

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
JOINT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC),
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

**2401 S. E. Monterey Road
4th Floor Workshop Conference Room
Stuart, FL 34996**

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Monday, October 2, 2017 @ 1:30 pm

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Beth Beltran advised that Mr. Sam Amerson, Chair for the TAC normally chairs this Joint Meeting. She said that he and the Vice Chair are not going to be at today's meeting. Mr. Don Donaldson is no longer in the Engineering Department so she requested permission from the committees to allow Ms. Lisa Wichser, who is now the County Engineer, to fill in as Chair today. She asked if there were any objections but there were none. Ms. Beltran asked that the roll be called at 1:35 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Cindy Greenspan

Albert Zilg

Saadia Tsafarides

Dan Parz

Ann Kagdis

Joan Moore (Left at 3:20 PM)

Ken Natoli (Arrived at 1:45 PM)

Andy Flanner

William Fry

Dawn Arvin

Julie Preast

John Trahan

Don Fabricy

Gene Zweben

JP Lazo

Jan Icyda

David Pittinos

Joe Capra (Alt.) (Left at 3:00 PM)

Erik Treudt

Lisa Wichser

Yanique Kelly

Gissela Saucedo (Alt.)

Members Excused:

Amy Eason
Nick Pagan
Hal Forslund
Sam Amerson
Stuart Trent

Members Absent

Sheila Kurtz (Late notice)
John Patteson
Trent Steel
Eric Smith
Mark Cocco
Samantha Lovelady
Steve Mayer
Kim Delaney
Ken DeAngeles

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others Present:

Gabrielle Ferraro, OCA
Stewart Robertson, Kimley-Horn, Inc. for FDOT
Gus Schmidt, TY Lin
Eric Penfield, RS&H
Victoria Williams, Florida's Turnpike
Alfred Miller
Leslie Wetherell, FDOT
Min-Tang Li, FDOT

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Julie Preast which was seconded by Ms. Joan Moore. There were no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Joan Moore motioned to approve the minutes of the Joint CAC/BPAC/TAC meeting on April 3, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Capra. The motion passed unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FY2018/19- FY2022/23 CITIZENS' REPORT - DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Ms. Beltran advised that this is a two part item. The first is from FDOT District Four; the second part will be presented by Ms. Victoria Williams of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. She turned the floor over to Ms. Leslie Wetherell of District Four. Ms. Wetherell noted that every other year the Legislature meets early so all FDOT's deadlines have to be adjusted accordingly. She stated that she will present the Department's Draft Tentative Program for FY18/19-FY22/23. She advised that the Department will be having a Public Hearing at the District Headquarters in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for the Draft Tentative Work Program on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:30 PM and added that people may also participate via webinar. Ms. Wetherell mentioned that there hasn't been a lot of change that would affect the District Four Work Program and FDOT is still using the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) which uses Federal funds. She said that FDOT is a five year agency while other State agencies function on an annual schedule. Under the FAST Act about 75% of the resources are State funds, such as the gas tax and Documentary (DOC) Stamps, with 25% being Federal Funds. Ms. Wetherell stated that statutorily the Department may only expend State resources on the State Highway System and many of these projects are off the State Highway System so FDOT must be creative within the law to move these projects forward. Ms. Wetherell stated that FDOT was capable of accomplishing a lot and believes that Martin will be happy with the outcome. She informed the committees that the State makes revenue adjustments twice a year and a slight cash reduction was made amounting to approximately \$128,000,000 Statewide. Ms. Wetherell advised that Central Office works hard to keep the Work Program stable, which for this cycle basically means stability without new projects, adding that the greatest impacts made were to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Program. She stated for this presentation she was only going to highlight some of the priority projects then take questions. Ms. Wetherell said that there were a few projects that have Project Development and Environment (PD&E) studies requested; High Meadows Avenue, Cove Road and Willoughby Boulevard. She said that each of those PD&Es have been funded which is a huge success considering that all PD&Es are "off system" and getting each programed for funding with the 75%/25% ratio between Federal and State Funds is great. Now the challenge will be moving each project forward, she said. Ms. Wetherell said that there is also a bike/ped/sidewalks priority list. She said that they were able to continue to keep the project that is already in the system programmed along Monterey Road and East Ocean Boulevard, verify the corridor, as well as programming the design phase for the sidewalks identified on Ocean Boulevard. Ms. Wetherell said that Jensen Beach Causeway was another priority on this list which has buffered bike lanes programmed for both design and construction. Finally, Cove Road was added this year; this was another priority on that list which was a Congestion Management Project (CMP)/Resurfacing type Local Agency Program (LAP) Project that will be performed by the County. She said that all the projects that were previously on the priority lists moved forward, showing the stability of the program. She added that Martin has always been successful applying for

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Projects adding that the County usually takes the lead on those projects. Ms. Wetherell continued to the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Projects which will assist the County in defraying the costs of resurfacing County facilities. She added that the Monterey Road/Florida East Coast (FEC) project was on their list, but it did not get funded this cycle in an attempt to get it funded using SIS funds through Central Office. Part two of this equation, she said, is that FDOT is trying to fund larger dollar projects not just portions of a project. Mr. Joe Capra inquired as to the PD&E being performed on Willoughby Boulevard; Ms. Wetherell said that she would provide some background on this project. She said that Willoughby began with state funding but the MPO Board later determined to add it to the MPO Priorities List. In order to pursue Federal funds for that project the project had to become “Federalized” by going through a PD&E as well as any other process that is Federally required even if the project has to start over as in this case. She said that funding was a big challenge for that project. Mr. George Dzama said that there never was funding for construction only for right of way (ROW) acquisition. Ms. Wetherell commented on Mr. Dzama’s point in that the Department is beginning the project from scratch moving forward with the PD&E, and the outcome of that will dictate the preferred alternative, go through Design and decide if ROW is necessary when that phase is entered. If the Department pursues ROW previously obtained by the County, it will have to be determined if the ROW was obtained using the Federal Uniform Act process; if not, it will have to be remediated with the County being responsible for costs as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will not participate in those expenses. Ms. Wetherell expressed optimism that the ROW was purchased using the Federal Uniform Act but it will have to be analyzed at that time, adding that is the challenge of Federalizing projects after the fact. She said that FDOT cannot make that determination at this time, as the legal process must be completed prior to review of the ROW. Ms. Wetherell stated that funds are tight, and more may need to be spent in this process, but the project will come to fruition. Mr. Don Fabricy inquired if there’s a list of projects that this committee is supposed to endorse. Ms. Wetherell said the list was provided, Ms. Beltran added that the list is in the agenda package. Ms. Lisa Wichser asked about the transit and aviation section. Ms. Wetherell said that she will not address the transit and aviation section in detail because they work directly with the Federal agencies. It was determined that this and the Work Program presentation by the Florida Turnpike be separate motions.

Ms. Julie Preast made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19-FY2022/23 Citizens’ Report-Draft Tentative Work Program. Ms. Sadia Tsafarides provided the second. The question was called passing unanimously.

Ms. Victoria Williams introduced herself as being the Florida Turnpike’s liaison for the MPOs stating that she will provide a brief overview of the progress in the Work Program which is a five year projection. Ms. Williams covered the Turnpike information in Martin County, adding that it’s a 20 mile segment that will be resurfaced. She advised that they have a major project happening which will remove all the toll booths, making travel much smoother. She added that this method, using transponders such as “SunPass” will be cheaper. Ms. Williams responded to Mr.

Capra that the PD&E study is about a third of the way through, it's from Indiantown Road north to State Road (SR)70. They are looking into the feasibility right now and Interchange funding will come further out than 2023. Ms. Wichser asked if a motion would be forthcoming on the Turnpike's Work Program.

Ms. Joan Moore made a motion to approve the Turnpike's Draft Work Program. A second came from Mr. Joe Capra. Seeing no objections the motion passed unanimously.

B. UPDATE – MARTIN COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT (MCPT) OPERATIONS CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ms. Beltran advised that based on the advisory committees' recommendation, the MPO Board approved the Scope of Services for a feasibility study for a Transit Operation Center in Martin County. She advised that Mr. Jeff Weidner with Marlin Engineering is here to make this presentation. Mr. Weidner informed that he is with Marlin Engineering, he has Eric Katz also with Marlin Engineering, and Kelly Blume with Kittleson from Austin, Texas each who participated in the development of some of the presentations for this project. He advised that this project will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and he's been working closely with Martin County Public Transit (MCPT). He informed the committee that currently Martin County contracts out the operating and maintenance to a service provider, but have been entertaining the thought of owning their own facility as well as providing the service themselves for the past few years. Mr. Weidner said that their desire is to own an Operations/Maintenance Center which would provide a facility for bus drivers to come to work daily, location to have buses maintained/housed; a Customer Service Support and Administrative Staff Center to run the business daily. He said that this study is to identify the facility size needed, the location/circulation and roadway access for transit as well as future, anticipated spatial parameters for nightly parking of 30 buses. Mr. Weidner highlighted the Stakeholder Advisory Committee consisting of Martin County Engineering, Transit, Real Property, Growth Management and FDOT. He went on with his presentation, discussing peer transit agencies and stating that the Stakeholders suggested that the committees should endorse seeking property that is somewhere between five and ten acres. Mr. Weidner turned the floor over to Mr. Erik Katz who advised that he is a Planner at Marlin Engineering and he will be managing the GIS analysis with regards to choosing a location for the Transit facility. Mr. Katz showed the Future Land Use Map saying that industrial areas are more aligned with what Martin has chosen for the potential location of this facility. In addition, he said, we will be looking at the transit facilities already within the County. Mr. Katz provided a Multimodal Facilities Map to show what currently exists, and another "Cost Feasible Plan (CFP)" map showing what is planned/budgeted adding that they will be looking at more long range plans not strictly the CFP. Finally, he concluded, another recommendation from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee was to seek sites within the Urban and Primary Service Districts. He returned the floor to Mr. Weidner to cover the FTA Regulations. Mr. Weidner also provided the scenario that if a paratransit vehicle breaks down, MCPT is required to have a replacement vehicle in that location within 30 minutes so that becomes a factor in choosing this location.

Ms. Julie Prest said that since it's been noted that the railroad tracks are a problem, why not just eliminate any sites east of the tracks? Mr. Weidner said that was brought up at the Stakeholder's meeting. That will be taken into consideration. Discussion ensued as to if it's worth having to follow the FTA regulations, to which Mr. Weidner advised that Lee County had similar issues and they were able to obtain \$30 million so it can be worthwhile. The discussion continued regarding the size of the location. Mr. Weidner advised that the ideal site would be around seven acres plus or minus, industrial, vacant, has bike lanes to it, a traffic signal and is owned by the County but that could be difficult to find. Mr. Weidner mentioned that using Federal funds the structure/area should be capable of being functional about 30 years though the County may not want to use it that long, thinking long term is important. Mr. Parz suggested that the demographics from the peer examples provided seem very different from Martin. Mr. Weidner explained the common dominators in each example noting why they were compatible with Martin and the 30 buses anticipated goes beyond 2030. Mr. Alfred Miller stated that he is a new member appointed by Commissioner Jenkins. He said Martin may not reach the 30 bus limit in the near future, however, would we be better off approving a larger site now in the event that growth does exceed the anticipated figures as the cost of land would be much greater in the future. Mr. Weidner affirmed that all factors come into play and the locations will be narrowed down based on the criteria and the various committees input. It was proposed that other agencies or bus facilities be included but Mr. Weidner reminded the committees that FTA funds have stringent requirements and may only be used on/for the use of Martin's public transit buses. Mr. Weidner stated that this is an Operations and Maintenance Center which will house Martin's public transit buses, Customer Service Center and employee/maintenance facilities. Currently, Mr. Weidner said, to qualify for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) door to door service, a nurse has to go to each applicant's home to interview them. This service, he said, would be combined into the Customer Service Center which would be more efficient. Mr. Weidner said that many questions are yet to be answered, which is why this feasibility study is taking place. Ms. Beltran mentioned that this study is the result of working with the transit agency with their recently developed business plan. The FDOT consultant asked if they would consider looking into owning a facility. She said currently when MCPT goes out to bid they don't have a facility so the contractor has to find a facility to lease to establish a Customer Service Center and bus parking, which is very inefficient. Ms. Beltran said that this feasibility study will assist in locating what's available. Discussion ensued. Ms. Prest mentioned the Indiantown referendum to incorporate and asked if Martin County would be responsible to provide transit for an incorporated area? Mr. Miller mentioned that some areas may be included that are not incorporated. Mr. Capra clarified that the committee is looking to approve this study which is slated to find a location that is centrally located, preferably a County owned facility, but he is of the opinion that it won't be accomplished unless there is an overpass somewhere and a study has been performed regarding an overpass. He continued saying that 153,000 square feet is enormous for Martin as it is a small community; we need to be creative, share facilities between the City of Stuart, the County and the School Board. Mr. Capra said they all have the same predominate needs, storage, so Martin needs to think out

of the box as to how these facilities could be shared. He recognizes that the Federal funds don't allow for this "comingling" but it's similar to going to FDOT for roadway funds since the County doesn't have the funds coming in. Ms. Lisa Wichser noted the 153,000 square feet was not just the building but the area around it inclusive of drainage. Mr. Weidner explained again that the FTA fund requirements are extremely rigid which is why the space can't be combined with school or other buses. He provided an example of a facility which was built in Miami-Dade County using FTA Funds but the funds were incorrectly used and had to be returned to FTA. He stated that we're going through the process to determine the best options for Martin. Ms. Lisa Wichser clarified that this is a combined feasibility and conceptual study for the Transit Operations and Maintenance Center; it is seeking endorsement to move forward with locating potential site properties for the Center in lots of five to ten acres. Mr. Eric Treudt reminded that it was suggested that the property be owned by the County but not necessary.

A motion was made by Ms. Julie Prest to move forward with the combined feasibility and conceptual study for the Transit Operations and Maintenance Center; with locating potential site properties for the Center in lots of five to ten acres if possible currently owned by the County. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Fry. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

C. SR-9/I-95 MULTIMODAL MASTER PLAN

Mr. Min-Tang Li introduced himself as being from FDOT District Four and that he will present the State Road (SR) 9/I-95 Multimodal Master Plan. He explained that it's a very important project for FDOT, and that they will provide a brief overview of the Goals, objectives as well as the desired outcome of project. Mr. Li gave the floor to Mr. Eric Penfield, FDOT consultant with RS&H. Mr. Penfield mentioned that partnering with the Local Governments is a key element in this project to collaborate in an effort to generate plans for the 2045 vision of I-95. Mr. Penfield advised of the project limits (71 miles) which stretches from Martin to Indian River County, consisting of 15 interchanges. Mr. Penfield covered the objectives of the Master Plan, first and foremost to develop the Master Plan utilizing a collaborative and cooperative approach while receiving regional support. He said they will define and analyze conceptual design alternatives; schedule the sequence of improvements and funding; and conclude with presenting the recommendations. Mr. Penfield provided a detailed progress list from data collection, identifying/prioritizing needs, performing alternative analysis which includes special use lanes like freight and transit only, recommendations of improvements to identifying projects for PD&E-Design-Construction. This, Mr. Penfield said is followed by the **Implementation of the Master Plan** which consists of short and long term **Project Identification and Prioritization** of both MPO Priority and SIS Program tracks; **Programming** which involved the five year work program, the SIS 2nd five year Plan the SIS CFP and the LRTP culminating with the **Project Phases** such as the PD&E, Design, ROW and Construction. Mr. Penfield advised of the **Study Deliverables** which consist of the *Traffic Memorandum* existing and future travel demands operations analysis and access management plan; the *Facility Enhancement Element* which identifies major long-term, timing and staging of improvements as well as ROW needs; *Facility*

Operations and Preservation Element which identifies short term improvements and the corridor management plan; *Environmental Element* and finally the *Master Plan (and Needs Table)*. Mr. Penfield provided the Current Project Status including the Public Involvement Plan (PIP), Technical Analysis consisting of the data collection, early coordination with the Turnpike and developing the key project assumptions. He discussed the Travel Demand Forecast and Traffic Analysis Methodology as well as the Long Term Screening Analysis. Mr. Penfield highlighted the Unique Issues such as Growth as needs and interests vary by County. Develop Multimodal Solutions like Park-and-Ride lots as well as transit; TSM&O and Capacity-General use of toll managed lanes; Impact of Technology such as autonomous vehicles; concluding with Scope and Timing of near and long-term improvements. He discussed the Corridor Conditions and Critical Issues; how I-95 and the Turnpike are intertwined Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facilities; how I-95 influences the Turnpike, the Turnpike is performing a PD&E Study and the Florida Gas Transmission line is parallel to the Turnpike limits widening to the west. Mr. Penfield detailed the Environmental Considerations from the Sociocultural Effects, the Cultural Resources, and Natural resources to the Physical Effects. He mentioned the Key Transportation Issues from Safety, evaluation of express lanes to access management (including bike/ped) on cross streets to name a few. Mr. Penfield advised of the Project schedule and provided the Next Steps including the Long Term Screen Analysis, the Travel Demand Forecast (late 2017 to early 2018); Existing and future Analysis (late 2017) Develop Alternatives (early to mid-2018) and a presentation at the MPO Meeting #2 in mid-2018. Ms. Julie Preast mentioned Hurricane Irma being a “worst case” as the entire State of Florida was impacted and the three largest Counties in the State of Florida and others south of Martin were evacuated. Ms. Preast inquired as to what was learned during the event and if FDOT is reviewing this data. She saw a letter to the Editor in the Stuart News which suggested on the Turnpike that an additional lane be incorporated to alleviate the backups going into the service centers which caused the congestion. She suggested that both the Turnpike and I-95 issues be reviewed to see what could be done in the future to eliminate that congestion. Mr. Penfield said that are gathering 2045 future population projections and will look into those key evacuation roadways. Ms. Victoria Williams advised that the Turnpike does deploy strike force teams to make determinations as to what can be done to improve evacuations. She mentioned that the Turnpike eliminated the filling of portable gas tanks on the Turnpike as one way to alleviate the congestion. She said she will bring this information back to the office to see what other steps may be taken. Mr. Penfield restated that no data collection was made prior to or during Hurricane Irma however, it is underway at this time.

Mr. Trahan mentioned the bike lane on Kanner Highway at the entrance of I-95. He said that cyclists are there for a long period of time while on that unprotected bike lane. He asked if there was a way to reroute that bike lane or at least provide some standardization of signage much further in advance to inform the motorists that cyclists will be in the roadway. He mentioned that it’s a real safety issue. Mr. Lazo affirmed that more needs to be done with the signage, there needs to be more advance notice for the safety of the cyclists. Mr. Li said that he will take these concerns back to the office for assessment and get back to the committees.

Ms. Prest expressed her appreciation to FDOT on the advancement of express lanes down to the Miami Area. She said she travels there a lot and the express lanes are a large improvement over the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes noting that she sometimes could not take advantage of the HOV lanes as she was driving alone. She asked if other Counties have provided feedback regarding that improvement. Mr. Li said that they are accessing the situations and he believes that people are pleased.

Discussion ensued about the use of emergency lanes during evacuations. Ms. Wetherell advised that FDOT Managers/staff had to go out and drive the shoulders to obtain firsthand information on them. She noted that the shoulders aren't for high speed driving or large trucks but work for maintaining a steady speed to keep the flow moving. It was noted that there are rumble strips on the shoulders which will not be removed as the rest of the year they are to alert motorists that they are veering off of the road. Ms. Prest suggested that long before the evacuation occurs it should be announced on the television and radio that the shoulders on I-95 and the Turnpike are to be used in the event of an evacuation so people are aware when an evacuation occurs.

Mr. Li thanked everyone and said that he is available if anyone wishes to provide information on the I-95 Master Plan, send him an email at the address shown on the screen.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

8. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

None

Ms. Beltran mentioned that the MPO's Newsletter has been released and she expressed her appreciation for Ms. Julie Prest being the Advisory Committee Member "Spotlight".

Ms. Beltran said that there will be an Open House on the Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Master Plan beginning on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 4:00 PM in the Clark Learning Center at the Indian River State College in Port Salerno.

Ms. Beltran mentioned that FDOT will have a public meeting on SR 76 and that information will be disseminated to the committees when it is finalized.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

BPAC meeting on October 9, 2017 at 4:00 PM

Joint CAC/BPAC/TAC meeting on November 13, 2017 at 1:30 PM.

10. ADJOURN

Mr. Dan Parz made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Julie Preast. There were no objections. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist III

Date: Nov. 13. 2017

Approved by:

FOR 
Lisa Wichser, Acting Chair

Date: 11/13/17