

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

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

(772) 221-1498

www.martinmpo.com

Monday, January 25, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – MPO 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, MPO Chair, Martin County Board of County Commissioners (left at 10:55am)

Stacey Hetherington, MPO Vice-Chair, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Harold Jenkins, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Troy McDonald, 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 Commissioner

Anthony Dowling, Village of Indiantown Council Member (arrived at 9:05am)

### **Members Absent**

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Joy Puerta, Planner (Virtually attended)

Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

### **Others in Attendance:**

Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church

District Secretary Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT-District Four

Leslie Wetherell, FDOT-District Four

Lukas Lambert, Traffic Engineering Manager, Martin County

Victoria Williams, Turnpike Enterprise (Virtually attended)

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

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Council Member Anthony Dowling. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Approve Minutes**

- Regular Meeting – October 19, 2020

**A motion to approve the October 19, 2020 regular meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Mike Conner, Executive Director of The Indian Riverkeeper, introduced himself and said he was speaking today in regard to the Jensen Causeway Bridge closure to fishing. He wanted to see if Commissioners could speak with FDOT and come up with alternatives to keeping the area cleaned so that it remains open for fishermen. He is willing to enter into an agreement with the County for a 90-day pilot program to oversee the bridge and suggests some signage for the area.

With no additional public comments, the Chair opened the floor to Board member comments. Commissioner Ciampi explained that if the Indian Riverkeeper and other organizations are willing to educate the people and clean the area, he is in favor of a 90-day pilot program to see if conditions will improve. Commissioner Matheson is on the Board of the Indian Riverkeeper and he supports a 90-day pilot program. He is also willing to sign up and assist with the effort. He discussed previous issues that the City of Stuart was having with debris left under the Roosevelt Bridge and efforts taken to keep the area clean. Commissioner Hetherington feels that it is important to retain the fishing access to the County. She feels that a short-term window to try and get things under control with keeping the area clean would be appropriate. Commissioner Smith discussed the debris going into the river and the damage it causes to the river. The bridge is used by many other people and fishermen do not consider this. The area is not clean and Jensen Beach residents do not use the bridge because of this. Fishermen do not respect using the area because they are not residents of the area and there needs to be policing. Fish & Wildlife, Sheriff's office, and FDOT need to get involved in the process to enforce long-term. He's willing to try something, but this has been a continuous issue. This issue needs to go before the BOCC. Commissioner Matheson is in favor of law enforcement in the area; he also reached out to FDOT to see if this is an issue in other counties. Commissioner Smith asks everyone in support of the program to reach out to the Sheriff's office for their support and he is in favor of a 90-day pilot project, but the item must go before the BOCC for discussion.

## **8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**A motion was made to reappoint Doug Smith as the MPO Policy Board Chair and reappoint Stacey Hetherington as the MPO Vice Chair by Commissioner James Campo and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made to appoint Troy McDonald and Harold Jenkins as the Treasure Coast Transportation Council alternates by Commissioner Edward Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made to reappoint Commissioner Merritt Matheson as the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged Chair by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously**

## **B. ROOSEVELT BRIDGE UPDATE/FY22-FY26 CITIZENS REPORT – DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Ms. Beltran explained that the Citizens Report is the second step in the MPO funding cycle, with the first step being the approval of the List of Project Priorities (LOPP). Once the Draft Tentative Work Program is reviewed by the committee and comments are provided it will go to the MPO Policy Board for approval and then submitted to the District. The District will submit the document to Tallahassee, and it will become part of the State's transportation budget. The Legislature will approve it, and then it will come back to the MPO in the form of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Beltran introduced Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT District 4 Secretary, to present the Roosevelt Bridge update and the FY22-FY26 Citizens Report – Draft Tentative Work Program. Secretary O'Reilly discussed the number of bridges the State has and provided background on the Roosevelt Bridge. He explained that the bridge is inspected bi-annually and that there were inspectors in town that were out to inspect the bridge the day of the incident that was reported by the resident. Secretary O'Reilly explained the steps taken to shut the bridge down and get the information out to the proper departments regarding the issue. He also provided the timeline and the process taken to repair the Roosevelt Bridge once the resident reported the crack in the concrete and the material used to fix the issue and prevent future occurrences. Secretary O'Reilly discussed other roadway projects that were in the process of being completed and informed the Board that the established lighting on Dixie Highway would be completed by the end of February. The department is still waiting on the report to determine what caused the issue with the Roosevelt Bridge along with additional solutions and acoustic monitoring. The Board thanked FDOT for getting the bridge repaired and reopened it a timely manner and wanted to know about the asphalt paving to sidewalks and whether it was done that way because of a cost factor. Secretary O'Reilly clarified that the asphalt was used to seal the sidewalks so that no water would leak through potential cracks and cause further corrosion. There was a question regarding whether the inspector that inspected the Roosevelt Bridge was used to inspect the Evans Crary Bridge in Sewall's Point, and continued discussion on other parts of the bridge breaking down and what other issues would cause the bridge to

collapse. Secretary O'Reilly will find out to confirm but was sure it was the same company who did the inspection. He also explains that it depends on the activity on the bridge as to what will make it collapse.

There was further discussion from the Board regarding changes to the inspection process, and whether there will on going monitoring of fiber optics and strand gauges anticipated for all bridges. Secretary O'Reilly explained that he is sure there will be changes to the process because of the incident with the Roosevelt Bridge. The Chair Doug Smith suggested the MPO send a letter to the State Secretary of Transportation thanking District 4 and the State for its support efforts, amazing response time, and diligence towards getting the bridge safe and getting it done in such an expedited time.

**A motion for the MPO to send a letter to the State was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

Secretary O'Reilly introduced the FY22-FY26 Citizens Report – Draft Tentative Work Program. Less funds were collected from gas tax because of COVID which had an impact on funding Statewide. State funds have been reduced in the amount of \$1.36 Billion Statewide but should be back to normal in FY25-FY26. Discussion ensued regarding the MPO's priorities funded in the Citizens Report. There was a question from the Board regarding how FDOT looks at the impact from electric vehicles and a trend towards people working from home. Secretary O'Reilly explained that FDOT is keeping an eye on the revenue changes from people driving electric vehicles because that is a national issue. There are no direct solutions yet and the Legislature and the U.S. Government will have to address that. There has been a bill mentioned that will apply a charge to electric vehicles and some of the revenue would go towards the gas tax, but nothing has been put in place. He explained that FDOT sees the revenue peaking in the next 2 years. All FDOT programs were impacted but safety dollars and federal money were not affected. Secretary O'Reilly explained that the real impact was to capacity projects. FDOT's main goal is safety and they focus on education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency response.

Break 10:32 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington took over chairing the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Leslie Wetherell informed the Board that all projects on the priority list that are eligible projects have phases of funding programmed. She discussed different projects on the list and where they are in the process. Commissioner Smith agreed that safety is FDOT's number one concern but said that on a State road when there are instances where there is a known safety concern at a County/City local level that is not something that meets a textbook case for why an area should be fixed, the State will not fix it. Something needs to be put in place at a policy level where a local MPO or County/City Commission can request of FDOT to fix or address the situation because it is a known problem. Commissioner Hetherington thanked FDOT for holding a community meeting regarding

South River Road. The Board is happy with the priorities moving forward and the number of projects. There was continued discussion on the three left-hand turn lanes from Kanner onto US1 and whether requiring more right-of-way acquisition would delay the south bound project if they were linked. Ms. Wetherell explained that the project does require right-of-way and it can't be added to the RRR job because it is in a set year where FDOT must support the statutory requirement. However, the Board may prioritize as a standalone project and the design can be added with the design of the southbound right-turn lane. The cost of the right-of-way and construction will increase so the project may take longer. The Board inquired about the timeframe of the Willoughby extension project. Ms. Wetherell informed the Board that the PD&E is programmed. Secretary O'Reilly explained that completion will take 3-5 years.

**A motion to approve the FY22-FY26 Citizens Report – Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Victoria Williams, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, 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. Ms. Williams discussed resurfacing projects that have been done from St. Lucie County up to Indian River County at the county line as well as resurfacing projects done in Martin County. There was 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 the PD&E Study and the Turnpike was able to find design funds for project development and environmental stage, but there is no funding for construction. The project is funded this year for the PD&E study and design is funded for FY22. Improvements for Martin Highway Interchange and the widening from Martin County Highway to St. Lucie County line are two projects that are funded for FY23. Additional details about the study can be found and [treasurecoastturnpike.com](http://treasurecoastturnpike.com).

**A motion to approve the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – Tentative Five-Year Work Program was made by Council Member Anthony Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Troy McDonald. 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 to the current FY2020/21 – FY2024/25 TIP. The first project is for a lighting retrofit improvement project at two different intersections, which are SR 714 at Mapp Road, and the second is at SR 5/US1

and Joan Jefferson Way. The estimated cost for this project is \$61,000. The second project that is being added to the TIP is the Rail Signal Safety Project. The purpose of this project is to install 12" LED Light Inserts at the CSX railroad crossing at Martin Luther King Drive in Indiantown. The estimated project cost is \$16,506.

**A motion to approve the FY20/21-FY24/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Councilman Anthony Dowling. 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, using the philosophy that not one fatality or injury is acceptable. MPOs have until February 26, 2021 to adopt the FDOT "Vision Zero" Targets for all five Safety Performance Measures.

**A motion to approve the Safety Targets was made by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. 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. It is for assistance to help MPO staff as they go through the Federal certification audit in March 2021. The general planning consultant that the MPO would like to use is TY LIN International. They were the consultants that developed the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). They will help the MPO in the area with questions and items concerning the transportation model that was used in the LRTP.

**A motion to approve the Professional Services Task Order was made by Commissioner James Campo and seconded by Council Member Anthony Dowling. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **G. MPO BYLAWS**

Ms. Beltran presented the MPO Bylaws amendment. This revision is a result of the recommendation from the MPO's Freight and Goods Movement Plan that was approved by the Board at the October meeting. The MPO won the National Award for Outstanding Overall Achievement for a Small TMA MPO because of the Freight and Goods Movement Plan. The information about the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee has been

added to page eight of the Bylaws. The committee would meet twice a year, including the time when the MPO's project priorities are being discussed. This will enable the committee to add input to the projects and review what projects are moving ahead. This would give the freight community an opportunity to provide their concerns and challenges that they have along the transportation network regionally and locally.

**A motion to approve the MPO Bylaws was made by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **H. KANNER HIGHWAY/US1 INTERSECTION TRAFFIC PRESENTATION- MC TRAFFIC DIVISION**

Ms. Beltran explained that this item was requested at the October MPO Board meeting to discuss the intersection at Kanner Highway and US1. She introduced Luke Lambert, Traffic Engineering Manager to present the Kanner Highway/US1 Intersection Traffic presentation. He presented information from the FDOT's traffic site Annual Average Daily Traffic Volume (AADT) for existing conditions. Mr. Lambert noted the truck traffic on those roads and vehicle traffic in this section. There are an estimated 3300 vehicles an hour on US1 between 7am and 6pm. Information from a Syncro analysis shows a snapshot of the traffic that flows onto US1 and Kanner. US1 is a major corridor that operates on a coordinated actuated control which means the movements are prioritized. The County has video detection that detects when a vehicle pulls up to the stop bar but, when on a side street the traffic will have to wait because US1 is the major road. The intersection on Kanner Hwy. and US1 has a 160 second cycle phase. Adding the dedicated eastbound US1 right turn lane decreases the level of service which is good and reduces the overall intersection delay. Adding the triple left turn decreases the delay but it is not as substantial as that right turn lane on US1. Triple lefts increase delay because you must split phase the intersection due to right-of-way constraints. The southbound left turn lane from Colorado would conflict because you would have to split phase that area to add the triple lefts. Mr. Lambert also explained the concerns with adding the triple lefts. Adding the lanes would increase the pedestrian walk distance and time causing additional vehicle delay. He also discussed crashes at the intersection with vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

There was a question as to whether the right turn lane onto US1 south is currently funded in the Work Program. There are dedicated funds for a right lane only. Ms. Beltran wanted to know if the Traffic Division was recommending that the project for the dedicated righthand turn lane on Kanner onto US1 be the only improvement for that intersection. Mr. Lambert explained that the project that is programmed for design will be good for the intersection. Additionally, the Traffic Division is looking into purchasing adaptive traffic signal technology that would be implemented on US1. There was discussion that the triple left turn lanes would be less efficient and would need to be prioritized by the MPO for right-of-way acquisition.

#### **9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None**

**10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Commissioner Hetherington thanked Secretary O'Reilly for his presentation.

Commissioner Ciampi wished Commissioner Matheson a Happy Birthday.

Council Member Dowling congratulated the MPO on winning the AMPO award.

Commissioner McDonald mentioned that he is glad to be back on the MPO Board.

Commissioner Campo wanted clarification on the meeting dates because he has a conflict. Ms. Beltran explained that the meetings are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month unless there is a holiday then the meeting will be scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. The meetings will be back on their regular schedule in April.

**11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT- None**

**12. NOTES**

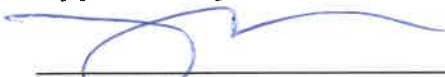
- 2020 National AMPO Award – Outstanding Overall Achievement for a Small MPO
- FY20-21 First Quarter Progress Report
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**13. NEXT MEETING** – February 22, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

**14. ADJOURN**

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

**Approved by:**




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Doug Smith, Chair

**Prepared by:**




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Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

**Minutes approved on:**

2/22/2021

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Date



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