

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**

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

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Vice Chair John Patteson

2. ROLL CALL

CAC Members in Attendance:

John Patteson, Vice Chair
Cindy Greenspan
Hilary Young
Ann Kagdis
David Hafner

CAC Members Excused:

Amy Eason, Chair
Saadia Tsafarides
Trent Steele

CAC Members Not in Attendance:

Al Zilg
Helen McBride

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike, MPO Liaison
Ron Kareiva, FDOT District Four SIS Coordinator
Vanita Saini, FDOT (Virtual)
Maria Formoso, FDOT (Virtual)
Kurt Lehman FDOT (Virtual)

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda moving item 5C before 5B was made by David Hafner and seconded by Ann Kagdis, the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 9, 2021 CAC Minutes was made by David Hafner and seconded by Cindy Greenspan, the motion passed unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FY22 - FY26 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #1 - ROLL FORWARD.

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner introduced Amendment #1, Roll Forward amount to the FY22-FY26 Transportation Improvement Program. He explained the roll-over funds are for use in various public transit programs, highway, and Turnpike projects, for a total amount of approximately \$7.8 million.

Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike, MPO Liaison summarized the list of Turnpike projects listed in the amendment. She explained that many of the projects are following the PD&E Study of a 37- mile segment of the Turnpike, from Jupiter to Ft. Pierce. She pointed out that the Roll Forward funds listed as project engineering is an administrative placeholder. She said they are working closely with Martin and St. Lucie counties and will come back with a larger recap of the PD&E study.

A motion to approve was made by David Hafner and seconded by Hilary Young, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5C was heard after Item 5A.

C. COVE ROAD AND HIGH MEADOW PROJECTS-FDOT MULTIMODAL SCOPING

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner introduced the items to the Committee. She explained that the two projects, Cove Road (FM# 4417001) and High Meadow (FM# 4416991) on the updated Scheduling Report are being brought forward to discuss recommendations to include in FDOT's Multimodal Scoping Checklist (MMSC). This MMSC aims to implement the Department's Complete Streets policy and recognizes that Complete Streets are context-sensitive and require transportation system design that considers local land development patterns and built form. While maintaining safety and mobility, Complete Streets shall serve the transportation needs of transportation system users of all ages and abilities.

She explained that on the south side of Cove Road, it was recommended that a shared use pathway be installed as opposed to a sidewalk for the safety of pedestrians and school children attending Anderson Middle School and the Treasure Coast Academy.

David Hafner suggested that the shared use pathways accommodate golf carts since there are numerous golf cart communities along High Meadow. Joy Puerta said that they would need to assure the amount of right-of-way is available. Maria Formoso, of FDOT said that everything would be taken into consideration.

B. STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM (SIS) POLICY PLAN UPDATE.

Beth Beltran introduced the item and explained that the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is Florida's high priority network of transportation facilities important for moving people and freight, linking Florida's regions, and investing in strategic transportation facilities. FDOT is updating the SIS Policy Plan, which sets the policy direction for designating, planning, and implementing the SIS. It is developed in consultation with statewide, regional, and local partners.

Ron Kareiva, FDOT presented the process for updating the SIS Policy Plan; its various components; emerging trends and focus areas including safety, resilience, technology & innovation, urban mobility & connectivity, and rural mobility & connectivity; and the initial thoughts for potential changes in the plan. He explained the plan is updated every 5-years. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator expressed concern into why FDOT recognizes only deep-water ports for (SIS) funds, where in Martin County waterways are a big part of the local economy and inland waterways are not considered a mode of transportation. She explained that the Okeechobee Waterway that goes from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean is not eligible for SIS funds. She also requested that FDOT look at double tracking the tracks in downtown Stuart across the St. Lucie River since those tracks will be used for passenger and freight trains.

Ron Kareiva, FDOT, conducted an interactive polling program with the audience as part of the SIS Policy presentation. He encouraged the committee to also submit their questions or comments directly to him or at their email www.sisinfo@dot.state.fl.us. He also announced there will be a virtual room launched soon where you can go into a website with exhibits of the policy in real time.

The Committee members and audience participated in the interactive poll providing input to the questions. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, mentioned that a tax for owners of electric vehicles may be needed, since they're not contributing to the maintenance of the roadways through the gas tax.

Ron Kareiva, FDOT stated that this item was brought forward at the last legislative session but did not pass.

At the conclusion of the interactive polling Mr. Kareiva, stated that the (SIS) Policy Plan schedule includes an MPO Board presentation, followed by a draft plan in December 2021 with a formal public comment period, and adoption by FDOT in February 2022.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Hafner asked how the MPO Board receives the feedback from the CAC Committee.

Beth Beltran explained that the information is provided to the MPO Board either in agenda items, or if it involves a specific area, she will provide that directly to the Board.

Cindy Greenspan asked what areas fall under the SIS in Martin County? SIS facilities in Martin County include I-95, the Turnpike and SR 710. Ms. Beltran explained that an example of a project on an SIS facility was the addition of a turn lane on State Road 710 at the Tommy Clements intersection, where there were several fatalities.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

8. NOTES

a) Florida New Law Update.

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner presented the new law update as it relates to CS/SB 950 — Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety from the Committee on Transportation. The bill addresses issues relating to bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Vice Chair Patteson asked how the information about the new laws would be disseminated to the general public, specifically the motorist. Joy Puerta explained that as part of the passing of the new law FDOT has a public relations campaign to educate the public.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

CAC/TAC/BPAC Joint Meeting - October 18, 2021 @ 1:30 PM Meeting

10. ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 A.M.

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda, and no additional comments a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Kagdis and seconded by Cindy Greenspan the motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by:


Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

2-4-2022
Date

Approved by:


, CAC Chair

2-2-2022
Date

Amy Eason

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.