

## **MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD MEETING**

John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

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Monday, September 21, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. **PRAYER** - Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **ROLL CALL**

#### **Members in Attendance:**

Doug Smith, Chair, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Stacey Hetherington, Vice Chair, Martin County Board of County Commissioner

Harold Jenkins, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Eula R. Clarke, City of Stuart Commissioner

Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart Commissioner

Edward Ciampi, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

James Campo, Town of Sewall's Point

Anthony Dowling, Village of Indiantown Council Member - *left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.*

#### **Members Absent**

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Joy Puerta, Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Brigitte Wantz, Real Property Assistant

#### **Others in Attendance:**

Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church

Christine Fasiska, FDOT

Lisa Wichser, County Engineer, Martin County

Chris Stephenson, Senior Resource Association

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

#### **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the amended agenda continuing Item 8B Public Hearing for the Final 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) until the October 19, 2020 Board meeting was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Approve Minutes**

- Regular Meeting – June 15, 2020

**A motion to approve the June 15, 2020 regular meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

The Board would like FDOT to present an update on all bridges in Martin County. Ms. Beth Beltran explained that Gerry O'Reilly FDOT District Secretary usually comes before the Board to present the Tentative Work Program in December and that would be a good time to have the discussion about the bridges. Board members would also like FDOT to include information regarding the differences in design of the bridges. There was discussion on the improvements to the Roosevelt Bridge and resurfacing of US1 as well as the status of the Joan Jefferson Way/US1 Project. Ms. Lisa Wichser stated that the extension of the southbound US1 left-hand turn lane onto Joan Jefferson Way was to be completed as part of the Roosevelt Bridge project, but she was unsure about the stripping and traffic signal replacements.

**A motion to have MPO staff draft a letter to FDOT to incorporate projects into the current work surrounding the Roosevelt Bridge was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Nick Schroth, the President of Stuart Main Street discussed concerns with the Roosevelt Bridge closure and the impact to Downtown Stuart. He spoke about FDOT improvements to Stuart and would like their thought and consideration put into the aesthetics (signage, architectural features, etc.) to enhance the gateway into Stuart. Commissioner Doug Smith encourages Stuart Main Street to provide a list of project items that Main Street wants to endorse and the City and MPO can review.

## **8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) MODIFICATION FOR TASK 4.0 LRTP**

Ms. Beltran presented the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Modification for Task 4.0. The modification is for a budget change in the LRTP task, moving funds from staff

salaries to consultant services. The reason for this modification is that the MPO fiscal year mirrors the State fiscal year, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of this, the modification is needed. The overall budget is the same, the amount of the transfer is \$6,400.

**A motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Modification for Task 4.0 LRTP was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**~~B. PUBLIC HEARING- FINAL 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) Continued to October 19, 2020 meeting.~~**

**C. PUBLIC HEARING- FY20/21-FY24/25 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #1 AND UPDATE**

Ms. Beltran presented the FY20/21-FY24-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment and Update. The FY20/21-FY24/25 TIP was adopted by the MPO Policy Board on June 15, 2020. Board members received a memo in July explaining that the TIP was approved with the construction phase of the SR 710 Widening Project between FPL Power Plant to Allapattah Road. Due to a State revenue reduction in SIS projects, the construction phase of this segment of SR 710 is not included in the FY20/21-FY24/25 TIP. The second update to the TIP is regarding a reconstruction project along MLK Drive in Indiantown. This item was funded by the legislature and the Village of Indiantown received \$2 million dollars for this project; therefore, this project will be taken off the MPO priority list approved in June 2020. The approval item for this document is an amendment that was requested by FDOT asking that those funds leftover from last years' TIP be rolled forward to this years' TIP.

There was extensive discussion on SR 710 and the delaying of a left-hand turn lane at Tommy Clements Street due to funding for a retaining wall. Christine Fasiska provided an update on the left turn lane at Tommy Clements Street. The project is in design and is moving forward through FDOT's Traffic Operations group. During design it was determined that a retaining wall is necessary and has increased the construction cost significantly. The intent was to have construction begin as early as December 2020 but due to the increased cost, it may not be possible. There are no answers yet but FDOT is still trying to determine how to move forward with the project with the financial difficulties. There was continued discussion to what the three projects on SR 710 are (the northern portion, southern portion, left turn lane at Tommy Clements Street), and whether the southern portion is in full design mode and moving forward with construction. Ms. Fasiska explained that the section near FPL Power Plant Road south to Allapattah Road is currently in design but not yet funded for construction and does not include the left turn lane at Tommy Clements Street. With the northern portion, Tommy Clements Street is

within the limits, but design has not started. Ms. Fasiska agreed that there is a funding issue with that project.

The Board discussed whether the SR 710 southern portion had some effect on the crashes that occurred at Tommy Clements Street, and if not, then that project should be placed on hold and the funds moved to address the left turn lane at Tommy Clements Street so it could move forward. The number one issue for FDOT is safety and there is a statewide vision zero campaign that promotes zero fatalities and the concern is if there is a project within the limits where there is a high fatality rate and it's not being addressed, safety is not being put before anything else. There was clarification to state that there are four projects on SR 710, including the CR 714 Re-alignment Project.

**A motion was made to have the MPO send a letter to FDOT outlining the Board's concerns regarding Tommy Clements Street was made by Commissioner Edward Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Public Comment – Hearing None, Public Hearing was closed.**

**A motion was made to approve the FY20/21-FY24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1 was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner James Campo. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **D. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) RECOMMENDATION**

Ricardo Vazquez presented the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Recommendation. This item comes before the Board every five years. The Martin MPO is the local Designated Official Planning Agency for the Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). One of the responsibilities of the MPO is to select a CTC. MPO staff advertised the Request for Proposal (RFP) on July 6, 2020. One proposal was submitted by the Senior Resource Association (SRA). The CTC Selection Committee met on August 10, 2020 to discuss and score the proposal. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was determined that SRA be recommended to the MPO Policy Board and the CTD as Martin County's CTC. Also, on August 31, 2020 at the Martin County Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) meeting, a recommendation was made to approve the Selection Committee's decision. Staff is asking the Board to forward the recommendation to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged to select the SRA as the Martin County Community Transportation Coordinator.

There was discussion on the letter of complaint that was sent to Tallahassee. Mr. Vazquez explained that the RFP was re-advertised to follow all procedures per Florida Statutes. Chris Stephenson with SRA commended staff and thanked Board members.

**A motion to approve the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) recommendation was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. TRANSIT OPERATOR'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) AND SAFETY TARGETS**

Ricardo Vazquez presented the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and Safety Targets. The Federal Transit Administration released a final ruling on the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan on July 19, 2019. The final rule requires that every transit agency that receives funds for Section 5307 to adopt a PTASP and to certify this plan every year. The PTASP sets targets based on performance measures established by FTA in the National Public Transportation Safety Plan. PTASPs commit transit agencies to designate a Chief Safety Officer and to develop and implement a safety program. On June 2, 2020, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners approved the Martin County Public Transit PTASP. MPOs are required to establish transit safety performance targets no later than 180 days after the date on which the State or public transportation provider establishes the performance targets.

There was discussion on Marty covered bus shelters and having to pull off into the street and block traffic for passengers to board. Moving forward Board members would like to see covered bus stops that allow the Marty to pull out of the street to board passengers to ensure safety. This is a safety concern, so Board members asked MPO staff to add bus shelters stops/pull off lanes to a future agenda for discussion. The information has been brought to property owners and some are willing to provide some of their land for that pull off. Ms. Beth Beltran will pass the information on to the Martin County Transit Manager and she understands that bus bays have an issue where traffic will not let the bus back into traffic and that causes an issue.

**A motion to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and Safety Targets was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **F. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP) MAJOR UPDATE SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Ricardo Vazquez presented the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Major Update Scope of Services. The MPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is a guiding document to help ensure public input is considered during the transportation planning process. The current PIP was adopted on December 21, 2009 by the MPO Board and subsequently amended in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017. The current MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

identifies a PIP Major Update in Task 2. The intent of this plan is to provide consultant services to prepare the update to the PIP to comply with all the requirements and guidelines of the State and Federal regulations as it pertains to public involvement. This plan looks to identify populations that the MPO should reach out to, the way outreach is done, and the methods of outreach. It also establishes performance measures to assess the effectiveness of the public involvement activities conducted and establishes methods to be used for reporting the results of the Public Involvement Plan. The General Planning Consultant (GPC) chosen to conduct this project is Tindale Oliver & Associates.

**A motion to approve the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Major Update Scope of Services was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None**

**10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –**

Commissioner Eula Clarke discussed the Marty bus routes and future opportunity to incorporate a route along Cove Road from Kanner Highway east to US1 by Anderson Middle School. Ms. Beth Beltran will pass the information on to the Martin County Transit Manager.

Commissioner James Campo would like a schedule of inspections for the bridges in Martin County and the names of the firms that conducted them. He would also like the name of the inspection company for the Roosevelt Bridge. Beth will follow up with Christine Fasiska from FDOT.

**11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT- None**

**12. NOTES – FY19/20 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Report**

**12. NEXT MEETING – October 19, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**13. ADJOURN**

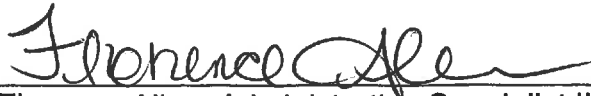
Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, Chair Doug Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

**Approved by:**



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Doug Smith, Chair

**Prepared by:**



Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

**Minutes approved on:**

October 19, 2020

Date

The Martin MPO solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require language translation services (free of charge) should contact Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner (Title VI/Non-discrimination Contact) at (772) 223-7983 or [rvazquez@martin.fl.us](mailto:rvazquez@martin.fl.us) in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.