

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, February 17, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Doug Smith 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:

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

Harold Jenkins, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Stacey Hetherington, Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Eula R. Clarke, City of Stuart Commissioner

Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart Commissioner

Members Absent

Edward Ciampi

James Campo

Anthony Dowling

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner

Joy Puerta, Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Reverend James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

Eric Penfield, RS&H

Gus Schmidt, T.Y Lin

Christine Fasiska, FDOT

Victoria Williams, FDOT-FTE

Brian Ribaric, FDOT-FTE

Dali Hidel, FDOT-FTE

A quorum was present for this meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Minutes

- Regular Meeting – December 9, 2019

A motion to approve the December 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name
Betty Mulholland
Bob Spuhler
Michael Koverman
Richard Thomas
Kathy Mentasana

With no additional public comment, the Chair opened the floor to Board member comments. Commissioner Hetherington thanked the South River residents for their comments and Secretary O'Reily for sending Mark Plass and Nadire Rodriguez from FDOT to meet with residents. She provided a summary of the meeting and it was suggested to update the traffic study and capture volume between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and would review potential site obstructions and determine conflicts mentioned by residents, evaluate existing travel speeds, and would evaluate the frequency and duration of traffic gaps. They would also evaluate the effect of the narrow median for navigating turns out of South River and would evaluate the effectiveness of a "no turn on red" at Martin Highway or at the bottom of the Veterans Bridge. There was discussion on the right-of-way. FDOT shared that they have started the design to remove the landscaping, but it wouldn't affect the wall up to the property. FDOT is in design phase, and traffic enforcement was a huge concern, so the Sheriff's office has been contacted about that concern. Eula Clark provided information that residents should contact City Manager David Dyess who will direct them to Growth Management and Public Works about projects in Stuart. Commissioner Doug Smith mentioned the issue was discussed in a meeting with FDOT in Tallahassee and he will continue to bring up the issue at meetings.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (LCB-TD) CHAIR AND TREASURE COAST TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (TCTC) ALTERNATIVES

A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Merritt Matheson as the new LCB-TD Chair by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to appoint Commission Harold Jenkins as the 1st alternate for the TCTC by Commissioner Merritt Matheson and seconded by Commissioner Hetherington. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to appoint Commissioner James Campo as the 2nd alternate for the TCTC by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

B. SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Beth Beltran presented the Safety Performance Targets that is a requirement by Federal Highway. Last year the MPO Board approved the states "Vision Zero" Targets for safety. Staff is recommending approval of the "Vision Zero" safety targets for the Federal Highway performance measures that have been put in place. There was discussion on "Vision Zero" and what it means. Ms. Beltran explained that "Vision Zero" is the philosophy that the state is taking, and safety is their number one priority. There was discussion on the safety targets and flexible routes. There was discussion on the safety targets and applying them to instances that do not fit the current criteria and how to reach a zero tolerance on safety without alternative for residents and having flexible routes.

A motion to approve the Safety Performance Targets was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP) ANNUAL REPORT

Bolivar Gomez presented the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Report. The objectives for the report were: to hold regular public meetings with Advisory Committees and gather information, to provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision making, engage the public early enough to get feedback and often enough so they are informed, use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public, and to receive public input on the Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit. Commissioner Stacey Hetherington commended the MPO for the job they do with community outreach. Eula Clarke commended staff and suggested information on activities for public involvement highlighted on the website.

A motion to approve the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Annual Report was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Eula Clarke. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

D. FY19/20-FY23/24 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Beth Beltran presented the FY19/20-FY23/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. FDOT is requesting this TIP amendment to add more money in the Transportation Disadvantaged Program to provide more trips to that program.

A motion to approve the FY19/20-FY23/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment was made by Commissioner Eula Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

E. TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP) APPLICATION

Ricardo Vazquez presented the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application. Martin County is applying for the grant for FY25/26. TRIP funds require a minimum 50% local match. The total TRIP estimated is \$2,700,000 the funds will be used for SE Cove Road from SR-76 (S Kanner Highway) to SR-5 (US-1 / SE Federal Highway). This project will be widening the facility of Cove Road from 2 to 4 lanes with additional turning lanes, along with six-foot sidewalks and buffered bicycle lanes. The application will be presented to the BOCC meeting on February 25, 2020 to get approval to apply then through the Regional Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC) process to have the application added into the regional priority list then sent to FDOT for approval of funds for the project. The deadline for submittal is February 28, 2020. The MPO is coordinating this effort and Martin County will be applying for the TRIP application. Beth Beltran clarified that the match can be provided by using MPO funds. There was discussion on testing the Complete Streets Program against the TRIP application and flexibility or buffered bike lanes. Ms. Beth Beltran explained that FDOT has money programmed for a PD&E Study and during the study they look at alternatives and the MPO has informed the project manager of the Complete Streets: Access to Transit Study. Ms. Beltran recommended approval of the TRIP application and at the next meeting in April, Kim DeLaney will present the Complete Streets final presentation and at that time she would recommend as part of that approval recommending that staff write a letter to FDOT stating the concerns about including the Complete Streets Study components for Cove Road. Commissioner Doug Smith mentioned the Complete Streets Study should be a part of FDOTs review process.

A motion to approve the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Merritt Matheson. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

F. FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT PLAN

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering presented the Freight and Goods Movement Plan update, including the scope and schedule, statewide and local freight efforts, and stakeholder input. The project team will come before the committee two more times, the 2nd meeting will be to bring data and analysis and the third meeting will be the draft report presentation. Mr. Weidner explained that the scope is to provide a stand-alone freight plan. Scope task activities are literature & best practices, stakeholder coordination, data collection & mapping, freight context, and alternatives (improvements & recommendations). Currently the team is doing an analysis and looking at land use and freight compatibility to provide recommendations which may also include educating private and public sectors about freight. FDOT is creating a statewide freight plan of improvements and Monterey Road at the FEC Railroad crossing, SR-710, I-95 and the Florida's Turnpike are on the list. Goals and Objectives are safety & security, efficient & reliable mobility, economic competitiveness, and quality places. Best practices are to integrate freight into livability into communities and designing roadways to accommodate freight. Stakeholder input included recommendations on roadway conditions & design, incident management, public outreach & education, autonomous vehicles, truck parking, and railroad crossings. There was discussion on Kanner Hwy, 710 accident rates, maps, updates on railroad activity, and alternative routes for Highway 27.

G. SR-9/I-95 MULTIMODAL PLAN

Eric Penfield presented an update on the SR-9/I-95 Multimodal Master Plan. There have been some policy changes that affected the plan. The project was originally called the added capacity laboring designation of a general-purpose lane and now it is called a managed lane. The project is a Tri-County Master Plan that analyzes short and long-term needs, and flexibility of added capacity. Managed lane strategies are access control, vehicle eligibility, and pricing/tolling. The effect to the master plan with managed lanes is added capacity, future flexibility, and future technology and innovation. The need for the I-95 mainline is adding 16-feet to roadway width. Potential impacts to the environment and right-of-way. There will be no impact to the I-95 Interchange. Next steps in the process is to meet with the MPO Board to discuss managed lanes and gather feedback, revise the conceptual design, then provide an update of the report to include managed lanes. PD&E study is scheduled for 2025, and a follow-up public workshop will be held in the spring. The expected completion timeframe for the master plan is in the summer. There was discussion on driveway diamonds and them not being a good idea.

Break 10:45am to 10:50am

H. FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE PROJECT UPDATE – PD&E STUDY INDIANTOWN RD/SR 706 TO OKEECHOBEE RD/SR 70

Brian Ribaric, PD&E Project Manager, presented the project update for Florida's Turnpike PD&E study from Indiantown RD/SR 706 to Okeechobee RD/SR 70. The scope of the

project is to widen Florida's Turnpike from Indiantown Road to Okeechobee Road, which covers three counties and adds one service plaza. Some challenges faced in the project include the Florida Gas Transmission (FGT) within a right of way, I-95 FDOT Master plan, Loxahatchee River, and the Thomas B. Manual Bridge. Proposed Improvements are to widen roads from 4 lanes to 8 lanes and push tolling to the west, modifying existing interchanges as well as develop new interchanges. The existing interchanges that will be modified are SR 714/SW Martin Hwy., Becker Rd., Port St. Lucie Blvd., and SR 70/Okeechobee Rd. The new or potential locations is the I-95 direct connection which will be done in another PD&E study, Crosstown Pkwy., and Midway Rd. Multiple concepts were developed to analyze interchanges, feasibility criteria included driver expectancy, right-of-way needs, welding impacts, contamination, level of service, and safety. Mr. Ribaric discussed expected modifications to each location listed.

Open houses will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Indian River State College, Wolf Center 2400 SE Salerno Rd., Stuart, FL 34997 and on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center, Port St., Lucie, FL 34952. The same information will be discussed at both meetings which will include noise barrier walls. There was discussion on why Kanner Highway and St. Lucie West dropped off the list and why there is no access to the Turnpike from Bridge Road. Commissioner Smith suggested that if funds were taken from the spaghetti map it would probably work and would like the concepts to be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Ribaric explained that there is a strict connection between I-95 and the Turnpike. To relieve traffic on Indiantown is the purpose of the I-95 project. The Board would like to see the concepts come back to the next meeting. There was discussion on High Meadows turnpike access, showing all alternatives to residents so they can see the available options being presented to alleviate traffic congestion and make turnpike access easier.

9. COMMENTS FROM FDOT- None

10. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

11. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington discussed the heavy truck traffic on Highway 710. Area at Clemottsville is dangerous because people pass at no passing areas and there have been several potential accidents. She wanted to know what the status of the traffic analysis being conducted by FDOT was. Christine Fasiska explained that she would speak with traffic operations. Commissioner Smith requested that Ms. Fasiska provide information on study to Ms. Beth Beltran once received. Commissioner Hetherington mentions that it is also difficult to enter 710 from Indiantown.

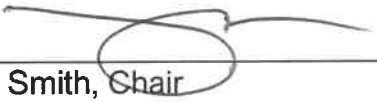
12. NOTES-None

13. NEXT MEETING – April 20, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURN

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments, Chair Doug Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Approved by:



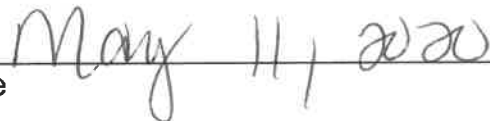
Doug Smith, Chair

Prepared by:



Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

Minutes approved on:



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