

MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING

Martin County Board of County Commissioner Chambers
2401 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 221-1498

www.martinmpo.com

Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The Chair, Mr. Troy McDonald, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. PRAYER Chaplain L. C. Campbell, Nettles Island Church

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Troy McDonald, Chair, City of Stuart Commissioner
Sarah Heard, Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Eula R. Clarke, City of Stuart Commissioner (Arrived at 9:05 AM)
Vinny Barile, Vice Chair, Town of Sewall's Point Commissioner
Doug Smith, Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Harold Jenkins, Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Anthony Dowling, Indiantown Representative, non-voting member

Members Excused:

Edward Ciampi, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Members Absent:

None.

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Associate Planner
Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Assistant III

Others in Attendance:

Chaplain L. C. Campbell, Nettles Island Church
Brian Ribaric, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Victoria Williams, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Florida Turnpike Enterprise
Lisa Juan, Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.
Stewart Robertson, Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.
Ken Natoli
Dan Hiden, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Stacie Blizzard, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Joe Capra

Terry Rauth, Martin County Engineering Department Director

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. McDonald stated that Ms. Beltran had requested the addition of an Agenda item. This would be for the Joint Certification; it is the approval of the Statement and Assurances to be heard prior to the first Agenda Item. A motion to approve the amended Agenda was made by Mr. Doug Smith followed by a second from Ms. Eula Clarke. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Eula Clarke provided a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2017 meeting. A second was made by Mr. Doug Smith. No additions or deletions were requested so the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES; COMPLETE CARD TO COMMENT)

None.

Ms. Beltran advised that the Statement and Assurances are provided by the Florida Department of Transportation who performs a certification audit of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) annually. She stated that these documents are required as part of the audit to be signed by the Chair. Staff is recommending that the Board approve these Statements and Assurances, and that they be signed by the Chair.

Mr. Doug Smith made a motion that the Board approves the Chair executing the Statements and Assurances as well as other required audit documentation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Eula Clarke. No opposition was forthcoming, the motion passed unanimously.

8. BUSINESS ITEM

A. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION - TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) 2017 CERTIFICATION

Ms. Beltran stated that every four years the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) audit MPOs in the Transportation Management Areas (TMA). Martin County is part of the Port St. Lucie TMA, adding that there was a site visit of the MPO in April. She advised that Ms. Stacie Blizzard from FHWA is here to advise the results of that audit. Ms. Blizzard introduced herself and expressed appreciation for being able to make this presentation to the Board. She bestowed much praise onto the MPO from their site visit adding that there wasn't much in the way of recommendations. She reminded the Board that this is a required exercise to ensure that the TMAs are following the Federal Regulations. Ms. Blizzard advised that many changes were enacted since the prior certification and she's performed upwards of 30 certifications adding that this was one of the easiest TMA certifications to perform. She remarked that the positive synergy and

creativity in this MPO makes the task very enjoyable. Ms. Blizzard mentioned when addressing her peers throughout the Country she would say, “If you want to see how it works you need to look at this area.” She said that Martin has about five noteworthy practices including safety, even community knowledge adding that the Martin MPO knows its community well. They had fresh, more innovative outreach for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and social media input from the locals she said, more so than the rest of the State, adding that they are an excellent example. Ms. Blizzard commended the MPO for having such a solid understanding of the needs of the community, as well as the ability to partner with others for a successful outcome for the betterment of the residents. She acknowledged the immense effort that was expended to prepare for this audit, how seamlessly it was transacted, again highlighting the excellent example of teamwork of this MPO, and concluded saying she would take any questions. Mr. Smith inquired if these accolades would transcend to more funding to which Ms. Blizzard responded that she’d add that to the “wish list.” Mr. McDonald expressed his thanks for the wonderful comments and congratulated the MPO staff for the great work. Ms. Sarah Heard mirrored the sentiments of Mr. McDonald.

B. DRAFT BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Ms. Beltran advised that this exciting project has been in process for about a year and a half. She introduced Stewart Robertson of Kimley-Horn, the consultant for this project. Mr. Robertson explained that the Master Plan’s purpose is to continue to encourage Martin County to become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly noting that it will help develop project recommendations that can go into project development cycles to obtain grant funding. Mr. Robertson mentioned that having a Master Plan in place will assist the MPO in prioritizing and pursuing those funding opportunities as they become available. He said having safe places to bike, walk or run with desired destinations such as along a canal or other greenway is paramount. Mr. Robertson said that shared use paths and beautiful tree canopies could seamlessly connect neighborhoods or trails, while shortening the distant between locations. He mentioned that Martin has a higher than average pedestrian and cycling base of work commuters; noting different plans that Martin has recently developed, how they all work together to enhance each other, including the Waterways Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Action Plan and the Safety Action Plan that was adopted last year. Mr. Robertson stated that they used “Walk Score” when developing the criteria and he explained how points were given for different elements: proximity to bus stops, schools, libraries or other select destinations noting the high walkability of Downtown Stuart. He explained how the compilation of this data obtains criteria for prioritization or project ranking. Mr. Robertson said that the Public Involvement Plan phase of this Plan was built upon the successful “Moving Martin Forward” Campaign of the LRTP. He mentioned that this is a continuation of the LRTP which had two Open House Workshops, allowed people to determine what projects they would choose to invest their funds, maps to show areas where bike lanes or paths are desired as well as other ways to engage the public at these events. Mr. Robertson said that the number one suggestion to encourage walking or cycling

was vehicle separation. He discussed the various Goals and Objectives, demographics, social aspects and recommendations. Mr. Robertson advised that in total there would be over 250 miles of new bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Martin County, mentioning the increase of shared use paths, buffered bike lanes and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Regional Trail Facility. He highlighted the East Coast Greenway (ECG) which is basically along the Eastern Seaboard adding that there was a request for a connecting trail along either Kanner Highway or Cove Road through to Lake Okeechobee, as well as a scenic connection along the C-23 Canal which has enough ROW for a shared use path. Mr. Robertson advised of the Top Ten Recommended Projects, said that the Path to Success should focus on leadership and resources which are essential to help Martin become a more walkable community, so now he will take questions. Ms. Clarke asked what is the "Bike Box" that is shown on page 136 of the Agenda. Mr. Robertson clarified that it is located at an intersection which allows cyclists to be queued into a visible position adjacent to traffic in a bike lane. He said that two areas have been identified which would be good candidates for this as there is high bicycling traffic; one on East Ocean at St. Lucie Boulevard the other at Sewall's Point, they are relatively new and only recently approved by the FHWA. Mr. Doug Smith inquired if the green conflict areas should actually cover the whole lane in locations like Kanner Highway and I-95 as the entire lane is a conflict. Mr. Robertson clarified that FDOT wants only the primary locations marked not the whole lane. Mr. Smith said that something needs to be done to make that area safer, the white biking symbol every 1000 feet, green lane anything to make it stand out more to motorist. Mr. Robertson did state that FDOT has lowered the bar for use of the green asphalt so we'll have to see how things transpire in the future. Discussion ensued about bike lanes, green asphalt, separated lanes and various safety mechanisms, noting that a private development has installed Martin's first green conflict lane on US 1. It was mentioned that Mr. Vinny Barile spearheaded the green conflict lane for Sewall's Point and it is slated to happen in the near future adding that the conflict lanes in Miami are very visible and stand out to motorists.

The Chair advised that he has two *Requests to Speak* forms on this item and called Mr. Ken Natoli to the podium. Mr. Ken Natoli stated that he is the Vice Chair of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) but is representing himself on this matter. He said that there is a lot of good stuff in this Plan and he'd like to thank Mr. Stewart Robertson and everyone who has done a lot of great work, to get it to this point. He said that he only has three minutes so he can't dwell on all the good stuff. He stated that the Board has heard him mention this before but you will hear it one more time. He said that the best thing about the Plan is the number one goal of the Plan. He said if the number one goal of the Plan is for walkable and livable communities, that's great and the objective behind it is also great. However, unfortunately in the rest of the Plan, there's not much that would get it done. If you just go off on what it is, he said, the recommendation will not get to a walkable/livable community, it just won't happen. More would need to be done if Martin wants to become a walkable community. A walkable community needs a better description as to what it is,

so if someone isn't aware, they can look at some on-line. He explained that they are interconnected, local networks, people can walk, bike, use a Park 'N' Ride to downtowns, they may have on-street parking, schools would be close enough for students to walk or ride their bikes, off road trails are great, and a function of the public transportation system should be that when you are in one of these areas you can get on a public transportation bus and go to another similar area with all the necessary functions. Mr. Natoli said that's basically it and he provided an example from the Plan stating that the "Walk Score" measures the walkability with the only place in Martin County that scored decently being the downtown area. Mr. Natoli said if you look at the recommendations in the Plan there is nothing that would affect any changes in Martin County to become more like Downtown Stuart. If that's the only area that scored decently one needs to consider that area, people love to ride bikes on Osceola Street or Ocean Boulevard and there are no bike lanes. Mr. Natoli clarified that this isn't about cycling; it's about walking, so this is a land use/planning issue. He added that transportation is an important component but this is a land use issue not a transportation issue. He said it takes the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Regulations to change to promote and develop these things if that vision is really what is wanted to see accomplished. He said it's not complicated, very simple little functions and changes need to happen so that when areas are developed or re-developed that development will build the new walkable communities which is the free and healthy option. He explained that is the discussion to have and to become a part of this Plan. Mr. Natoli said these people know it, it's part of the Plan but it's missing from the Plan and the Plan needs a little bit more. Finally, he said, another great thing in this Plan is the nature trail option of the East Coast Greenway (ECG). He stated that it is a unique and special opportunity for Martin and could be an eco-tourism bonanza. Mr. Natoli said it would go from downtown to Willoughby, to the Atlantic Ridge, through to Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP). He said that would be a special place adding to put that on the map, get that done first as it's the most important, then supplement it with walkable/livable communities. Mr. Natoli expressed thanks for allowing him to address the Board.

Mr. McDonald said he had a *Request to Speak* for Mr. Joe Capra and asked him to the podium. Mr. Capra introduced himself as being on the TAC Committee and he's very happy with what Stewart has put together. He said that the first areas to concentrate on should be considered as economic corridors explaining that if you travel where there are a lot of bike paths and bike activities you will see a lot of businesses start up along the way. Mr. Capra said that he is of the opinion that there needs to be a lot of collaboration to get the money for this between the County, the Town, the City and he suggested some of the corridors which he believes would be important to go after such as Palm City, Martin Downs, Monterey Road, through the Town of Sewall's Point and out to Stuart Beach. Mr. Capra said he believes that would be a great corridor and would get a lot of interest. Mr. Capra agreed there are other ones like what Mr. Natoli pointed out and more to be learned of through the Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs), the future Town of Hobe Sound, Jupiter Island. He stated that he

hopes the concentration of you working with the Cities, the towns and County to determine which projects will be accomplished first because to do this will take some financial assistance such as grants. He expressed a desire to have some projects selected that could happen in five or ten years, something within our lifetimes. Mr. Capra stated that overall the Plan is a good idea and he expressed his thanks to the Board for having it done. Seeing no additional comments Mr. McDonald asked if a motion would be forthcoming approving this Draft Master Plan

Ms. Eula Clarke made a motion to approve the Draft Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doug Smith. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

C. SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED (SUN) TRAIL PROGRAM REQUEST FOR FUNDING - APPLICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Beltran stated that as a result of the previously adopted Master Plan, the Martin MPO will be able to apply for SUN Trail Funding. The application is included in the Agenda Package along with a couple of Resolutions that cover two potential segments of the ECG. The first segment, she said is for a shared use path along US 1 from SE Bridge Road to the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge. The second Resolution would be for a feasibility study for a shared use path along Gomez Avenue from SE Osprey Street to SE Bridge Road. Should these funds be awarded, these projects will provide connectivity of the ECG from Seabranck Park heading south to the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge across US 1 and through JDSP to the Martin/Palm Beach County Line. Ms. Beltran said that she will take questions at this time and staff does recommend approval of the applications and the Resolutions. A minor change was made to the Resolutions; the revised versions were handed out to the Board prior to this meeting. Mr. Smith inquired as to the required width of the ECG. Ms. Beltran stated that the ECG is a paved shared use path between ten and 12 feet wide.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program Request for Funding–Applications and Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Seeing no objections the motion passed unanimously.

D. 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)AMENDMENT-SR 76/KANNER HIGHWAY WIDENING FROM CR 711/PRATT WHITNEY ROAD TO SW LOCKS ROAD

Ms. Beltran advised that this LRTP Amendment was discussed at the prior Board Meeting. It was determined for staff to move ahead with this amendment on Kanner Highway, widening west of the I-95 Interchange with a signalized intersection at Kanner Highway and Pratt Whitney Road. Staff does recommend approval of this item.

Mr. Harold Jenkins made a motion to approve the 2040 LRTP Amendment –SR 76/Kanner Highway Widening from CR 711/Pratt Whitney Road to SE

Locks Road. This motion was seconded by Ms. Eula Clarke. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

E. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY FOR FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE FROM JUPITER (INDIANTOWN ROAD) TO FORT PIERCE (SR 70)

Ms. Beltran introduced Ms. Victoria Williams, the MPO liaison for Florida's Turnpike. Ms. Williams advised that the Project Manager, Mr. Brian Ribaric is here to provide an update on the PD&E Study. Mr. Ribaric said that this project will extend from Indiantown Road in Jupiter to State Road (SR) 70 in Fort Pierce essentially doubling the size of the Turnpike from four to eight lanes. Mr. Ribaric explained that there will be express lanes and several interchange modifications along the corridor as well as some ROW issues and other challenges noting that District Four is working on a Master Plan for I-95 and they are partnering with them in this effort to complement one another. Mr. Ribaric discussed the four existing Interchange modifications as well as the five potential Interchange locations. He addressed the resurfacing/millings from Martin and St. Lucie County noting that they are working on the entire Turnpike to install Electronic Tolling throughout the State adding that people will be invoiced every couple of months if they do not possess a *SunPass* or have a *Bill by Plate* account. Mr. Ribaric provided a PD&E Study schedule beginning with the Public Involvement the first part of 2017 concluding with the Study Completion and Approval of the SEIR in spring of 2019. Mr. Harold Jenkins asked that the I-95 crossover at Mile Post 124 be clarified as it looks to be near the park [JDSP]. Mr. Ribaric stated that it is just south of Bridge Road in the area where I-95 and the Turnpike are very close together, then a large median begins to separate the two facilities. He advised Mr. Jenkins that they will look into any possible Environmental Impacts at JDSP. Ms. Sarah Heard inquired as to the drivers that will increase the Turnpike from four to six lanes from Indiantown Road to Port St. Lucie Boulevard in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and eight lanes in FY2045 from Indiantown Road to Becker Road. Mr. Ribaric stated that the Turnpike has not been widened since the 1960s and with the existing natural growth of the traffic it will need the extra lanes by FY2025-FY2036. Ms. Heard inquired if they are forecasting explosive growth between Indiantown Road and Port St. Lucie Boulevard. Mr. Ribaric mentioned that Port St. Lucie and Port St. Lucie Boulevard is growing a lot, west of the Turnpike, it's natural congestion but we need to accommodate the community. Mr. McDonald said the congestion from Ft. Lauderdale to Orlando has increased, as has the local traffic in these areas, making it an overall population congestion issue. Mr. Smith mentioned the Turnpike in the vicinity of the Sawgrass Parkway and south of the Miami Airport stating that the signage is awful. He said if you aren't a regular user it's difficult to navigate. Mr. Ribaric said that they will look into it.

Discussion ensued about a Kanner Highway Interchange, bridge/modifications, resurfacing, and eventually the road will become four lanes with a new bridge. Mr. Ribaric highlighted that it's going to be a number of years before a lot of this happens.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Dowling reminded the Board that the MPO will be having their Safety Campaign in Indiantown this Friday [Dec. 15, 2017] from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. He looks forward to seeing everyone and informing them of the ways they can improve their safety. Mr. Dowling expressed his thanks to the MPO for their efforts in Indiantown.

Finally, Mr. Dowling said that on November 7, 2017, the Indiantown residents went to the polls and voted to become an Incorporated Village in Martin County. As a non-voting member of this Board, he inquired of the Chair if he could direct staff to explore ways to assist Indiantown in this transition from a non-voting to a voting position. Mr. McDonald stated that Indiantown has a population of approximately 6,000 which would possibly grant them a seat on the Board, also Hobe Sound may possibly follow suite in the future. He asked the Board if they would approve to direct staff to evaluate what is entailed in becoming a member or adding a seat to the Board for Indiantown and possibly in the future for Hobe Sound.

Mr. Harold Jenkins made a motion to direct staff to explore the necessities for transitioning Indiantown from non-voting to voting member of the MPO Board. This motion shall include the potential future incorporation needs of Hobe Sound to the MPO Board as well. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. There were no additional comments and the motion passed unanimously.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

None

12. NEXT MEETING:

February 28, 2018 at 9:00 AM

13. ADJOURN

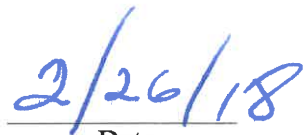
As there were no remaining agenda items, the Chair adjourned the meeting RONR (10th ed.), p.233, c. (9) at 10:11 AM.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Assistant III


Date


Troy McDonald, Chair


Date