

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Monday, January 11, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Joan Moore, Chair.

2. **ROLL CALL –**

Members in Attendance:

Joan Moore, Chair

Ken Natoli, Vice Chair

Julie Preast

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas

Larry Wallace (virtual)

Members Absent Excused:

Kevin Docherty

Hal Forslund

Carlos Morales

Don Fabricy

Members Absent:

Dawn Arvin

Sgt. George Yacobellis

Sgt. Brian Bossio

Chris Ross Wade

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran

Joy Puerta, Planner (virtual)

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Florence Allen, Adm. Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Victoria Williams, FDOT (virtual)

Jackie Vitale

Kerrie Tyndall

Timothy Rossknecht

Michael MacLeod

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ken Natoli and seconded by Julie Preast. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Potential New Members Introduced: Timothy Rossknecht, Michael Macleod, Jackie Vitale and Kerrie Tyndall.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 12, 2020 BPAC Minutes was made by Ken Natoli and seconded by Julie Preast. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made to reappoint Joan Moore as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to appoint Pinal Gandhi-Savdas as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Vice Chair by Julie Preast and seconded by Joan Moore. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

B. FY22-FY26 CITIZENS REPORT – DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Beth Beltran presented the FY22-FY26 Citizens Report – Draft Tentative Work Program, explaining that this item will become part of the State’s transportation budget and it comes before the committee every year. Ms. Beltran stated that the Citizens Report is the second step in the Federally required MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process, which begins with the MPO’s list of project priorities approved in June. The current five-year TIP shows almost \$150 million worth of transportation projects in Martin County. Almost \$100 million of those funds are coming from the State government, approximately \$50 million is coming from the Federal government, and the local share is just over \$8 million. Ms. Beltran continued, discussing a few projects that are significant to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, based on MPO priorities from the committees’ recommendations 1.) Buffered bike lanes along Jensen Beach Causeway 2.) The intersection of Monterey, Dixie Highway, and Palm Beach Road. 3.) A feasibility study for the connection of the East Coast Greenway between SeaBranch State Park to Wright Blvd, through downtown and 4.) A sidewalk along SE Ocean Blvd. from west of SE Hospital Avenue to Palm Beach Road.

Julie Preast commented that she was thrilled about finally getting a segment of the East Coast Greenway and asked about the status of the rest of the project. Ms. Beltran clarified all the other East Coast Greenway segments that are completed and/or under way and explained the segment in the Citizens Report is the final segment and funded in the fifth year. In addition, Pinal Gandhi-Savdas discussed a recently completed design for sidewalks along Florida Street, and questioned whether sidewalks were planned for Dixie Highway. Ms. Beltran explained that project was a City of Stuart project and discussed the FEC right of way and the All board Florida concerns that FDOT had. There was discussion regarding the Ocean Blvd project and whether there was design for this project. Ms. Beltran informed the committee that the State will be completing the project and the City gave FDOT the okay to construct the section of Ocean Blvd. in the city limits. Larry Wallace, FDOT will find out the status of design for this project and provide the information to the MPO. The committee discussed the project along Baker Road and US1, the replacement of the mast arms and their concern that the area along US1 is dark at night and the need for better lighting. North of the new Roosevelt Bridge is very dark at night and the committee asked if a PD&E lighting study could be tied into the project. Mr. Wallace will research this and provide information back to the MPO.

A motion to approve the FY22-FY26 Citizens report – Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

C. FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE – TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

Victoria Williams from the Turnpike presented the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – Tentative Five-Year Work Program. The Turnpike District 4 Tentative Work Program does not list Martin County since there are no major, minor or regional projects with construction funded in the next five years. There are several projects funded for PD&E and design in Martin County where construction funding occurs outside of the Five-Year Work Program. She discussed resurfacing projects that have been done in Martin County and a study conducted that covered Palm Beach County line (Jupiter and Indiantown Road) to State Road 70. The Turnpike will be hosting a public hearing within the next two to three months. Martin County was the recipient and beneficiary of a PD&E Study for the Turnpike and I-95 crossover that is programmed in the current FY20/21 and design in FY22. Improvements for the Martin Highway Interchange and a study to widen the Turnpike from Martin County Highway to St. Lucie County line are two projects that are funded for FY23. Ms. Beltran clarified that the direct connect between the Turnpike and I-95 would not have an impact to the interchanges in Martin County. Ms. Williams confirmed that there would be no access on or off with the crossover project. There was a question from the committee regarding the usage of Sunpass in other States. Ms. Williams explained some of the abilities to pay tolls out of the Sunpass accounts and noted information is available at sunpass.com.

A motion to approve the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – Tentative Five-Year Work Program was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

D. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Ms. Beltran presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. These are two TIP Amendments that FDOT requested for the current FY21-FY25 TIP. The first project is for a lighting retrofit improvement project at two different intersections (1) SR 714 and Mapp Road and (2) US1 and Joan Jefferson Way. The estimated cost for this project is \$61,000. The second TIP Amendment is for a rail safety signal project on the CXS corridor and that includes LED light inserts at Martin Luther King Drive in Indiantown. The estimated project cost is \$16,506. There was a question regarding whether LED lighting will be used for everything with FDOT projects and would LED lights be added to existing poles. Larry Wallace confirmed that LED is the standard and that he could provide the committee with the contact information of the lighting engineer.

A motion to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments was made by Ken Natoli and seconded by Julie Preast. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

E. SAFETY TARGETS

Ms. Beltran presented the Safety Targets. This item has come before the committee annually for the past four years. The safety performance measures are number of fatalities; rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; number of serious injuries; rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. FDOT has identified "Vision Zero" Targets for all five of the Safety Performance Measures, supporting the philosophy of no fatalities or injury is unacceptable. MPOs have until February 26, 2021 to adopt the FDOT "Vision Zero" Targets for all five Safety Performance Measures. Julie Preast commented that she is in favor with the dedicated attention to safety and that it's better than five years ago, and the numbers have remained consistent so that is good. Ms. Beltran informed the committee that a Stakeholder Committee meeting will be held in February and wanted to know if the BPAC wanted to appoint someone to be on that committee. Chair Joan Moore explained that the BPAC will wait until the next meeting to appoint someone.

A motion to approve the Safety Targets was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

F. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TASK ORDER

Ms. Beltran presented the Professional Services Task Order. This item is for a scope of services for one of the MPO's general planning consultants that were selected through a competitive process. The scope includes assistance to help MPO staff as they go through the Federal Certification Audit in March 2021. The general planning consultant will help

the MPO with questions and items concerning the transportation model that was used in the LRTP. There was a question regarding how many consultant companies are being reviewed for the task order. Ms. Beltran explained that there is one consulting firm being considered, TY LIN, and they are one of the general planning consultants that were selected through a competitive process.

A motion to approve the Professional Services Task Order was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS-

Vice Chair Ken Natoli mentioned that this would be his last committee meeting since he was moving out of town. Joan Moore thanked him for serving on the committee and that he would be truly missed. Julie Preast thanked him for his time on the committee and his passion for the BPAC and other areas of the community.

Mr. Natoli noted he appreciated being on the committee, his frustration with the lack of accomplishments but noted his connections that he has made with a lot of good people. Palm City Road shoulders and sidewalks are needed. To encourage biking and walking, the pattern of development with connectivity must be changed to become a livable and walkable community. He discussed the East Coast Greenway, and the alternate for a nature trail to include the Willoughby Extension through Atlantic Ridge to Jonathan Dickenson. He continued by discussing the Greenway would be an ecotourism that would be great and people would use it. The committee meeting should be zoom regardless of what the governor says because things are not back to normal. He ended by thanking all the committee members.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

NOTES

Ms. Beltran informed the committee that the MPO won a national reward for the Freight and Goods Movement Plan. The formation of a Freight Transportation Advisory Committee will be discussed on January 25, 2021 at the MPO Policy Board meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

BPAC Meeting – February 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.

Prepared by:



Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

2/8/2021
Date

Approved by:



Joan Moore, BPAC Chair

2/8/2021
Date

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