is talking about ITS -fiber lines, he is of the understanding that the County has installed some in the ROW and he wants to know if the extension

of those lines can be used and paid for through this program. Ms. Beltran stated that she would research this and get back to the committee at the June meeting. Mr. Capra added that drainage is noted on Indian Street, and he doesn't see it listed anywhere else, though he's aware that there are drainage issues throughout the County, cities and towns but will that be able to be funded under this program. Ms. Rauth clarified that the drainage project is a Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) so only Indian River and Martin qualify for this grant and the two Counties split the funds. It had been used for resurfacing, but it has since been opened up for drainage and bridge maintenance. The Indian Street Project is needed as a pipe which is ten feet deep has failed, and there is contamination with gas stations on all four corners, so the County applied for this grant, as the County would not be able to have the funds to properly repair that section. Ms. Rauth added that SCOP funds are dwindling from the amounts in the past, they are based on the population and only available for the two Counties, not the cities. Ms. Rauth stated that she believes the total amount for the two Counties is \$500,000.

**Ms. Rauth made a motion to approve staff's recommendation that the committee recommend the Draft TIP to the MPO Board with the understanding that funds will be redistributed from the Indian Street Project to the SR 710 Bridge Project for lighting and the remainder of those funds will be allocated to SR 76 Project the number two priority. Mr. Lee Hoefert seconded the motion. There were no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

**7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**8. COMMENTS FROM FDOT**

Ms. Tanis stated that it was brought to FDOT's attention that the I-95 Projects, one in Martin, one in St. Lucie, are moving into the design phase outside of the TIP, the LRTP shows the map being six lanes, when it is actually eight lanes so an LRTP amendment will be coming in the near future. She stated that the Project Manager for the Martin portion is Julio Gonzales. Ms. Tanis also reminded the committee that once a year all MPO's should review the LRTP to check for discrepancies. Ms. Beltran stated that they will begin to incorporate that into their format.

**9. NOTES**

**10. NEXT MEETING – June 6, 2012**

**11. ADJOURN**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Horowitz. A second was obtained by Mr. Hoefert. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.**

**Recorded and Prepared by:**

  
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II

Date: June 6, 2012

**Approved by:**

  
Sam Amerson, Martin TAC Chair

Date: 6/06/12