

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
JOINT CITIZEN'S/BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN/TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers  
2401 SE Monterey Road  
Stuart, FL 34996  
www.martinmpo.com  
(772) 221-1498

Monday, April 5, 2021

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM by Lisa Wichser, TAC Chair.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**TAC Members in Attendance:**

Lisa Wichser, Chair  
Michelle Berger, Vice Chair  
Althea Jefferson  
Samantha Lovelady  
Tim Voelker

**TAC Members Excused:**

Mark Cocco  
Todd Schimelfanick

**TAC Members Not In Attendance:**

Kim Delaney  
Stuart Trent  
David Dyess  
Mira Skoroden  
Claudette Mahan  
Sam Carver  
Ken DeAngeles  
Michele Jones

**BPAC Members in Attendance:**

Joan Moore, Chair  
Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, Vice Chair  
Julie Preast  
Jackie Vitale  
Kerrie Tyndall

Tom Campenni  
Michael MacLeod  
Hal Forslund

**BPAC Excused Members:**

Sgt. George Yacobellis

**BPAC Members Not In Attendance:**

Dawn Arvin  
Jessica Anderson  
Don Fabricy  
Debbie Rabener  
Timothy Rossknecht  
Sgt. Brian Bossio  
Chris Wade

**CAC Members in Attendance:**

Amy Eason, Chair  
Helen McBride  
Ann Kagdis  
Trent Steele  
David Hafner

**CAC Members Excused:**

Saadia Tsafarides

**CAC Members Absent:**

John Patteson  
Cindy Greenspan  
Hilary Young  
Al Zilg  
Ralph Davino

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Larry Wallace, FDOT (virtual)  
John Podczerwinsky, FDOT  
George Dzama, Public Works  
Kim McLaughlin, Capital Projects  
Chris Goetzfried, Capital Projects  
Jessica Seymour, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Jill Quigley, Tindale Oliver (virtual)

**A quorum was present.**

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Joan Moore and seconded by Mr. Tom Campenni. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the Joint CAC/TAC minutes for the October 5, 2020 meeting was made by Ms. Ann Kagdis and seconded by Ms. Samantha Lovelady. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **A. 2021 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP) APPLICATION**

Beth Beltran explained the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is a Federal funding source that is primarily for bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects. Martin County received one application for the SE Avalon Drive sidewalk project. She introduced Kim McLaughlin and Chris Goetzfried from Capital Projects to present the 2021 TAP application. Kim explained what the TAP grant is and its goals. The total construction cost estimate for the project is \$355,558.50. The funds being requested from the grant are \$342,558.50 and the remaining \$13,000 will come from local funds. Ms. McLaughlin discussed the project scope which is to provide pedestrian sidewalks and safety improvements that will eliminate public hazards and create connectivity to the Hibiscus Park community. Mr. Chris Goetzfried discussed the project location and project limits. The project extends from Cove Road to Salerno Road. He also discussed the existing conditions of the location, the existing typical section, and the typical layout. A public involvement meeting was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, and the Martin County Board of County Commissioners approved the permission to apply for TAP Grant on February 16, 2021. There was discussion regarding the drainage issues and flooding and cut through traffic. Mr. Goetzfried explained that the neighborhood restoration project that is in construction currently was designed to address all drainage issues. And regarding the cut through traffic there has been discussion with residents. The committee wanted to clarify that the closing of the drainage is part of the sidewalk project and not through the restoration project. Discussion continued regarding other project improvements that have flooding issues, structural flooding, and project timing. Chris confirmed that closing of the drainage is part of the sidewalk project. The restoration project is under construction currently and will be completed by the middle of this year. The sidewalk project is programmed for FY2025. There was a question regarding conversations on the width of the sidewalk and adding an additional 2-feet to make it an 8-foot sidewalk and whether there be planting in the swales or if they would be grass. Mr. Goetzfried explained that it was difficult to put the 6-foot sidewalk in and that there are a lot of wells in the right-of-

way and they did not want to impact, and the swales would be grass. There was a question regarding the funding listed in the presentation and those in the application. Kim McLaughlin explained the spreadsheet to the committee so they would see that the numbers were correct. There was extensive discussion on sidewalk costs and excavation coming from the TAP and whether the amount can be used for other sidewalk projects. Mr. Goetzfried explained that the drainage improvements are essential to build a sidewalk. The grant funds pay for the site improvement in addition to placing the sidewalks. The amount can be reduced but then you would have to come up with the funding balance.

**A motion to approve the 2021 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application was made by Mr. Tom Campenni and seconded by Ms. Michelle Berger. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) REVISION 4 – AMENDMENT 1**

Beth Beltran presented the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision 4 – Amendment 1. The UPWP is the MPO's 2-year budget and document of planning activities that the department performs. Most of the MPO budget is funded with Federal Highway planning funds. When the funds are given to State, they are required to match the funds, typically with Federal grants. Eighty percent of the funds come from the Federal Government and 20% comes from the State. Funds from the Federal Transit Administration, 5305 Grant funds are the reason for the amendment. In the past the State would offer 10% of the 20% soft match in cash and the County would put up the other 10%. Because of the reduction in State gas tax the State decided for their Transportation Program that all programs would be impacted by that reduction. Planning funds would also be impacted because of this and the reduction is their cash match. Because the State law is written the way it is the entire 20% must be soft match. The amendment is a request by FDOT to receive Federal funds because they are putting up the soft match and that needs to be reflected in the UPWP, and local funds will be identified as local funds.

**A motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision 4 – Amendment 1 was made by Ms. Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Ms. Joan Moore. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

Beth Beltran explained that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) update is identified in the UPWP. The name has been changed from the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to the Public Participation Plan match what the Federal government calls it. The update is a requirement. The MPO has contracted Tindale Oliver to do the major update. Beth introduced Jill Quigley, project manager, to present the update to the committees. Jill Quigley explained that Ricardo Vazquez is the MPO project manager and discussed PPP;

what it is, where it applies, why it is being improved, and the process. Once the draft PPP is complete it will be available for public review and comment for 45 days before going to the MPO Policy Board for adoption. A second open house will be conducted in August 2021, afterwards revisions will be made to the PPP and that will go before the Advisory Committees in November then on to the Policy Board in December. Updates include Technical Memorandum 1 which is the first half of PPP content and includes demographics, core products, and PPP objectives and strategies, the open house that was held on March 30, 2021 both virtual and in-person. Advertisement for the open house was done through email, social media, and printed flyers. The open house included an interactive polling exercise that allowed attendees to choose how they would prefer to receive information and participate. She also explained the public review matrix to include meetings, adoption, and requirements. The goal is to establish an ongoing process in which public feedback is regularly identified and considered. The information is available in both English and Spanish. The next steps are to present to the MPO Policy Board in April then complete the draft with the 45-day public comments period. Once this is done, the plan will be revised and presented to the committees again in November then presented to the Board in December for adoption. There was discussion on recommendations to educate and increase participation (churches, door-to-door, community centers, Chambers, Healthy Start, and social media).

**A motion to approve the Public Participation Plan Update, adding the recommendations from the committee to increase participation was made by Ms. Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Mr. Tom Campenni. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Julie Preast congratulated whoever placed the sharrow markings on Dixie Highway south of Wright Blvd. She wanted to know who placed them and do drivers know what they mean. She believes there should be signage posted either before or on the approach indicating what they mean to drivers. This would alert drivers to be on the lookout for cyclists on the road. She was working with Sam Amerson in the past to put sharrows on the Old Bascule Roosevelt Bridge, but they were never put out there. She understands that there is no room for a bike path on the Old Roosevelt Bridge and she hopes someday sharrows will be placed on the approach of this bridge, so that drivers will slow down and allow cyclist to proceed in front of them.

Lisa Wichser explained that on Dixie Highway, south of Wright Blvd. is a city street.

Tim Voelker informed Julie that the request came from the public through FDOT. So, the City of Stuart worked with FDOT to get the sharrows placed.

Lisa Wichser wanted to know if there was corresponding signage.

Tim Voelker mentioned that he would get with the Director of Public Works to see about getting signage installed in that area. Regarding the Bascule Bridge, the City of Stuart is

waiting on FDOT. FDOT was supposed to prioritize the sharrow markings and when they were contacted, they informed him that they were working on it.

Amy Eason wanted to know where some information that a consultant presented in a study was found regarding near misses. She would like to know where someone can report near misses so that individuals will know who they can contact.

Samantha Lovelady informed Amy that they can be reported at the front lobby desk in the Administrative Building.

Amy Eason mentioned that if there is no place to report near misses, that it would be a good idea to create one, either on the MPO site or somewhere else, so that better accuracy can be given when consultants are doing studies.

Beth Beltran explained that you can report them on the MPO site and Joy Puerta manages the Vision Zero study and they are developing a website where that will be the ideal place because the consultant is working with her.

Joy Puerta stated that she would speak with Kimley Horn, the project consultant to see if they have any suggestions, since they are creating an interactive map currently where people can login and make comments. That would be the appropriate place to report near misses.

Lisa Wichser mentioned that a big part of that would be making sure that the public knows that they can do that. Public Participation and social media outreach are a good idea while working on the study.

David Haffner mirrored Amy's comment. He read a resident's email that was sent to Commissioner Jenkins about a hit and run incident on SR 710 that involved a semi-truck and a pedestrian. He stated that this is common, and he appreciates the projects that are underway. In Indian town there is a community called Indianwood, and there was an incident regarding golf carts being used on the roads. Residents want to know if something can be done to allow them to get into town on their golf carts maybe through a side street.

Hal Forslund discussed the bus stop from Stuart to Cove Road that stops near Colorado by the gas station. There is a lot of traffic there and no place for patrons who take the bus to sit so they must sit on the curb. This is a dangerous area because there is a lot of traffic right there. Alternative ways for vehicles to get around needs to be figured out or a bus stop shelter must be put there for riders to sit while waiting on the bus.

Joan Moore echoed Hal's comments. The area is dangerous, and people are always standing north and south bound.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – None**

**8. NOTES - None**

**9. NEXT MEETINGS**

TAC Meeting – May 3, 2021 at 1:30 PM  
CAC Meeting – May 5, 2021 at 9:00 AM  
BPAC Meeting – May 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM

**10. ADJOURN**

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:44 PM.

Prepared by:

  
Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

10/19/21  
Date

Approved by:

  
Lisa Wichser, TAC Chair

Oct 18, 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, 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.