

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

Martin County Administrative Building 4th Floor Workshop Room

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

(772) 221-1498

www.martinmpo.com

Monday, February 8, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Chair Joan Moore.

2. ROLL CALL

BPAC Members in Attendance:

Joan Moore, Chair
Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, Vice Chair
Julie Preast
Jackie Vitale
Kerrie Tyndall
Debbie Rabener
Timothy Rossknecht
Michael MacLeod

Members Absent Excused:

Hal Forslund

Members Absent:

Dawn Arvin
Don Fabricy
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:

Larry Wallace, FDOT (virtual)
Jessica Anderson

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Debbie Rabener and seconded by Jackie Vitale. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 11, 2021 BPAC Minutes was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Kerrie Tyndall. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Potential New Member(s) Introduced: Jessica Anderson

AGENDA ITEMS

A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP) ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Beth Beltran introduced the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Report. She explained that this item comes before the committee every year and that it's a Federal requirement that the MPO gives an annual report on public involvement. Ms. Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez to present the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Report to the committee. Each year, the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) assesses the effectiveness of its public outreach techniques and strategies to ensure that funds and time are invested efficiently and only after consultation with the public on a regular and as-needed basis. The MPO measures its performance by conducting a Public Involvement Annual Report which evaluates the objectives and strategies detailed in the MPO's Public Involvement Plan (PIP). There are five objectives of the PIP. Objective one is to hold regular public meetings with its standing Advisory Committees, to obtain their input on all documents, projects, and funding determinations prior to consideration by the MPO Board. Objective two is to provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision making. Objective three is to engage the public early, often, and with clarity so that opportunities exist for public feedback in the transportation decision making process. Objective four is to use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public, and objective five is public input on Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit. All strategies in the objectives were met. There was a question from the committee regarding whether objective 3 could be broadcast on MCTV. Mr. Vazquez did not see the problem with doing that.

There was extensive discussion on the response from the public about the Martin County Cares Program and learning about the MPO, the PIP, public outreach, outreach and feedback on bike racks and buses, and methods of monitoring engagement and objectives to ensure they are met. MCTV can be used as a recruiting source to fill open positions on committees. Mr. Vazquez explained that the public was very engaged and there was great participation. Ms. Beltran explained that there should be measures to see the numbers for people receiving information and how they receive it. That area will be worked on as the MPO develops the new PIP. There was a question on whether the county has a program that requires bike racks be put county wide and if not, they should look into that and have a walking tour. Ms. Beltran explained that part of the Transit Development Plan is to gather feedback from bus riders and the CRA's do have a walking tour and so does the City of Stuart. Ms. Pinal Gandhi-Savdas confirmed that the City of Stuart does have bike racks and that they are a part of the site plan requirement. There was a question on whether Dupree Park was County or State because the county does not have many facilities for cyclists. Ms. Beltran explained that the MPO plans and programs transportation facilities that are Federally and State funded. As far as bicycle facilities and shared use paths, those are defined as 10ft -12ft wide paved facilities. Bicycle trails and parks are under Parks and Recreation. The MPO has received funding

for the East Coast Greenway which is a shared use path. The committee can review and discuss regional facilities. Staff will bring bicycle maps to the next meeting.

A motion to approve the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Report was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Jackie Vitale. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

B. TITLE VI PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Beth Beltran introduced the Title VI Plan Update. Title VI is a Federal requirement that states the MPO transportation planning is done fair across the board where there is no discrimination in how the department does their public outreach and transportation planning. The MPO is required to review and update the plan annually. Ms. Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez to present the Title VI Plan Update. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires the MPO to review the Title VI language on a regular basis to assure it is current. It is a part of the Federal Certification and the Martin MPO must comply with both FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations about Title VI and other Nondiscrimination. Based on a review by MPO staff, some minor changes were needed and have been included in the Title VI plan. The changes to the plan include the following: MPO staff Title VI contact person information, Martin County Board of County Commissioners Title VI contact person information, website links, US Census data regarding Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and Title VI Activity Log. There was discussion on the language list included in the update and whether the number of Spanish individuals was increasing or decreasing. Mr. Vazquez will research and bring the information back to the committee.

A motion to approve the Title VI Plan Update was made by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas and seconded by Jackie Vitale. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

C. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC) SCOPE OF SERVICES

Ms. Beth Beltran presented the Freight Transportation Advisory (FTAC) Scope of Services. The FTAC is a result of the MPO Board approving an amendment to the bylaws. The amendment was to add an MPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee. This item is the scope of services to hire a consultant to assist the MPO get started with the new FTAC. The MPO is recommending Marlin Engineering as the planning consultant to start the FTAC. Marlin Engineering was chosen through a competitive process and they are the consultants that developed the Freight and Goods Movement Plan for the County.

A motion to approve the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) Scope of Services was made by Debbie Rabener and seconded by Timothy Rossknecht. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

D. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP) UPDATE

Ms. Beth Beltran explained that the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) guides the organization in case of an emergency which was a hurricane. However, since the pandemic has happened the COOP needs to be updated to add what the MPO must do in the case there is another pandemic. She introduced Ricardo Vazquez to present the COOP Update. He noted the Martin MPO COOP was adopted by the MPO Policy Board in 2012 and was last amended 2018. The purpose of the COOP is to ensure the continued operation of the MPO in the event of an emergency and ensures that the MPO's resources can be reached. MPO staff has reviewed the adopted COOP and revised to include an update to the cover, the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC), and to include language regarding the procedure that the MPO will follow in the event of a pandemic.

A motion to approve the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Update was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Timothy Rossknecht. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

E. FDOT PRESENTATION – SCHEDULING REPORT FOR MARTIN COUNTY PROJECTS - Informational

Ms. Beth Beltran provided an overview of the FDOT MPO Scheduling Report. The report provides a summary of projects and indicates the project schedule ensuring that stakeholders are aware of the status of projects and provide appropriate input during the scheduled activity. She introduced Larry Wallace to present the Scheduling Report for Martin County Projects. Mr. Wallace explained what the report is, terminology used in the report, the purpose of creating the report, and other frequently asked questions. He provided information on scheduled activities, scheduled activity description, and examples of appropriate comments that can be added. He also explained that during the multi-modal scoping phase is when the feedback can be provided. In this phase, depending upon whether the change is major, or minor is where changes to the scope can be made. Major scope changes should be done prior to programming the project. Mr. Wallace provided an analogy of the difference between a major scope and minor scope change for further clarification. The report is only available internally but can be provided to committee members upon request. There was extensive discussion on the committee being involved before reaching the design phase so that feedback can be provided regarding projects, barrier walls, and whether the priority of projects change due to funding or whether they are listed in priority order. Ms. Beltran confirmed that the projects will be discussed with committees to get feedback on resurfacing projects. She also explained that if the projects are at a district or local level, project managers will present to the committees. Mr. Wallace explained that it is a good idea to have presentations on projects done prior to reaching the multimodal scoping portion of the process and that resurfacing projects are a separate funding source. He also explained that the addition of a barrier wall depends on the project. Ms. Beltran explained that barrier walls are a result of an agreement between the State and the adjacent property owner. Projects are in order on the priority list, but things do come up sometimes that changes the priority of the project.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joan Moore mentioned that the two bridges in Stuart out to the Island have cinder blocks in the middle bike lanes. Larry Wallace wanted the locations so he can send the information to the maintenance department. Ms. Moore explained that the locations are from Stuart to Sewall's Point in both directions. Jackie Vitale agreed and mentioned that she bikes that area and there is always a lot of trash. Beth Beltran wanted Mr. Wallace to reach out to Dan Hyden and let him know about the maintenance that is needed to the area. Ms. Beltran let the committee and Mr. Wallace know that Joy Puerta will send an email of the locations. Mr. Wallace will then make the issue a high priority and he will pass the information on so the maintenance can be done.

Debbie Rabener discussed the sidewalk cracks from Riviera Beach to SR 710, where there are a lot of kids in the area from the Booker Park area into town, and FDOT should replace the sidewalks. She does not understand the logic on SR 710 coming from Okeechobee to Indiantown, the passing lane leaving town should be in a longer stretch. She is not sure if the location of the passing lane is a contributor to the accidents that take place in the area. Beth Beltran explained that there is a project that FDOT is working on that is a segment of SR 710 that goes from Indiantown to County Line to improve the safety and mobility of that area because it is dangerous. The board has had conversation on this area for several months so the MPO is working very close with the State for improvements. Ms. Beltran will have Joy Puerta include the project along SR 710 south of Indiantown where the pipeline was built coming north from Riviera Beach west from Martin fire department up to Booker Park area in her email to Larry Wallace. Mr. Wallace would like staff to send him a picture of the area. Ms. Rabener will provide the picture and send a copy to Ms. Puerta and she will send a separate email to Mr. Wallace for this issue.

Julie Preast welcomed new committee members. She expounded on the fishing on the bridges discussion that is going on between FDOT and MPO staff. When she walked the bridge, it was unsafe since there were fishhooks, fish heads, etc. She would like an update of the maintenance schedule for that area from FDOT. The area is very dangerous and would like to know how to get updates. She would like to know if FDOT is going to do weekly or every other day maintenance to the area on the Roosevelt Bridge and that she is not sure about the Jensen bridge because she does not use the area. Beth Beltran explained that she believes the City Commissioner Merritt Matheson is working on an agreement between the City of Stuart and FDOT to increase the maintenance on the bridges. The Jensen Beach Bridge is closed to fishing because the area is not being cleaned. Updates can be received from the City Commission. Pinal Gandhi-Savdas stated that she will get updates and bring them to the next meeting.

Timothy Rossknecht wanted to know about the public engagement report and the positions that are open, whether they can be filled. He wanted to know if there was a

map of incidents for bicyclists and pedestrians for Martin County available. Ricky Vazquez explained that those numbers are from last year and that most of the positions have been filled.

Julie Preast mentioned that the BPAC has ADA representation and wanted to know whether the CAC had someone. She believes that ADA representation is a huge gap.

Beth Beltran explained that there has been someone that represented ADA on the committee. She also explained that the MPO has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action plan available on the County website that looked at the data and as part of the Vision Zero that the BPAC approved last Fall. That information will be updated to show where safety improvements are needed. Timothy Rossknecht wanted to know would that information be available to the committee if a project came up so feedback could be provided. Ms. Beltran confirmed that the information would be available.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas informed the committee that the City of Stuart is working with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) to do a master plan for the US 1 corridor. The City is holding a vision workshop on March 13th at 10:00 am at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Bldg. It is a walking tour and a vehicle will be provided for those who cannot walk the tour. The tour will cover the triangle area and most of US 1 and there will be various stops to discuss any improvements the City should be looking at as part of the master plan. If anyone is interested in attending, please send her an email. The City is putting together postcards to market the walking tour and she can email it to MPO staff and committee members. A kickoff meeting with FDOT was held regarding improvements to resurfacing projects (i.e. hardening lines on crosswalks, sidewalk widening, etc.) last week as part of master plan study. Julie Preast wanted to know if the city considered the East Coast Greenway going through Downtown Stuart. Pinal confirmed that they did consider.

Jackie Vitale would like to see public advocacy campaigns that encourage cycling and walking for practicality to replace driving particularly in the CRA and whether that is within the MPO scope. Beth Beltran explained that MPO staff gave out information and safety gear in 2019 at a fair in Golden Gate. Because of COVID there has not been a lot of opportunity to do those type of events. Ms. Vitale wanted to know were there some ways to create and have social media campaigns to broaden the number of people who receive the information. Joy Puerta explained that the MPO is partnering with South Florida Commuter Services, a program of the FDOT, to kick off the Bike to Work/Win Event and there will be virtual tracking to record miles and participants will be entered into a raffle. Ms. Beltran agreed that is it important to reach individuals who do not attend meetings in person and sometimes incentives and raffles help with participation.

Michael MacLeod wanted to know if there was a way or process to monitor action follow-up items that are brought up during the meetings to ensure that questions are answered. Beth Beltran inquired whether there was something that did not get answered that Mr. MacLeod requested. Mr. MacLeod just wanted to know if there

was a process because for instance, Larry Wallace was given several things to look up and bring back to the committee. Formality of how things are done for follow-up actions. Ms. Beltran explained that usually if there is a particular item that someone wants to talk about they would bring that up under committee comments, if something is thought of after the meeting, members can email Joy Puerta and staff will respond as to how the issue is addressed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

NOTES- None

NEXT MEETINGS

Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC Meeting – April 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, the Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:29 PM.

Prepared by:

Florence Allen
Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

5/10/2021
Date

Approved by:

Joan Moore
Joan Moore, CAC Chair

5/10/2021
Date

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