

**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, October 25, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – MPO Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -MPO Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PRAYER - Reverend Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church led the Invocation.

4. ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Representing

Martin County Board of County Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
City of Stuart Commission
City of Stuart Commission
Town of Sewall's Point Commission

Members Absent

Doug Smith, Chair
Anthony Dowling

Martin County Board of County Commission
Village of Indiantown Council

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Reverend Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church
Lisa Wichser, Martin County Engineer
Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT Dist. 4 Secretary
Carol Scott, FDOT /Turnpike
Brian Ribaric, Atkins Project Manager, FDOT/Turnpike
John Krane, FDOT
Rabb Marinelli, FDOT
Marcia Fritz, FDOT

Jessica Rubio, FDOT
Sabrina Aubery, FDOT
Mark J. Madgar, FDOT
Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike, MPO Liaison
Katie Kehres, FDOT, Safety Administrator
Mira Skoroden, FDOT
Kris Kehres, FDOT
Christine Fasiska, FDOT
Steve Braun, FDOT

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Minutes

- **MPO Policy Board Meeting-September 20, 2021**

A motion to approve the September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Ed Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner James Campo the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dottie Lanci, President of Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. (H.I.P.I) came forward to express concern on the Hutchinson Island street lighting and pedestrian crosswalk safety. She requested that the results of the study and lighting plans be relayed to their group by the County and MPO for their input and recommendations.

Patty Jones, member of Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. (H.I.P.I). She wanted to encourage FDOT to continue with the lighting study. She thanked the MPO Board and FDOT for working with their group.

Frank McChrystal came forward and expressed concern over the intersection at South River Drive and Kanner Highway. He said it was a very dangerous intersection due to the speeding along Kanner Highway, the curve, and the age of the residents exiting from South River Road.

Robert Yago, resident of South River, came forward and expressed concern over the intersection at South River Drive and Kanner Highway, and noted the future developments that will also increase the volume of traffic. He said that he now understands that this road is a State road and that FDOT will be responsible for determining a signal at that intersection. He encouraged more traffic enforcement by the Sherriff's Department on Kanner Highway.

Dr. William Hinsley, resident of South River, came forward and expressed concern over the volume of traffic and speeding along Kanner Highway. He requested a signal at that intersection for safety. He also requested a right turn lane when traveling South on Kanner Highway due to the blind right turn and the speed of traffic on Kanner Highway.

Laverne Williams came forward and inquired about the Transportation Disadvantaged funding, and if there is anything that residents can do to request from the Governor additional funding or petitioning to the Commission or Board. She asked how she can help for the future of those in need of transportation. Beth Beltran and Commissioner Matheson stated they will be attending the upcoming Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Annual Conference and hope to get updates as to how the State is going to address the funding cut this year. Commissioner Matheson stated he also has addressed this issue to the local delegation.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington welcomed FDOT Secretary, Gerry O'Reilly. She also mentioned that she is working with FDOT and County staff as it relates to the South River Road and Kanner Highway intersection. She stated that a traffic light can't come soon enough for the safety of our residents. She noted that FDOT work plan has a right-hand turn lane in design, and they are working with South River to acquire right of way. It has also been requested to temporarily install a flashing signal that alerts drivers of an approaching right hand turn ahead.

Commissioner Ed Ciampi requested that the information gathered at the upcoming Florida CTD Annual Conference be provided to Ms. Laverne Williams before the next MPO meeting. He also agreed that a signal at the intersection of South River Road and Kanner Highway is a priority, and that it is important for the MPO and County Commission to assist FDOT with the determination for a signal.

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FLORIDA TURNPIKE WIDENING PD&E PRESENTATION

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, introduced Brian Ribaric, Atkins Consultant to Florida's Turnpike. Mr. Ribaric presented the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) PD&E Study for the Turnpike Widening from Martin Highway to the St. Lucie County line, which includes interchange improvements as well as new interchanges. He presented alternatives to the Martin Highway Interchange since there were concerns expressed relating to the impact to Leighton Farms Avenue. Commissioner Ciampi suggested using the existing Turnpike interchange works perfectly. Since the toll booths will be eliminated and with the widening of the Turnpike and Martin Highway, he supports the Martin Highway Interchange revised SE Quadrant Ramps, reduced right of way impacts, and continuing evaluation during design. He did not support the proposed interchange at Leighton Farms Avenue. Brian Ribaric recommended adding the interchange at Leighton Farms Avenue to a future plan, but when it gets

implemented they would be in direct coordination with the County and MPO staff as to when all agree that now would be the time to go ahead and put that in. Carol Scott, Florida Turnpike came forward and explained that the timeframe would be when all parties agree that this proposed interchange is needed.

Commissioner Campo asked about the closing out of the toll plazas and the all-electronic tolls conversions. Carol Scott, Florida Turnpike, stated it would most likely be the end of the year for all electronic tolling. The toll plaza demolition will be over the next couple of years for the entire span of toll plazas. Commissioner Matheson inquired about the widening of the Turnpike and the build versus no-build. Brian Ribaric explained that typically with a no-build scenario, various elements tend to break down, congestion begins to happen, and basically the Turnpike turns into a parking lot, which is not what we want. Commissioner Matheson expressed concern over the Turnpike widening and if it would continue to get wider and wider. No one wants it to be a parking lot but if you build it they will come and that means more traffic and more growth. He stated that he would support a no-build option with the safety improvements. He asked if FDOT has an end goal as to when you stop widening something? Mr. Ribaric explained that the FDOT is looking at traffic 20 years from now. He stated that the eight lanes are going to last for quite a while. He explained that the Turnpike is widely used conduit for the two major hubs of Florida being Miami to Orlando.

Commissioner Troy McDonald supported looking at the lane widths and drainage along the Turnpike. He also supported widening the Turnpike all the way to Orlando. He inquired about the previous discussion and presentation for a connection from the Turnpike to I-95, South of Hobe Sound. Brian Ribaric stated that it is still being considered but was separated from this project for additional coordination at District Four. It is on the books and they anticipate the team will begin to work on that. Commissioner Troy McDonald also inquired about a possible interchange on SR76. Brian Ribaric stated that after review of the plan it wasn't a feasible location due to the distance between interchanges and the significant impacts to the neighborhood and Jack James roadway network. Commissioner Ciampi inquired about sound walls. Brian Ribaric explained that for the mainline widening part typically the noise barriers are the first things they put up.

**B. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT)
FY23-FY27 PUBLIC HEARING REPORT-DRAFT
TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM.**

Beth Beltran introduced the item to the Board. She welcomed District Four Secretary Gerry O'Reilly, and Steve Braun of FDOT District Four. Mr. O'Reilly introduced the District Four staff that were present. He presented the Draft Tentative Work Plan and promoted the Target Zero model to the Board. Mr. O'Reilly stated that they are almost finished with the lighting study along A1A Hutchinson Island and would probably recommend lights at the roundabout and crossing for safety. He stated he would have

FDOT staff reach out to the HIPI Group to meet and talk with them before they publish the study for their input.

Commissioner Troy McDonald asked how we can get people to stop speeding and to wear their seatbelts since it is one of the causes of fatalities. Mr. O'Reilly stated that other countries have speed cameras, ultimately the need for strict enforcement is key.

Steve Braun FDOT District Four presented the FY23-FY27 Draft Tentative Work Program.

He noted the following "Key Projects":

- SR 710/SW Warfield Boulevard at Tommy Clements Street, construction advanced to FY23
- SR 76/Kanner Highway from SE Cove Road to SR 714/Monterey Road, landscape construction advanced to FY23
- SR 710 from Martin/Okeechobee Co. Line to FPL Power Plant Access Road, design continues and is fully funded in FY23
- SR 710/SW Warfield at CR 714/SW Martin County, flatten curve - design phase continues in FY23
- SR 76/Kanner Highway @ SW South River Drive, construction funds added in FY26
- SR 5/US 1 at NW Sunset Boulevard, construction funds added in FY27

Commissioner Ciampi expressed concern over the timetable for the SW South River Road.

Mr. Braun explained that this is for the right turn lane but noted that he would follow up with the traffic operations office regarding the recommendation for a flashing signal to warn drivers of the turn or intersection ahead, since it is on a blind curve.

He explained that after FDOT receives approval from the MPO Board, FDOT-District 4 will submit the Tentative Work Program for approval by the Legislature. The Work Program returns to the MPO in the spring as the basis for the coming year's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Commissioner Matheson inquired about the US1 Southbound right turn lane at Kanner Highway. He requested that FDOT look into a pedestrian refuge or obtain enough right of way for pedestrian safety. He also expressed concern as it relates to the Sailfish East Coast Greenway pathway, since the connection from Downtown Stuart to North of the old Roosevelt Bridge is a pedestrian pathway that is only a 3 feet edge in width and is widely used by fisherman. He asked if a cantilever multimodal path connected to the existing drawbridge has been considered. Mr.

Braun stated that as part of the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Project, he was not sure if it was evaluated. Commissioner Campo inquired as to if FDOT is looking at Brightline and how it will affect the Turnpike and I-95 traffic. Mr. Braun stated they are looking at the rail system and all commuter services.

Gerry O'Reilly, District Four Secretary said there is no data for Brightline since it is not yet running to Orlando. He stated that Brightline said they would be running ten trains a day so it might slow down the number of cars on the road but doesn't change it.

Commissioner Campo supported many options for multimodal transportation to big cities. Commissioner Hetherington said there has been concern raised over the increase in development in Indiantown and that SR 710 was taken off the schedule for widening.

A motion to approve the FDOT FY23-FY27 Public Hearing Report - Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Commissioner Troy McDonald and seconded by Commissioner James Campo the motion passed unanimously.

C. FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM FY23-FY27

Victoria Williams, Florida Turnpike, presented the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Tentative Five-Year Work Program for FY23-FY27. She explained that they continue to make significant project investments in District Four, including widening the Turnpike through Martin County. In addition, the Turnpike is proposing a project to improve traffic operations for north-south through trips that provides a connection between I-95 and Florida's Turnpike near the existing I-95/Bridge Road Interchange.

A motion to approve the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Tentative Five-Year Work Program FY23-FY27 was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Troy McDonald the motion passed unanimously.

D. VISION ZERO PLAN UPDATE

Stewart Robertson of Kimley Horn & Associates introduced their efforts to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan. This Plan will incorporate Vision Zero initiatives to move towards reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero. This project includes partner coordination through a Vision Zero Stakeholder Committee, coordination on priority action items, developing policy and programs that support bicycle and pedestrian safety, and identifying demonstration projects to raise awareness of innovative bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Lastly, it pursues an evaluation process of the effectiveness of the Congested Management Process (CMP) and strategies that are necessary to report on the MPO's adopted Safety Performance Measures. He explained that Kimley Horn held Stakeholder Committee Meetings and are planning on holding a public Open House in February 2022 as well. The website is: www.visionzeromartin.com He stated there is a link to an interactive map on the

website so the public can make place-based comments. Many comments have already been received.

Commissioner Troy McDonald asked if there was a tool to determine near misses as it relates to the study. Mr. Robertson said that many universities use camera systems that monitor traffic and pedestrians. He also said that the interactive map with public input is another way to obtain data on how we can study those areas. Commissioner Hetherington asked that the County include this interactive map on their website and maybe have MCTV do a video to obtain as much data that you can. Commissioner Matheson commented that the main objective is to reduce speeding on the roadway with more enforcement which is what Sewall's Point does to reduce speeding in their town. Mr. Robertson stated that it also comes down to how the roadway is designed. FDOT has been working on speed management techniques.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NONE

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

NONE

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

NONE

12. NOTES

- Letter from FHWA-Federal Certification of the Port St. Lucie TMA Planning Process-Martin MPO
- Letter from Representative John Snyder-Delegation Meeting/Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding shortfall.

Beth Beltran gave a brief overview of the notes. Commissioner Hetherington also thanked FDOT for expediting the Kanner Highway Landscape Project, as well as their patience for the Dixie Highway Project.

NEXT MEETING

MPO Board Meeting – December 13, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

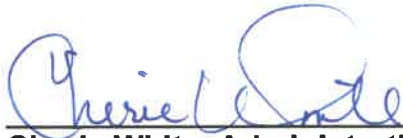
ADJOURNMENT: 11:25 AM

Approved by:



Doug Smith, Chair

Prepared by:



Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

Minutes Approved on December 13, 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.