



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING**
Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Monday, April 18, 2022 @ 9:00 am

MINUTES

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

PRESENT:

Troy McDonald, Chair
Doug Smith, Vice Chair
Commissioner Edward Ciampi
Commissioner Harold Jenkins
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Merritt Matheson

REPRESENTING:

City of Stuart Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
Martin County Board of County Commission
City of Stuart Commission

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Council Member Guyton Stone
Commissioner James Campo

Village of Indiantown Council
Town of Sewall's Point Commission

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Cherie White, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Reverend Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church
Lisa Wichser, Martin County Engineer
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering
Christina Fermin, Marlin Engineering
Mira Skoroden, FDOT

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

MPO Policy Board Meeting – February 21, 2022

A motion to approve the MPO Policy Board Minutes of February 21, 2022 was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. HOBE SOUND NORTH CORRIDOR SUN TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Christina Fermin, Marlin Engineering, presented a visual Sun Trail Feasibility Study presentation to the Policy Board.

The following members of the public came forward and offered public comment:

Daniel Stetler came forward and expressed concern over the proposed trail along Gomez Avenue.

Michael Macleod came forward in support of the proposed Gomez Avenue trail. He explained it would be a safer corridor for the school children.

Beverly Halstead came forward and expressed concern over the proposed trail along Gomez.

Jeff Teach came forward and stated that traffic safety is very important. He stated he is an avid bicyclist and supports a separated bike path and supports the proposed trail on Gomez.

Bruce Montefusco came forward and expressed concern over the proposed trail on Gomez and stated Dixie Highway is a better alternative.

Blake Capps came forward and stated that there needs to be better outreach to the residents on Gomez. He expressed concern that the recent drainage work would be impacted if this trail is put in along Gomez.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins stated that bicyclists will continue to ride Gomez Avenue since it is a safe alternative over US 1, and there is no chance of getting the right of way from FEC along Dixie Highway.

Commissioner Doug Smith was not supportive of adding the trail to Gomez Avenue. He did say that there are some good trails that go through neighborhoods and once they're built, people like them. He suggested looking at the cost to acquire the right of way property along A1A behind Heritage Ridge on the East side. He added that there needs to be a bigger discussion about where these trails should be in the first place, where is the master plan and how does this fit into the big picture. He said that the County needs to decide where it should go and if we need to acquire right of way, they should look at that and not spend any more money on Gomez until we have fully explored for alternative routes.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington agreed with Commissioner Smith to look at other options. She did suggest continuing additional outreach to the Gomez Avenue corridor property owners.

Commissioner Ciampi agreed that there needs to be a plan and asked what the project timeline was.

Beth Beltran explained that they're looking at construction 10-15 years out.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins suggested looking at an alternative path from US 1 around the Macarthur property, through the State Park and meander through that property down to Flora Road, out through Flora Road into Johnathon Dickinson Park to the proposed connection point. He supported pausing this project until we have input from the Gomez Community.

Commissioner Merritt Matheson agreed about the FEC right of way. He stated that we must look at crash data and compare the roadways and their speed limits. He asked about the impacts to vehicular traffic and vehicle traffic calming if a trail was added to a roadway and/or reducing the road width, what does the data show? He also asked to look at A1A without touching the easement but wanted to clarify that his priority is safety.

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering came forward and explained that the data shows that when roadways are reduced, and paths or structures are added it creates a safer or traffic calming effect.

Commissioner Smith requested to see the right of way study of A1A and also the MPO trails plan to see where that stands and how this can link together, and asked if there is a way to shift over further to the West. He suggested stepping back and looking at the plan in a different setting from this.

Commissioner Troy McDonald agreed with Commissioner Smith and stated this is a destination route that should provide a safe environment but those cyclists who ride regularly will most likely continue to ride on the road. He was interested in the plan Commissioner Jenkins described and stated we should step back and look at alternatives.

A motion to approve that staff go back to the drawing board, do further outreach to the Gomez community to further engage, and to further look at some of the alternatives that have been presented, and to have the consultants prepare updated information and conduct one-on-one conversations with the Board members so that the Board can better understand the project, was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a closed captioning break at this time.

B. TITLE VI PLAN UPDATE

Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner, introduced the agenda item outlining Title VI Plan updates.

A motion to approve the Title VI Plan Updates was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT FY23-FY24 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator introduced the agenda item outlining the Draft FY23-FY24 UPWP, which is a federally required document and updated every two years. The UPWP is necessary for Martin County to be able to receive Federal and State transportation funds. The Martin MPO begins its fiscal year in July and ends June 30th. She explained that they have not received any comments from FDOT to date but hope to have them by the next Board meeting.

A motion to approve the Draft FY23-FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.

D. FY20/21-FY21/22 UPWP DE-OBLIGATION OF PL FUNDS AND UPWP REVISION 7/AMENDMENT.

Joy Puerta, Planner, introduced the agenda item outlining the de-obligation of UPWP funds that are not going to be spent in the current Fiscal Year (FY). The de-obligation process is necessary in order to make the funds, \$78,000, available in the first year of the FY 22/23 – FY 23/24 UPWP that starts on July 1, 2022. As part of the de-obligation process an amendment is required. Staff is requesting the Board approve two items, the UPWP revision to de-obligate the funds, and to authorize the chair to execute the amendment and Resolution 22-03.

A motion to approve the UPWP revision to de-obligate the funds, and to authorize the chair to execute the amendment and Resolution 22-03 was made by Commissioner

Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. The motion passed unanimously.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - NONE

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Hetherington stated that she would like to put comments on the record for Vision Zero from this Board, that in addition to the analysis of regular traditional data, we should be taking local input into consideration if we are going to achieve the Vision Zero Mission. Beth Beltran stated that at the May 9th Policy Board meeting the Vision Zero study will be presented and suggested that at the June meeting it would be a good time to let FDOT know that based on the study just completed the importance of local input and that it should be factored into decisions on how projects are funded.

Commissioner Smith thanked Commissioner Hetherington and stated he is a member of the Florida Long Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee and that issue has been raised many times. He suggested this Board address a letter to the Long Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee, and to the Regional Planning Councils around the State and agrees that there needs to be data to justify doing certain things, but when a local jurisdiction defines that there is a dangerous intersection or a dangerous situation that needs to be addressed that doesn't fit the standard of criteria, there needs to be a way, either the MPO or the County or City Commission, to step out of that traditional box and make a determination that something needs to be done, like a traffic light at South River.

He stated that there needs to be a change in the way the FDOT is thinking if Vision Zero is going to be achieved and there must be another way to get there, other than crash and speed statistics. He said the letter needs to be drafted now to the Long-Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee at FDOT and copy that letter to all the Regional Planning Councils. Beth Beltran stated she would like to see the letter accompany the adopted Vision Zero plan since it incorporates what is described as local input, for example, the interactive map that records near misses. Commissioner Smith said that by putting this in writing now and on the record that we have talked about this, they need to address these comments at the upcoming meeting.

A motion to draft a letter for signature by the MPO Chair to the Long-Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee and Regional Planning Councils regarding Vision Zero and local input for safety issues was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Merritt Matheson said he would like to see a buy-in from other MPOs. Chair Troy McDonald requested adding a copy of the letter to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC).

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT - NONE

12. NOTES

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 AM

Approved by:



Troy McDonald, Chair

Prepared by:



Cherie White, Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved on May 9, 2022

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.