

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

Martin County Administration Building 4th Floor Workshop Room
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 @ 1:30 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

TAC Members in Attendance:

Lisa Wichser, Chair
Michelle Berger, Vice Chair
Kim DeLaney
Stuart Trent
Mark Cocco
Kev Freeman
Samantha Lovelady
Tim Voelker
Mira Skoroden
William Powell
Sam Carver
Ken DeAngeles

TAC Members Excused:

TAC Members Not in Attendance:

Althea Jefferson

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, MPO Planner (Bike/Ped)
Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

John M. Podczewinsky, FDOT, Planning Supervisor
Ron Kareiva, FDOT District Four SIS Coordinator
Maria Formoso, FDOT (Virtual)
Victoria Williams, FDOT/Turnpike, MPO Liaison (Virtual)
Sergeant David Rosko, Martin County Sheriffs Department

A quorum was present.

Kim Delaney announced that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is working with the Federal Railroad Administration on a trespass mitigation summit with registration forthcoming.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda amending item 5B as Information only was made by William Powell and seconded by Kim Delaney, motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- TAC Meeting – June 7, 2021

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2021 was made by Sam Carver and seconded by Mark Cocco, 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 and transportation projects for a total amount of \$7.8 million dollars.

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 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 the FY22-FY26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1-Roll Forward was made by Michelle Berger and seconded by Samantha Lovelady, motion passed unanimously.

Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III announced that Michelle Berger and Samantha Lovelady are present and arrived after the roll call.

B. STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM (SIS) POLICY PLAN

Beth Beltran introduced Ron Kareiva, FDOT who 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 five years. He conducted an interactive polling program with the audience as part of the SIS Policy presentation. Mr. Kareiva

encouraged the committee to submit their questions or comments directly to him or at their website 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.

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

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator provided an explanation of the project development process for an FDOT project. In the past the BPAC complained that when priority projects are submitted for FDOT funding, sometimes the final product does not exactly reflect the final priority project. For example, a project that requested bicycle lanes ends up with paved shoulders instead. Therefore, the BPAC requested if FDOT could provide an update on the projects in the five-year Work Program to learn where the projects were in the system. So as part of this process, we have brought two projects forward to discuss recommendations to include in FDOT's Multimodal Scoping Checklist (MMSK).

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner introduced the two items to the Committee. She introduced the Cove Road project first, explaining that the project is a widening project that will expand the roadway from a 2-lane undivided roadway to a 4-lane urban roadway for a length of 3.23 miles. The cross section submitted for the TRIP grant application included a 4-lane urban roadway with 6 foot sidewalks and seven foot buffered bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway. MPO staff recommended a shared-use pathway be included on one side, preferably the south side for the safety of pedestrians and school children attending Anderson Middle and the Treasure Coast Academy. A shared-use pathway along this corridor is consistent with the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Master Plan.

After a lengthy discussion, the members of the TAC Committee discussed the speed limit along the corridor and noted that nobody drives the speed limit and there needs to be the opportunity to provide street trees and medians along Cove Road. Chair Lisa Wichser noted that the sidewalk needs to be separated with a curb with street trees. The Committee also discussed reducing the travel lanes, and Kev Freeman recommended giving up the buffered bike lane for more 10' – 12' multi-modal facilities with landscaping. The discussion continued about increasing the school's storage lanes and how parents are parking all over. Kim Delaney suggested providing a narrower bike lane with a shared use pathway. She then continued if there is an opportunity to shift any on-road bike facility to a grade separated shared use pathway, that would do a better job to accommodate more users.

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner noted that if there were room for all the facilities, this would provide an integrated system of sidewalks, bike lanes and a shared-use pathway along the corridor; however, she did not think there was enough right of way to include them all. Chair Ms. Wichser noted that the typical section that included seven-foot buffered bike lanes and six foot sidewalks on both sides should be enough room to accommodate sidewalks on both sides and a separated bike path on one side. Samantha Lovelady noted that the middle school may become a high school. Kim Delaney explained the level of perceived cyclist stress increases with the speed of the roadway, and most

cyclists avoid the buffered bike lane and choose to go to a path that is off the roadway. She suggested a bike lane as well as a shared use pathway, with shade trees if the right of way is available.

Sergeant David Rosko stated that any excessive landscape buffer, above waist height makes law enforcement difficult.

Kim Delaney gave a brief explanation as to how speeds limits are determined on roadways. Maria Formoso, FDOT stated that it would be the responsibility of the County to set the speed limits along County roadways. Joy Puerta, MPO Planner explained that at certain speeds there are limitations to the width of bike lanes. Kim Delaney reiterated that the consensus seems to be wider shared use paths and narrower bike lanes. The committee agreed the least amount of pavement the better. Maria Formoso, FDOT stated that all roads FDOT are designing, that are local roads, they have to design per the Florida Design Manual.

Ms. Lovelady stated that the Growth Management Department and the Board of County Commissioners have approved quite a few new developments between Salerno and Cove Road. Ms. Wichser said that they consider all those development impacts during the PD&E study.

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner announced the additional item for discussion was High Meadows. She explained that it was recommended to add a shared use pathway along the east side for the residential access.

After a short discussion, it was a consensus by the committee members to support the shared use pathway.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisa Wichser gave a brief update to the committee on several roadway projects.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- None

8. NOTES

a) Florida New Law Update

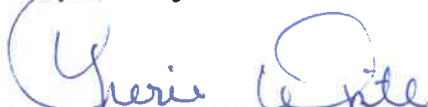
Joy Puerta, MPO Planner introduced the item and directed the committee to the new law regarding cyclists, effective July 1, 2021.

9. NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT : 3:02 P.M.

Prepared by:



Cherie White, Administrative Specialist III

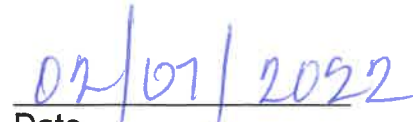


Date

Approved by:



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