

# MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD MEETING

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

[www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com)

(772) 221-1498

April 15, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vinny Barile called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. PRAYER - Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church

## 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 4. ROLL CALL

### Members in Attendance:

Vinny Barile, Chair, Town of Sewall's Point Mayor

Doug Smith, Vice Chair, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Edward Ciampi, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Stacey Hetherington, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Harold Jenkins, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Eula R. Clarke, City of Stuart Commissioner

Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart Commissioner

Anthony Dowling, Village of Indiantown Council Member

### Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Joy Puerta, Planner

Brigitte Wantz, Administrative Specialist III

### Others in Attendance:

Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church

Chad Rucks, FDOT

Dan Hiden, FDOT

Dave Jefferson, FDOT

Elizabeth Farrar, Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative

Dotti Lanci, Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative

Jim Wiswesser, Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative

Paula Sesta, City of Stuart

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 Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner (Title VI/Non-discrimination Contact) at (772) 288-5412 or [bgomez@martin.fl.us](mailto:bgomez@martin.fl.us) in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711

Milton Leggett, City of Stuart  
Lisa Maack, Marlin Engineering  
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering  
Yi Ding, St. Lucie TPO  
Victoria Williams, Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
Christine Fasiska, FDOT  
Yanique Kelly, FDOT  
Joe Yesbeck, Managing Principal, T.Y. Lin International  
Vikas Jain, Project Manager, T.Y. Lin International

A quorum was present for this meeting.

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Vice Chair Doug Smith. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Doug Smith to approve the February 18, 2019, minutes as presented and seconded by Commissioner Ed Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Elizabeth Farrar presented information for Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. (HIPI) a Florida nonprofit corporation committed to preserving and protecting Hutchinson Island in Martin County. HIPI is a membership organization open to anyone who is committed to preserving and protecting Hutchinson Island in Martin County. She noted that a recent petition to oppose the proposed lighting on Hutchinson Island received over 200 local signatures. Ms. Farrar offered an invitation to take a look at the website located at <http://hipi.ch2v.com> which ensures accurate and up to date communications for Hutchinson Island property owners and the general public on local area projects and environmental issues.

## **8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR TO THE LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (LCB-TD)**

**A motion was made to nominate Commissioner Eula Clarke as the Chair to the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged by Vice Chair Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Ed Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) APPLICATION**

Mr. George Dzama, Martin County Capital Projects Manager, presented the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application. He explained that the proposed Salerno Road sidewalk project includes a north side 6 foot sidewalk between SE Willoughby Boulevard and SE Cable Drive. The sidewalk and pedestrian crosswalk will provide safety connectivity to residential communities, Indian River State College, Robert Morgade Library, Pinewood Elementary School, and Martin Health System. The total cost of the application is \$338,000 including construction costs of \$290,000.

**A motion was made to approve the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) application by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Ed Ciampi. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **C. DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Mr. Bolivar Gomez presented the Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services. The LRTP is updated every 5 years and is the foundation for the MPO setting the tone for future planning activities and decision making. The scope identifies 10 tasks that the consultant will oversee including the overall production and management to ensure satisfactory completion of the established LRTP schedule and budget. The tasks include (1) Public Involvement Plan (PIP); (2) Data Compilation Review and Summary; (3) Establish LRTP Goals, Objectives, Policies and Performance Measures (GOPPMs); (4) Travel Demand Forecasting; (5) Congestion Management Process Update; (6) Additional Elements; (7) Needs Assessment; (8) Financial Resources; (9) 20-Year Cost Feasible Plan; (10) 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Submittal and Finalization. Compared to the previous 2040 plan there were a few updates including emerging technologies of electric and autonomous vehicles. T.Y. Lin International, one of the MPO's General Planning Consultants (GPCs), will be preparing the 2045 LRTP. Mr. Joe Yesbeck, Managing Principal of T.Y. Lin International and Mr. Vikas Jain, Project Manager, were introduced.

**A motion was made to approve the Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services by Board Member Anthony Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **D. CITY OF STUART TRAM BUSINESS PLAN**

Ms. Lisa Maack from Marlin Engineering presented the City of Stuart Tram Business Plan with data on research, funding, and budget. The Tram system transported almost 50,000 passengers in 2017. Currently, the operating and maintenance costs are funded by the Community Redevelopment Agency at \$100,000 per year in addition to a 3-year FDOT Public Transit Service Development Program Grant. The City of Stuart provides the 50% local match for this Service Development Grant that expires at the end of June 2019. She touched on the scope of the project with evaluating the current system,

ridership data charts, and the coordination of building a 5-year financial plan to improve mobility and alleviate congestion in the downtown area. The free service runs 7 days a week and is comprised of 6 vehicles traveling on 2 routes with 14 stops, 4 park and ride locations, and Marty public transit bus service connections. Riders can easily access the service by flag-down and on-demand methods. The 2017 Tram ridership data shows a budget that incorporates the purchase of new vehicles. Ridership comparisons were explained, encompassing time-of-day use, weekday vs. weekend, and special event tally increases. A goal statement of "Continue to Plan, Operate and Maintain the Downtown Stuart Tram consistent with a Vision of enhanced mobility and economic development for the Downtown Stuart Area" was developed with specific objectives to guide the plan for FY2019 through FY2025. Opportunities for funding through public private partnerships (PPP), tax revenues, and grants were mentioned. Tram objectives for moving forward included efficiency and effectiveness. Jeff Weidner from Marlin Engineering continued the presentation, speaking about the 5-year deficit; the City will need to market the service and seek additional potential funding opportunities for expansion. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for paid parking in the downtown Stuart Area. The City of Stuart currently offers free downtown parking. It was noted in the Tram Business Plan that a significant amount of revenue can come from paid parking and that it could be used to fund the Tram service. With no current infrastructure for parking fee collections, it may take up to a year for implementation. Special event and advertising revenue opportunities were suggested and included reaching out for regional funds or matching grants for additional Tram shelters and new vehicles. There was discussion as to the priority of the Tram with the City of Stuart. Board Member comments included community feedback of residents who did not initially accept the progressive plan of service but are now engaged with the consistency of opportunities. Possibilities of downtown parking included discussions for free parking in remote areas and premium parking near popular businesses. Partnerships with events planners and business owners are needed for consistent and realistic funding. A rider demographic is needed to categorize residents, employees, and visitors and if each utilizes the service by year round, seasonal, or one-time rider basis. There was discussion as to the City of Stuart covering the entire cost of the service to benefit the success of the City.

**A motion was made to approve the City of Stuart Tram Business Plan by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.**

**9. COMMENTS FROM FDOT - None**

**10. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None**

**11. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Comments from the Board encompassed the status of Cove Road, including school and student safety concerns, priority list project designation, and any opportunities of expediting the project to high priority for completion. An update by Commissioner Hetherington regarding the SE River Road/Kanner Highway intersection comprised of a recent meeting with FDOT and the initiation of the traffic analysis to include Martin

County. Mr. Dave Jefferson was introduced and offered the status of the Kanner Highway project. The projected timeline includes 1-2 weeks for completion to pave the 3 northbound lanes and 3-4 additional weeks to complete the punch list items and traffic study. Questions ensued regarding pedestrian crosswalk safety at the intersection of US1 and Kanner Highway and the possibility of the State and County working together. The June 2019 completion of the Murphy Road and 714 lane expansions and addition of bicycle lanes were discussed. Commissioner Hetherington welcomed Hilary Young as her appointee to the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

**12. NOTES**

Noted was the modification to the FY2018/19-FY19/20 Unified Planning Work Program for the transfer of funds for consultant services, staff salaries, and travel/training budget costs.

The FDOT packet includes the joint State certification form for Board Chair signature which states that Martin MPO will follow all Federal process requirements.

The MPO received a letter from FDOT District 1, as well as correspondence from Okeechobee County, Heartland Regional TPO, and City of Okeechobee supporting the inclusion of the CR 714 re-alignment project with the SR 710 widening project. Additional dialogue included traffic signal comments, intersecting area questions, and a suggestion to send a thank you letter to each supportive local government.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

May 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. (Administrative Center Commission Chambers)

**14. ADJOURN**

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, Chair Vinny Barile adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**Approved by:**

  
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Vinny Barile, Chair

**Prepared by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brigitte Wantz, Administrative Specialist III

**Minutes approved on:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date