

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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www.martinmpo.com

Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- 2. PRAYER** – A moment of silence was taken.
- 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 Commissioners

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, Indiantown Representative

Members Absent

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Joy Puerta, Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Vikas Jain, TY Lin International

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

Victoria Williams, FDOT

Christine Fasiska, FDOT

Damaris Williams, FDOT

July Jimenez, FDOT

Mira Skoroden, FDOT

Tom Lanahan, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Kim DeLaney, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Jessica Seymour, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Lisa Wichser, County Engineer

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Minutes

- Regular Meeting – September 21, 2020

A motion to approve the September 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Edward Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Ostrand, Mayor of Ocean Breeze expressed that safety is important, and the Town is looking for lighting. There is a concern with Skyline Drive being made safe and it needs lighting because a lot of people walk along Skyline Drive down to Jensen Beach. She was glad the railroad is looking into the area and appreciates the work being done. She would also like to collaborate with the County on improvements.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)

Chairman Smith opened the Public Hearing and Mr. Vikas Jain presented the Final Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Jain discussed the current project status, adjustments made to the 2045 Cost Feasible Plan, Scenario Planning and Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update. He stated that the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was approved in June 2019, and three public open houses (visioning sessions) were held in October 2019. The Draft 2045 Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) virtual public open house was held on June 9, 2020. Projects included in the CFP were the existing Marty service improvements, 14 roadway projects and three PD&E studies, seven Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) projects, thirty-seven TSM&O/ITS corridors, two resiliency projects, and private sector funded projects. Mr. Jain continued his presentation, discussing the revenue forecast adjustment; the TMA funding split; and enhanced transit and emerging technologies scenario planning. The study is in the adoption stage and the production and distribution of the final reports and Executive summary will be completed by mid-November 2020.

There was discussion regarding the SR 710 project from the FPL Powerplant to Allapattah Road being pushed back to 2026-2030 and how that would impact the timeline of the

other four projects along that corridor. Ms. Beth Beltran explained that a letter was sent by the Chair to the District Secretary stating that the Board's priority is not the segment of SR 710 from Allapattah Road to the Powerplant but the segment of SR 710 from the Powerplant to the County Line because it includes the intersection with Tommy Clements Street. The District Secretary responded, the section between the Powerplant and Allapattah Road is not funded for construction and FDOT has reached out to their design consultant to put that project on hold. The MPO staff has worked with the District Office and included in the LRTP revisions and notes to have improvement projects along SR 710 extend from Allapattah Road all the way to the County Line, including any safety improvements, especially as it regards to Tommy Clements Street. There was a question on whether the realignment project of the intersection of SR 710 and CR 714 has funding. Ms. Beltran explained that the realignment will take place through FDOT-District 1. District 4 and District 1 are working on how to proceed with that project. Okeechobee County, the City of Okeechobee, and Heartland TPO have all agreed with the realignment and Okeechobee County has said they will maintain the new road. Commissioner Campo asked about alternative fuel tax and if all fuel is taxed the same way. Mr. Vikas Jain explained that there are different percentages of fuel tax; a deficit was created with the decreased gas tax.

The discussion continued regarding SR 710 and language being added that recognizes what FDOT is planning. Ms. Beltran explained that a paragraph was added in the Cost Feasible Plan that recognizes that there has been a change in the segment from the Powerplant to Allapattah Road and it was removed from the SIS plan. It states that roadway improvements for SR 710 are eligible for funding through the MPO process. There was a question on whether the paragraph states that the funds for the widening of the segment from the Powerplant to Allapattah Road are being diverted to the safety improvements at Tommy Clements Street. Mr. Vikas Jain added that there is no specific language, but it is noted. The Board stated that this is an issue and the document should clearly state that the funds will go to the safety improvements in and around Tommy Clements Street. Christine Fasiska explained that there are no construction funds programmed for the segment from the FPL Powerplant to Allapattah Road. FDOT is working towards identifying where to get those funds and what year to put them in. Ms. Fasiska explained that the current funds are for design and right-of-way (ROW) and FDOT is working with those funds to identify where they can be moved to complete the design for the left turn lane at Tommy Clements Street and then they are trying to identify construction funds for the turn lane. Once that is determined FDOT will let the MPO and the Board know. Commissioner Smith would like Ms. Fasiska to give Ms. Beltran information on how the funds are encumbered, what funds are available, where they are coming from, and what they can and cannot be used for. A question was posed regarding the remaining ROW and design funds on SR 710 from the FPL Powerplant to Allapattah Road; if those design funds could be moved to design the retaining wall at the Tommy Clements Street intersection. Ms. Fasiska confirmed that the funds can be moved to design the retaining wall. The problem FDOT is having is locating construction funds. The Board wanted Ms. Fasiska to research the SU funds and get back with Ms. Beltran. She will speak with FDOT's Work Program Department and provide Ms. Beltran with the requested information.

A motion to adopt the Final 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and recommend that FDOT move any funds that were intended to be allocated to the segment of SR 710 from SW Allapattah Road to the FPL Power Plant be moved to the segment from FPL Power Plant to the Martin/Okeechobee County Line, more specifically to fund safety improvements and required infrastructure at the intersection of SW Tommy Clements Street and SR 710 was made. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Hearing None, Public Hearing is closed.

Roll call vote:

**Chair, Doug Smith-Aye
Vice Chair, Stacey Hetherington-Aye
Harold Jenkins-Aye
Edward Ciampi – Aye
Eula Clarke-Aye
Merritt Matheson-Aye
James Campo-Aye
Anthony Dowling-Aye**

B. FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT STUDY

Mr. Jeff Weidner of Marlin Engineering presented the Draft Freight and Goods Movement Plan. Mr. Weidner discussed the scope of the plan which focused on stakeholder engagement, reliability of the freight industry's freight and goods plan and integrating goods movement needs into community design. Outreach efforts included government and related agencies as well as stakeholder input. Input from stakeholders included roadway conditions and design, truck parking and mapping, incident management, public outreach and education, railroad crossings, and waterways.

There was discussion on the proposed freight corridors, including tying the SR 76 corridor into SW Bridge Road going out to I-95 versus taking it all the way along SR 76 to I-95. The Board suggested that the consultant research and possibly add it as an alternative route to divert some of the traffic from schools and residential areas and lessen the impact. Discussion continued, including addressing the percentage of trucks on rural roadways, commercial vehicle crashes and policy recommendations such as establishing a Martin MPO Freight Advisory Committee. Freight moving along the waterways was also discussed, and the Board would like Mr. Weidner to research and gather information on who monitors the waterway traffic and provide to staff.

Ms. Beltran discussed that because there was a lot of participation on the stakeholder committee, a number of private companies said they would volunteer to be members on the Freight Committee. Therefore, as part of the motion MPO Staff recommends the

Board direct MPO staff to take the steps to form a Freight Advisory Committee for the Martin MPO. There was discussion on a future Freight Advisory Committee agenda item being presented to the Board for discussion of expectations, qualifications and size of the committee. Ms. Beltran explained that the item could come before the Board for discussion and it would require an amendment to the Bylaws and that would be the first step in the process. Discussion continued, and there was a question regarding the extension of the freight mobility corridor discussed and if it should come back as a recommendation for the appointed Freight Committee to review SW Bridge Road and whether it should be considered an extension of the freight movement corridor or not. Ms. Beltran explained that because the Freight and Goods Movement Plan will continue to be updated, the freight corridors can be reviewed as time goes on. The Board recommends putting the SW Bridge extension on the agenda, for discussion, by the Freight Committee when it is formed.

A motion to approve the Freight and Goods Movement Plan and to approve MPO Staff taking the next steps to form a Freight Committee for the Martin MPO and present to the Board for discussion was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Break from 10:46 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

C. VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN INITIATIVES SCOPE OF SERVICES

Joy Puerta presented the Vision Zero Initiatives Scope of Services, stating that the Martin MPO's FY20/21 – FY21/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan/Vision Zero Action Initiatives in Task 6. The intent of this plan is to provide consultant services to develop a plan that includes several required activities that recommend safety countermeasures (infrastructure and non-infrastructure) based on the identification of potential hot spots for bicycle and pedestrian crashes throughout the county. This includes collecting and analyzing bicycle and pedestrian counts and crash data and develop counter measures at select locations to create safer, more convenient and attractive bicycle and walking environments. Ms. Puerta mentioned that after the Joint CAC/TAC meeting and the BPAC meeting there were concerns about the bicycle/pedestrian counts that were included in the scope concerning the different areas and the 24-hour counts. After meeting with the County Engineer, Section 2.2 was taken out of the scope. The MPO will use one of its General Planning Consultants, Kimley-Horn and Associates for this work effort.

A motion to approve the Vision Zero Action Plan Initiatives Scope of Services and to approve the County's boilerplate consultant contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

D. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) REVISION 2 – MODIFICATION 2

Ms. Beltran presented Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision 2-Modification 2. The UPWP is the MPO's budget and program of activities that take place in a two-year time period. The current UPWP is for FY21 and FY22, extending from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022. This is a modification to the budget and UPWP. A modification is when there is no change in the amount of the budget and the scope is the same. Funds are just being transferred within tasks of the UPWP. Two tasks are impacted by this modification. The first one is Task 1-Program Management and that is to reduce funds from the Travel line item due to the underlying consequences of COVID-19. Staff is requesting funds be moved from that line item to increase funding to the Consulting Services line item to fund professional services for future technical assistance described in the adopted UPWP and increase funding to the Computer/Equipment line item for a new computer that will be able to hold the new transportation model from FDOT. The second task that this modification impacts is Task 6-Transportation Systems Planning and that is to decrease money from the Freight and Goods Movement Plan line item and move the funds to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan/Vision Zero Action Initiatives line item to cover additional cost related to an evaluation process of effectiveness to address required Federal Performance Measures.

A motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision 2 – Modification 2 was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner James Campo. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

E. KANNER HWY (SR-76) RESURFACING PRESENTATION - INFORMATIONAL

Damaris Williams of FDOT presented the Kanner Highway (SR 76) Resurfacing Project from North of SW Cabana Point Circle to SR 5/US 1. The proposed improvements include roadway, drainage, signing and pavement marking, lighting elements, along with watermain replacement. This is a three RRR project that will provide restoration, rehabilitation and resurfacing of the existing facility, maintaining the existing roadway footprint and keeping the existing layout and travel lane widths, as well as signing and pavement marking improvements, including high emphasis crosswalk striping at the intersections of Monterey Road and US1. Ms. Williams stated that the watermain improvements included the City of Stuart's watermain replacement in areas of drainage improvements, water valves added, and no interruption to water service. Ms. Williams also discussed construction impacts to traffic, the project schedule and cost.

Ricardo Vazquez read recommendations from the advisory committees. Install triple left turn lanes on Kanner Highway turning onto northbound US1 to replace the double left and one of the thru lanes. A meeting between the Martin County High School principal, School District Administration staff and FDOT should be held to discuss school traffic and

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT). Incorporate wider sidewalks by combining the existing two (2) foot stamped paver strip with the existing sidewalk width to become a wider multi-modal path. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) also recommended narrowing the travel lanes to ten (10) feet wide and reduce the median width to accommodate safer bicycle and pedestrian improvements such as shared lanes, bicycle lanes, multi-use paths and/or wider sidewalks within the corridor. BPAC members also stated that the corridor should be designed with slower speeds and designed as a complete street and not as a highway.

There was extensive discussion on the recommendations made by the advisory committees regarding the installation of triple left turn lanes onto northbound US1 to replace the double left and one of the thru lanes. The Board recognized the need for the change during rush hour from Kanner Highway going north on US 1 but saw that the change would be a possible detriment for the downtown businesses to have the reduction of traffic going across to Colorado Avenue. Ms. Lisa Wichser, County Engineer, explained that the Traffic Division has a model called Sim Traffic and they can present and incorporate that with the signal timing on US 1 to the Board. Ms. Wichser will have the presentation available at the next Board meeting with several different scenarios.

There was discussion on the traffic count numbers from Kanner Highway to US 1. Ms. Wichser explained that the County takes traffic counts as well as FDOT and she will work with Ms. Williams to compare the numbers. The Board also discussed the project start date and the timing of the project and if it could be moved to April and start after Easter, so it starts during off-season. Ms. Williams explained that the duration of the project is 18-months and there is going to be an overlap with the season. FDOT can probably schedule the work where the lanes are not closed during the busy time. The project starts in Winter 2021. Discussion continued and the Board suggested the project being a night project opposed to a day project. Ms. Williams mentioned that lane closures will occur during off peak hours when there is least traffic and unless there are restrictions such as noise restrictions on night work, the work will be done during the night. Ms. Beltran will write a letter to FDOT and copy Board Members on the Board's recommendations.

A motion to add the recommendation of incorporating wider sidewalks by combining the existing two (2) foot stamped paver strip with the existing sidewalk width to become a wider multi-modal path and to move the TAC's recommendations into communication with FDOT and their consultants and include the discussion of bringing the installation of triple left turn lanes onto US1 to replace the double left and one of the thru lanes back to the December 14, 2020 MPO Policy Board meeting with County Engineering staff presenting an illustration to show the traffic patterns and the Board will provide final feedback was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

F. US1 RESURFACING PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATIONAL

Ms. July Jimenez presented the resurfacing project on US1 from North of NW Jensen Beach Blvd. to the Martin/St. Lucie County Line. She discussed the project limits and a project overview to include proposed improvements and the project length. Ms. Jimenez also discussed the new East-West crosswalk that is being added at SE Westmoreland Blvd., lighting retrofits, proposed improvements from Jensen Beach Blvd. to Sunset Blvd, proposed improvements from Sunset Blvd. to St. Lucie County Line, and the project schedule. Project completion is estimated for early 2023 and estimated project cost is \$2.6 million dollars. Commissioner Smith requested a dedicated right turn lane into the new residential development just south of the Martin-St. Lucie County line.

Mr. Vazquez read recommendations from the advisory committees. FDOT should consider a modified Dutch intersection on US1 at SE Westmoreland Blvd. and on US1 at NW Eugenia Street where the medians would be extended forward with cut-throughs for the crosswalks, providing a refuge for pedestrians. There was discussion on the recommendation of adding a Dutch intersection. Dr. Kim DeLaney explained that the Dutch intersection was offered as a suggestion as it creates a safety buffer for pedestrians. It also relocates the crosswalk and moves it back a little, adding more spacing. Ms. Beltran mentioned that she will send correspondence to FDOT with the recommendations and copy Board members.

A motion to add the recommendation of FDOT considering a modified Dutch intersection on US1 at SE Westmoreland Blvd. and on US1 at NW Eugenia Street where the medians would be extended forward with cut-throughs for the crosswalks, providing a refuge for pedestrians was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Williams presented the resurfacing project on US1 from SE Contractors Way to North of NW Jensen Beach Blvd. She informed the Board that Helen James is the project manager and explained the scope of the project, programmed budget, and the project schedule. The Board requested that Ms. Williams include audible crosswalks as a part of the ADA upgrades.

Mr. Vazquez read recommendations from the advisory committees to install eight (8) foot sidewalks in locations where sidewalks are currently missing on the east side of the corridor, north of the Roosevelt Bridge where there is adequate right-of-way. One location is from Wright Blvd. to Baker Road, and the other is between NW Windemere Drive and NW Britt Road. Advisory committee members also wanted FDOT to consider narrowing the travel lanes and move light poles from the sidewalks. The BPAC recommended putting an extension on the bridge at Frazier Creek, and accommodating any type of measure that would make the US1 corridor south of the Roosevelt Bridge safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Dr. DeLaney presented the Stuart US1 Federal Highway Corridor Plan Boundary. The City received a grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to develop a commercial corridor plan for a portion of the Federal Highway Corridor. The northern end is by St. Lucie Crescent and the southern end is by the Dixie Highway Cutoff and it includes most of the commercial properties that are fronting the roads. The City of Stuart has asked the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) to do an analysis of existing and background commercial conditions and identify what the constraints are. Some of the constraints are related to access and mobility challenges related to US 1: bicycle/pedestrian facilities, access management, driveway accommodation, landscaping, lighting, and appearance. The work will take place over the next eight months and will have different types of stakeholder outreach (surveys, interviews) with investors, property owners, and residents to provide an understanding on why the corridor has presented these constraints over time. An analysis of the City Code, infrastructure conditions including transportation, and storm water/sewer particularly bike/ped access is high priority and a series of recommendations to help the area.

There was also discussion about the addition of the new apartment buildings on the north side of US1, the amount of foot traffic going between there and Publix which is a ¼ mile from the apartments.

A motion to add the recommendation that FDOT install eight (8) foot sidewalks in locations where sidewalks are currently missing on the east side of the corridor, north of the Roosevelt Bridge where there is adequate right-of-way, moving light poles from the sidewalks as well as considering narrowing the travel lanes, add recognition of the Stuart US1 Federal Highway Corridor Plan Boundary and how it interfaces with the resurfacing projects for communication and coordination, and to add audible crosswalks to the ADA upgrades was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson 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 commented regarding roads and flooding and that the County is working on the issues and she wants residents to be patient and cognizant of what is being done to keep roads safe and deal with the flooding. Commissioner Anthony Dowling thanked the staff for their hard work as well as everyone else involved in the projects.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT- None

12. NOTES – None

12. NEXT MEETING – December 14, 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 12:25 p.m.

Approved by:



Doug Smith, Chair

1/27/2021

Prepared by:



Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

Minutes approved on:

January 25, 2021

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 in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.