

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING**

John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library

2351 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

October 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Joan Moore.

2. ROLL CALL –

Members in Attendance:

Joan Moore, Chair

Ken Natoli, Vice Chair

Julie Preast

John Trahan

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas

Carlos Morales

Members Absent Excused:

Hal Forslund

Members Absent:

Evelyn Dodd

Dawn Arvin

Don Fabricy

Jan Icyda

Kevin Docherty

Sgt. George Yacobellis

Sgt. Brian Bossio

Chris Ross Wade

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran

Joy Puerta, Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Florence Allen, Adm. Specialist III

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

Helen James, FDOT

July Jimenez, FDOT

Damaris Williams, FDOT

Larry Wallace, FDOT

A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 14, 2020 Minutes was made by Ken Natoli and seconded by Julie Preast. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT STUDY

Mr. Jeff Weidner of Marlin Engineering presented the draft recommendations for the Freight and Goods Movement Plan. Mr. Weidner discussed the scope of the plan which focused on stakeholder engagement, reliability of the freight industry's freight and goods plan and integrating goods movement needs into community design. Input from stakeholders included roadway conditions and design, truck parking and mapping, incident management, public outreach and education, railroad crossings, and waterways. Policy recommendations include establishing a Martin MPO Freight Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ken Natoli responded with discussions on High Meadow Avenue, including whether there is a justification to go from 2 to 4 lanes. Also, he can identify no difference between Martin Downs and Martin Highway since they are both community oriented and not diverse and changing Martin Downs from Matheson to Palm City Road from 2 to 4 lanes is going to be tough. Julie Preast provided clarification that the railway bridge going over the St. Lucie is just under 100 years old and articles have been sent to the County Engineer Lisa Wichser if that date needs to be confirmed. The committee asked about the grade separation at Monterey and the project timeframe and noted as previously discussed, it is to establish connectivity for bicycle lanes so it should be listed as a high priority project.

Julie Preast thanked Marlin Engineering for their work. The Freight and Goods Movement Study was most impressive, and it addressed every area and it was very easy to read.

A motion to approve recommending the Freight and Goods Movement Study to the MPO Policy Board for adoption was made by Julie Preast and seconded by John Trahan. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

B. VISION ZERO INITIATIVES – SCOPE OF SERVICES

Joy Puerta presented the Vision Zero Initiatives Scope of Services. As stated within the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act planning factors, metropolitan areas should "increase safety for motorized and non-motorized users." FDOT has expanded on this concept further by becoming a Vision Zero area, with a goal of zero fatalities across

the state within the Florida Transportation system. The Martin MPO's FY20/21 – FY21/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan/Vision Zero Action Initiatives in Task 6. The intent of this plan is to provide consultant services to develop a plan that includes several required activities that recommend safety countermeasures (infrastructure and non-infrastructure) based on the identification of potential hot spots for bicycle and pedestrian crashes throughout the county. This includes collecting and analyzing bicycle and pedestrian counts and crash data and developing counter measures at select locations to create safer, more convenient and attractive bicycle and walking environments. Ms. Puerta mentioned that during the Joint CAC/TAC meeting there were concerns about the bicycle/pedestrian counts that were included in the scope regarding the different areas and the 24-hour counts. After meeting with the County Engineer, Section 2.2 was taken out and the scope will go before the MPO Policy Board without that section. The MPO will work with the County Engineer later to determine the timing of the count. The MPO will use one of its General Planning Consultants, Kimley-Horn and Associates for this work effort.

There was discussion on the cost of the study and it not being utilized. It was noted that evaluation criteria are a good idea so that there is information for staff to look back at to see if there were improvements. It was mentioned in the newspaper that Pedestrian deaths were at 6,283 people and it's a 46% increase since 2010. Ms. Puerta explained that the scope will establish a baseline and since the performance measures require a response/report on a yearly or bi-yearly basis the information will provide the means to see where the project is going. It was noted that it is imperative that someone from the BPAC be on the Stakeholder Committee because the bicyclist and pedestrians are the stakeholders. The timing for the project is very good because due to COVID-19 more people are riding their bicycles and walking. There was a question regarding police being involved on the stakeholder committee and the City of Stuart police should be included. Ms. Puerta informed the committee that the police are included.

A motion to approve the Vision Zero Initiatives – Scope of Services was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken Natoli. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

C. KANNER HWY (SR 76) RESURFACING PRESENTATION – INFORMATIONAL

Damaris Williams of FDOT presented the Kanner Highway (SR 76) Resurfacing presentation. Ms. Williams discussed the project limits for SR 76/Kanner Highway Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resurfacing from North of SW Cabana Point Circle to SR 5/US 1. Proposed improvements include roadway, drainage, signing and pavement marking, lighting elements, along with watermain replacement. Proposed improvements also include high emphasis crosswalk striping at the intersections of Monterey Road and US1, new contrast detectable warning surfaces at US1 curb ramps, and replacing the sidewalk in areas of drainage repairs. Drainage improvements included the video inspection to evaluate the existing drainage system, drainage pipe and structure replacement at roadway settlement locations, and drainage pipe lining at other pipe

segments. Watermain improvements included the City of Stuart's watermain replacement in areas of drainage improvements with no interruption to water service. Ms. Williams also discussed construction impacts to traffic, the project schedule and cost.

Ms. Puerta stated that during the Joint CAC/TAC meeting Committee members recommended that the double left turn going north/east on Kanner Highway onto northbound US1 should be changed to a triple left to replace one of the thru lanes, incorporating wider sidewalks by combining the existing 2-foot paver strip with the existing sidewalk and suggested the separate US1 southbound right turn lane onto Kanner Highway be included with this project. Ms. Williams said that she would check the feasibility. There was discussion on the project that included; adding bicycle lanes or a multiuse lanes, reducing lanes, taking 1 foot to 2 feet out of the median, adding a small concrete divider, reducing the speed limit, the need to provide connectivity for bicycle/pedestrians and the importance of contacting the nearby high school. Committee members agreed with the recommendations made by the Joint CAC/TAC members. Ms. Williams will take the recommendations back to FDOT.

D. US1 RESURFACING PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATIONAL

Ms. July Jimenez presented the resurfacing project on SR-5/US1 From North of NW Jensen Beach Blvd to Martin/St. Lucie County Line. She discussed the project limits and a project overview to include proposed improvements and the project length. Ms. Jimenez also discussed the new East-West crosswalk that is being added at SE Westmoreland Blvd, lighting retrofits, proposed improvements from Jensen Beach Blvd. to Sunset Blvd, proposed improvements from Sunset Blvd. to St. Lucie County Line, and the project schedule. Project completion is estimated for early 2023 and the estimated project cost is \$2.6 million dollars.

Ms. Puerta stated that at the Joint CAC/TAC meeting, members wanted to know if FDOT would consider a modified Dutch intersection at US1/SE Westmoreland Blvd. and at US1/NW Eugenia Street where the medians would be extended forward with cut-throughs for the crosswalks, providing a refuge for pedestrians. Committee members agreed with the recommendation made by the CAC/TAC Committee. There was discussion on the project limits and adding connectivity for bike lanes. Ms. Jimenez confirmed that connectivity will be added for bicycle lanes.

Ms. Helen James presented the resurfacing project on SR-5/US1 from SE Contractors Way to North of NW Jensen Beach Blvd. She explained the scope of the project, programmed budget, and the project schedule. The scope includes pavement resurfacing/rehabilitation, lighting retrofits at signalized intersections, and ADA upgrades. The project is anticipated to start in October 2021 and is expected to last 18 months. The budget for the project is \$0.9 million for design and \$7.6 million for construction. Ms. Puerta mentioned that during the Joint CAC/TAC meeting Committee members recommended that FDOT install 8-foot wide sidewalks in locations where sidewalks are currently missing on the east side of the corridor, north of the Roosevelt Bridge; one location is from Wright Blvd. to Baker Road, and the other is between NW Windemere

Drive and NW Britt Road. There were discussions regarding the area south of the Roosevelt Bridge, including reducing traffic lanes, adding bike lanes, removing the light poles from the middle of the sidewalk and putting an extension on the bridge at Frasier Creek.

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie Preast explained that there is a lot of frustration with projects that have been discussed at the meeting. She wishes for frustration, comments, and suggestions for improvements to be accentuated to the MPO Board at the October 19, 2020 meeting. She feels that there is legitimate reason for raising the comments discussed at this meeting. She asks MPO staff to make sure that the MPO Policy Board is aware how strongly the BPAC feels about improvements.

Ken Natoli wanted to know when the next regular BPAC meeting would be. Ms. Puerta informed him that it is February 8, 2020. He wanted to know the status of the SUN Trail application and would it be discussed at that meeting. Ms. Puerta will provide an update.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

8. NOTES - None

9. NEXT MEETING

Joint CAC/BPAC/TAC Meeting – November 30, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

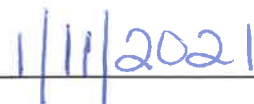
10. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Prepared by:



Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist, III



Date

Approved by:



Joan Moore, 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, Associate 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.\