

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 221-1498

www.martinmpo.com

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Saadia Tsafarides

2. ROLL CALL

CAC Members in Attendance:

Saadia Tsafarides, Chair
Cindy Greenspan
Ann Kagdis
Hilary Young
Blake Capps
Howard Lyndon Brown

CAC Members Excused:

John Patteson, Vice Chair
Helen McBride

CAC Members Not in Attendance:

Trent Steele

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering
James Brown, FDOT-FTE
Jessica Mackey, Kittelson & Associates
Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson & Associates
Edward Ng, Corradino Group
Larry Sofield

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Blake Capps and seconded by Hilary Young. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 3, 2023 CAC Minutes was made by Blake Capps and seconded by Ann Kagdis. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FINAL DRAFT FY24-FY28 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Beth Beltran gave a brief overview on the Final Draft FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She mentioned the TIP is the document that contains all Federal, State and regionally significant transportation projects to be funded in Martin County during the next five fiscal years. This document is updated annually and is based on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four Tentative Work Program that was approved by the MPO Board on December 12, 2022. The Final Draft FY24 – FY28 TIP is scheduled to be adopted by the MPO Board at the June 19, 2023 meeting. She requested approval and was available to answer questions.

A motion to approve the Final Draft FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Cindy Greenspan and seconded by Blake Capps, the motion passed unanimously.

B. TRANSIT EFFICIENCY STUDY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Beth Beltran introduced Jessica Josselyn from Kittelson & Associates, who gave a presentation on the Transit Efficiency Study Analysis and Recommendations. The purpose of this study is to describe the existing MARTY system (services and ridership) and to review the adopted Transit Development Plan (TDP), socioeconomic trends, travel patterns, travel corridors, demographics trends, regional transit challenges and barriers. The study shall identify fixed-route needs and community transit opportunities that will address transit system inefficiencies.

Saadia Tsafarides suggested that Saturday service is needed and how most people are off on Saturdays and would like to do their errands on that day but there is no bus service. Jessica Josselyn stated that the model is showing Saturday service is an attractive service and regardless of what the computer tells us, we know people need to go places on Saturdays that may not have other opportunities to travel.

Blake Capps inquired about where we could get the resources to increase frequency and adding bus stops. Jeff Weidner stated that there are a lot of opportunities for grants. He is most familiar with the grant offered by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Every year they have an annual cycle of grants, in fact, MARTY's 20X is being funded by the Corridor Grant. There is also a Service Development Grant which has a 3-year sunset. FDOT will fund it and come the fourth year, the local government will have to decide if they want to continue or end the service. They have a Park and Ride Lot Grant; this is an annual grant, and it is underutilized. There are new opportunities with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grants. There is one called "Connecting Communities" which is for transit. Mr. Weidner and his team will be exploring all State and Federal opportunities as part of the TDP.

Howard Lyndon Brown asked what exactly is the hybrid scenario? Jessica Josselyn stated that the hybrid scenario is essentially all the strategies that were mentioned. There may be some they want to pull from the ridership scenario and some from the coverage scenario and that would be considered a hybrid.

Ann Kagdis mentioned that there are more residential developments coming in Jensen Beach and many are older people that no longer drive. She shared her concern and asked if there is going to be a route that travels on Jensen Beach Boulevard to the Treasure Coast Mall. Jessica Josselyn stated that is one of the areas that is included in the report. Jessica then asked the committee to vote on which model they preferred.

After a lengthy discussion, the six members present at the meeting voted unanimously for the Transit Efficiency Study "Hybrid" Model.

C. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) SCOPE OF SERVICES

Beth Beltran introduced Jeff Weidner, from Marlin Engineering, who gave an overview of the TDP Scope of Services. In Florida, a TDP is required by the State for recipients of Public Transit Block Grant program funding and is regulated by FDOT. A TDP serves as the basis for defining public transit needs, which is a prerequisite to receive State Block Grant funds. Beyond regulatory and administrative requirements, the TDP is intended to serve as 10-year strategic plan for MARTY. The TDP will define public transportation needs, solicit broad input by coordinating with other plans, involve substantial public participation and explore community goals with decision-makers and other stakeholders, define alternative courses of action, and develop a systemic plan and monitoring program. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

A motion to approve the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Scope of Services was made by Blake Capps and seconded by Ann Kagdis, the motion passed unanimously.

D. STATE ROAD (SR) 710 FEASIBILITY STUDY

Beth Beltran introduced Ron Kareiva with FDOT-District Four, who gave a presentation on the State Road (SR) 710 Feasibility Study. This study to investigate roadway safety improvements on SR-710 from Okeechobee County to FPL Power Plant Access Road is underway (FM# 419252-3). Additionally, a left turn lane on westbound SR-710 at SW Tommy Clements Street will be starting construction in the Summer of 2023. The widening of SR-710 is the Martin MPO's #1 Priority. On March 2, 2023, the MPO Board sent a letter to FDOT Secretary Perdue requesting the widening of SR-710 from two lanes to four lanes from Okeechobee County to CR-609/SW Allapattah Road.

Blake Capps mentioned that there will be two phases of widening. The first phase being from Okeechobee County to FPL Power Plant Access Road and the second phase is from the FPL Power Plant Access Road down into the Village of Indiantown. He asked what would be the rationale for looking at it that way. Beth Beltran shared that after the PD&E study it was split into those two segments because of the availability of funding.

E. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW INTERACTIVE MAP UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner, who gave brief overview of the Development Review Interactive Map Update. Ricardo presented the map and reviewed the changes, which included the addition of projects from the List of Project Priorities (LOPP) that have received funding for construction. This information will assist the MPO Board in making decisions related to transportation project priorities. He was available to answer questions.

F. FINAL DRAFT FY25-FY29 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)

Beth Beltran gave a brief overview of the Final Draft FY25-FY29 LOPP. At the MPO Policy Board meeting on February 27, 2023, the Board approved the Draft FY25 – FY29 LOPP. Scoping Forms for the newly added CR-609/Allapattah Road (Priority #14) and SW Citrus Boulevard (Priority #15) projects were submitted to FDOT. Priority #9 (NW Alice Street) was edited to include the realignment of Alice Street with Wright Boulevard. The Board also made the widening of SR-710 its #1 Priority. The final LOPP will be presented at the MPO Board meeting on June 19, 2023. She requested approval and was available to answer questions.

Blake Capps asked what the general concept of resurfacing is and would this be a State funded resurfacing whereas the local government decides to do its own resurfacing apart from State activity. Beth Beltran stated that these are 3R resurfacing projects and primarily funded by Federal funds so the local government would not be paying any money for these projects. Mr. Capps asked what triggers Federal funds for local road resurfacing. Beth Beltran mentioned that a roadway must have a Federal Functional Classification to be eligible to be funded through the MPO process and that would include a maintenance project such as resurfacing or a capacity project, such as widening or adding a turn lane.

A motion to approve the Final Draft FY25-FY29 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) was made by Cindy Greenspan and seconded by Ann Kagdis, the motion passed unanimously.

G. NEW MPO WEBSITE

Beth Beltran introduced Edward Ng, from The Corradino Group, who gave a presentation on the New MPO Website. The new Martin MPO website includes improved features such as a meeting calendar, document/minutes/agenda archive, emphasis areas, announcements, comment intake, and improved search functions. Also, the MPO is celebrating its 30th year and the website will be live at the end of June.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8. NOTES

9. NEXT MEETING

- CAC Meeting – September 6, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

10. ADJOURNMENT: 10:23 A.M.

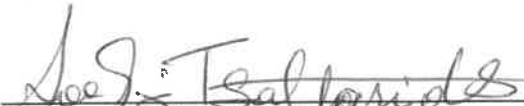
Prepared by:



Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

9/22/23
Date

Approved by:



Saadia Tsattarides, CAC Chair

09/06/2023
Date

Minutes Approved on September 6, 2023

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 in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.