

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, June 21, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – MPO Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **PRAYER** - Reverend Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church led the Invocation.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

MPO Chair Doug Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Doug Smith, Chair
Stacey Hetherington, Vice-Chair
Harold Jenkins
Ed Ciampi
Troy McDonald
Merritt Matheson
James Campo
Anthony Dowling

Representing

Martin County Commission
Martin County Commission
Martin County Commission
Martin County Commission
City of Stuart Commission
City of Stuart Commission
Town of Sewall's Point Commission
Village of Indiantown Council

Members Absent-None

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Margaret Brassard, Transit Specialist-Mobility Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

Reverend Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church
Lisa Wichser, County Engineer
Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike, MPO Liaison
Brian Ribaric, FDOT/Turnpike, Project Manager
Carol Scott, FDOT/Turnpike, Planning Manager
Anson Sonnet, PE, FDOT/District Four, Project Manager
John Krane, FDOT/District Four, Planning & Environmental Administrator
Eric Penfield, RS&H, Inc., Senior Traffic Engineer
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner James Campo the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the May 17, 2021 regular meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner James Campo and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Laura of Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. (HIPI) came forward to express concern on Hutchinson Island street lighting and pedestrian crosswalk safety.

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. TURNPIKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Victoria Williams FDOT/Turnpike MPO Liaison came forward to introduce the item and Turnpike staff. Brian Ribaric, FDOT Project Manager came forward to present the PD&E Study and proposed Turnpike improvement projects, including Interchange at SR 714/Martin Highway.

Commissioner Ed Ciampi expressed concern over the proposed Turnpike Interchange alternatives, specifically Martin Highway. He suggested a meeting to discuss his concerns. Mr. Ribaric stated that he would be meeting with Martin County staff tomorrow to discuss the details of the proposed Turnpike Interchange improvements.

Commissioner Doug Smith suggested that Mr. Ribaric include additional specific details to the graphics in the slides presented.

Commissioner James Campo questioned the driving force as it relates to the proposed changes to the Turnpike Interchange at Martin Highway. Mr. Ribaric said that overall, the proposed traffic volume is based on the growth model. He did say there is a lot of movement between the Martin Highway Interchange and Becker Road, and that it was identified as a very high-volume segment.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington requested that Mr. Ribaric provide the proposed 2045 model with projections to MPO Administrator Beth Beltran for distribution to the Board.

Carol Scott, FDOT/Turnpike Director Planning Manager, came forward to give a brief update on the all-electronic Turnpike Tolling Project. The project will go live late Summer, early Fall to include voluminous amounts of public outreach.

B. SR 714/MONTEREY ROAD GRADE SEPRATION PROJECT.

Anson Sonnet, PE, FDOT-District Four Project Manager gave an update on the Monterey Road/FEC Grade Separation PD&E Study process, scheduling, funding, as well as the coordination with the FEC.

After a brief discussion by the Board, they thanked Mr. Sonnet for his presentation.

C. CR 714 REALIGNMENT PROJECT UPDATE.

John Krane, FDOT Planning & Environmental Administrator came forward and introduced FDOT consultant, Eric Penfield, Traffic Engineer at RS&H, Inc. Mr. Penfield gave a brief presentation regarding the CR 714 Realignment Project, with different conceptual alignment variations, roadway lighting justifications.

A motion to approve conceptual alignment #3 for the CR 714 Realignment Project was made by Commissioner Ed Ciampi.

It was announced that this is a discussion item only.

Council Member Anthony Dowling asked if the Board could see the proposed project cost, timeline and all interested governing bodies involved for each of the three conceptual alignment plans. Commissioner Stacey Hetherington stated she was not in favor of conceptual alignment #1. Commissioner Troy McDonald expressed concern over the number and severity of traffic crashes at the CR 714 curve and SR 710 intersection.

Beth Beltran MPO Administrator recommended the MPO Board approve the use of the CARES Act funding on the SR 710 left turn lane onto Tommy Clements Street, and any leftover funding to be used to expedite the CR 714 Realignment Project.

Commissioner Smith encouraged expediting the project.

Commissioner Merritt Matheson was also in support of option #3. He recommended, as part of the project that the scenic highway be enhanced with additional tree canopy.

A motion to approve the suggestion that Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator made about if we are going to use Cares Act funds for the Tommy Clemons intersection that the Tommy Clemons intersection money that we had set aside be used for advancing this project, using the conceptual alignment plan #3 presented for the CR 714 Realignment Project by Commissioner Ed Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Troy McDonald; the motion passed unanimously.

10:30am: The Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting adjourned for a short break to allow for closed captioning.

10:45am: The Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting

reconvened.

D. PUBLIC HEARING-FINAL DRAFT FY21/22-FY25/26 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP).

Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner presented the FY2021/22-FY2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He presented updates to the Draft TIP, timeline of public involvement. Staff recommends final approval by the MPO Board.

A motion to approve the Final Draft FY21/22-FY2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson the motion passed unanimously.

E. SHARED USE NON-MOTORIZED (SUN) TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY SCOPE OF SERVICES-A SEGMENT OF THE EAST COAST GREENWAY.

Jeff Weidner of Marlin Engineering gave a brief overview on the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study scope of services. Commissioner Harold Jenkins expressed concern over the proposed segment of the East Coast Greenway, and how it would impact the current County widening, road restoration, and drainage project along Gomez Ave. Beth Beltran explained that this is a Feasibility Study to best determine the alignment for the connection to the East Coast Greenway where it terminates to the south of Sea Branch State Park, to where the alignment to the South is being built. She further added that the public involvement portion of the plan is crucial as they don't want to jeopardize those improvements. Commissioner Harold Jenkins said he has been working on the alignment of Shell Avenue with Gomez Avenue since the current alignment causes gridlock.

Commissioner Merritt Matheson wanted to be assured that the residence and property owners are notified of the proposed impacts. Beth Beltran said she would follow the public involvement plan. She agreed that the direct mailings made sense, as well as working with the Homeowners Associations.

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired about the funding for the connection at the entrance to Johnathan Dickenson State Park. Beth Beltran MPO Administrator said the connection at the entrance to Johnathan Dickenson State Park runs through the park, and across US1 to the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge. This segment is funded for construction; the design is completed. FDOT also has funding to do the PD&E Study from the Refuge north to Bridge Road. Commissioner Doug Smith requested Jeff Weidner provide a visual and timeline, specifically the projects from County Line to Gomez Avenue.

A motion to approve the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study scope of services a segment of the East Coast Greenway by Councilmember Anthony Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson the motion passed unanimously.

F. LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP).

Beth Beltran gave a brief overview of the List of Project Priorities.

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired about the complete street along Dixie Highway from Cove Road to Indian Street. He also inquired about proposed plans for pedestrian safety along Macarthur Blvd. Lisa Wichser, County Engineer came forward and gave a brief overview of the proposed funding and plans on a few of the project priorities.

A motion to approve the List of Project Priorities (LOPP) by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins the motion passed unanimously.

Beth Beltran gave a brief presentation on Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Priorities and Public Transit Priorities.

A motion to approve the list of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) priorities and Public Transit Priorities by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Councilmember Anthony Dowling the motion passed unanimously.

G. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) MODIFICATION

Beth Beltran explained that this item is to move funding from salaries to contractor services to purchase bicycle/pedestrian cameras to collect data at intersections, as discussed by the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

A motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Modification. Councilmember Anthony Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson the motion passed unanimously.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NONE

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Merritt Matheson expressed concern over the reduction of Martin County Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding in the upcoming fiscal year. He stated that at its last meeting, the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) recommended that the MPO Board send a letter to Governor DeSantis requesting that Transportation Disadvantaged funding that was previously available remain available.

A motion was made that the MPO Board draft a letter to Governor DeSantis and copy FDOT Secretary, Legislative Delegation, BOCC, and our regional Secretary requesting that funding that has been previously available to our local

Transportation Disadvantaged Program remain available by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Troy McDonald.

Commissioner Ed Ciampi inquired if any recovery funding could be used to go toward supplementing the shortfall. Commissioner Doug Smith suggested the MPO send a letter to the County Commission, and that the Commission consider augmenting this. Commissioner Doug Smith also suggested submitting a request through the Legislative Delegation this year as a priority to fix the funding issue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Doug Smith suggested the following motion: The MPO Board request of the Delegation to add this to our prioritization list to address the funding shortfall for the Martin County dialysis transportation that was eliminated by the repeal of MCORE.

A motion was made that the MPO Board make a request of the Legislative Delegation to address the issue of Transportation Disadvantaged funding, both parts the expired dialysis grant and the reduction in the Trip and Equipment Grant, by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Councilmember Anthony Dowling,

Commissioner Harold Jenkins suggested the funding come from not only Martin County but the municipalities it serves. Commissioner Doug Smith requested Beth Beltran send in an email the request made in the motion to expedite the request.

Commissioner James Campo suggested the MPO Board recognize Pastor Jim Broccius for his many years of pastoral service to the MPO Board at the September meeting. The Board Agreed.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

12. NOTES

13. NEXT MEETING

MPO Board Meeting-September 20, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

ADJORNMENT 11:30 AM.

Approved by:

Approved by:



Doug Smith, Chair

Prepared by:



Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

Minutes Approved on September 20, 2021

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 rvazquez@martin.fl.us in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.