

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 221-1498
www.martinmpo.com
Wednesday, June 9, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Amy Eason.

2. ROLL CALL

CAC Members in Attendance:

Amy Eason, Chair
Saadia Tsaftarides
Helen McBride
Ann Kagdis
David Hafner

CAC Members Excused:

Cindy Greenspan
Hilary Young
Al Zilg
Trent Steele
Ralph Davino

CAC Members Not in Attendance:

John Patteson, Vice Chair

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Carol Scott, FDOT/Turnpike
Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ann Kagdis and seconded by Helen McBride the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 5, 2021 CAC Minutes was made by Helen McBride and seconded by David Hafner the motion passed unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. TURNPIKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PRESENTATION.

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator introduced Carol Scott, Planning Manager, FDOT/Turnpike and Victoria Williams, FDOT-Turnpike. Ms. Scott explained that she would be giving a brief update on the area projects that are part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Scott began with the Turnpike mainline widening project, from Jupiter, Indiantown Road to Ft. Pierce, with some potential new interchanges, as well as interchange improvements, and including in the project is an analysis of 2045 traffic. She announced an upcoming hybrid public hearing is scheduled for July 22, 2021. A website has also been created for the study, <https://floridasturnpike.com/turnpike-projects/featured-projects/widen-turnpike-pde-indiantown-to-okeechobee/>

The projects that are in the TIP came out of the PD&E study. The first one is the Turnpike I-95 interchange. The study includes a kickoff project development and environment study later in the year to look at direct connect ramps between the Turnpike and I-95. The next project that came out of the PD&E study was improvements to the Martin Highway Interchange. She presented a visual presentation of two alternatives to the Committee that will also be shown at the public hearing. Also, in the study is the widening of the Turnpike from Martin Highway to St. Lucie County Line and is part of a sister project from Martin County line to Becker Road, with both for potential design in 2025. She gave an update on the Turnpike toll system which will go to all electronic tolls which are scheduled to go live at the end of this summer. She announced that all EZ Pass users can now use the SunPass system however, if you are a SunPass user and you are visiting the EZ Pass states you will need to upgrade your transponder to a SunPass Pro.

Committee members had several questions of the proposed projects.

A motion to approve was made by Saadia Tsafarides and seconded by Ann Kagdis the motion passed unanimously.

B. FINAL DRAFT FY22-FY26 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner presented an overview of the final draft updates and new projects to the Final FY22-FY26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The final TIP will be adopted by the MPO Board in June 2021.

A motion to approve the Final Draft Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was made by Saadia Tsafarides and seconded by Ann Kagdis. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

C. SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED (SUN) TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY ALONG GOMEZ AVENUE-SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Joy Puerta, MPO Bike/Ped Planner presented the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study. The proposed plan will include six community meetings, consisting of many

stakeholders, the public, transportation engineering and parks and recreation staff. There will be two rounds of the advisory committee and Policy Board meetings.

A motion to approve the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study was made by Ann Kagdis and seconded by Helen McBride. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

D. FY23-FY27 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator explained the FY23 – FY27 LOPP, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) priorities, and the Public Transit priorities.

A motion to approve the FY23- FY27 List of Project Priorities was made by Ann Kagdis and seconded by Saadia Tsaftarides. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Hafner said he was pleased to see that they are monitoring any disruption of the Scenic Highway trees as part of the SR 710 and SR 714 connect. He also was in support for a traffic light at the intersection in lieu of a roundabout.

Saadia Tsaftarides inquired as to whether FDOT funding was approved for Dixie Highway from Indian Street to Jefferson Street. She also inquired into the apartments on Commerce in the City of Stuart.

Beth Beltran stated that funding was approved and is moving forward for Dixie Highway improvements from Indian Street to Jefferson Street. As far as the apartments along Commerce, that project is in the City of Stuart and was not sure if the developer was required to do improvements as part of the project.

Ann Kagdis expressed concern over the lack of pedestrian crosswalks on Indian River Drive. As well as the lack of information about the Brightline project in Jensen Beach, since it will greatly impact the residents, especially in Ocean Breeze.

Beth Beltran said she would inquire about both items and report back to the Committee.

Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III read into the record the following comments submitted by Al Zilg.

1. There should be a light on County Line Road where the train is going to run.
2. The secondary roads are breaking and cracking, they need to be looked at for repair.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

NOTES- None

NEXT MEETINGS

CAC Meeting – September 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda, and no additional comments a motion to adjourn was made by Helen McBride and seconded by Saadia Tsafarides, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURMENT: 9:50 A.M.

Prepared by:


Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III


Date

Approved by:


John F. Pattenon, CAC Vice Chair


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, Senior Planner (Title VI/Non-discrimination Contact) at (772) 223-7983 or in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.