

Public Involvement

Annual Report

2023



WORKSHOP DETAILS
& FORMAT

Ideas should have received a handout and a set of stickers.

Handout includes the presented alternatives.

Alternative to rank your order of preference (only one dot per board per person)

SW Palm City Road Traffic Calming board, only if you are in favor of the determined preferred alternative at the primary intersection.

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS!

THE CORBRADINO GROUP

Table of Contents

- A. Introduction 2**
- B. 2023 Event Snapshots 3**
- C. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Objectives 8**
 - Objective 1 9
 - Objective 2 10
 - Objective 3 12
 - Objective 4 13
 - Objective 5 16
 - Objective 6 16



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Introduction

Each year, the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) assesses the effectiveness of its public outreach techniques and strategies to ensure that funds and time are invested efficiently and only after consultation with the public on a regular and as-needed basis. The MPO measures its overall performance by conducting a Public Involvement Annual Report. In doing so, the MPO evaluates the Objectives and Strategies detailed in the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), adopted on February 21, 2022.

This Annual Report aims to showcase the MPO's public involvement efforts in 2023 and review the objectives and strategies listed in the PPP to assess if/when they were met during the 2023 calendar year. To access the previously approved 2022 Public Involvement Annual Report, visit www.martinmpo.com.



Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN Trail Feasibility Study Open House at Hobe Sound Civic Center – 1/11/23



US-1 at SW Palm City Road Intersection Feasibility Study Open House at Stuart City Hall – 3/8/23



**Transit Efficiency Study Open House
Robert Morgade Library – 3/29/23**



Bike to School Day at Crystal Lake Elementary – 5/17/23



US-1 at SW Palm City Road Intersection Feasibility Study Open House at Flagler Place – 8/8/23



Walk to School Day at J.D. Parker Elementary - 10/4/23



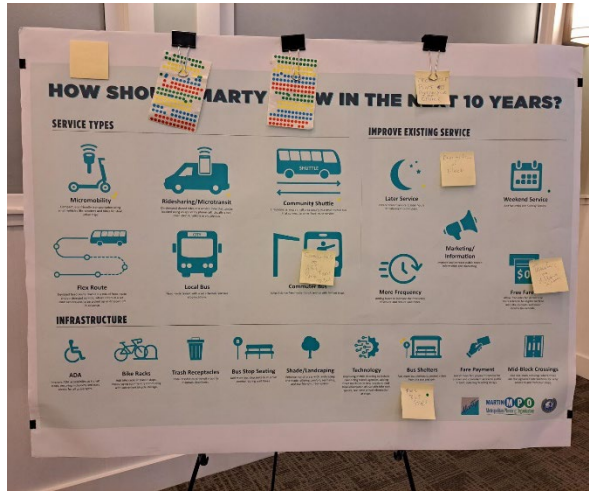
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Mobility Week Art Walk Event in Downtown Stuart - 11/3/23



Transit Development Plan (TDP) Open House in Golden Gate – 12/6/23



TDP Open House in Downtown Jensen – 12/7/23



Public Participation Plan Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1



Advisory Committee Meetings

Hold regular public meetings with MPO advisory committees to obtain feedback on all documents, projects, and funding determinations before consideration by the MPO Board.

OBJECTIVE 2



Equitable Access

Provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision-making.

OBJECTIVE 3



Engage the Public

Engage the public early, often, and with clarity so that opportunities exist for public feedback in the transportation decision-making process.

OBJECTIVE 4



Public Involvement Methods

Use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public.

OBJECTIVE 5



Transit Feedback

Gather public feedback on the Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit.

OBJECTIVE 6



Strive to Improve

Strive to continuously improve the public participation process.

OBJECTIVE 1



Advisory Committee Meetings

Hold regular public meetings with MPO advisory committees to obtain feedback on all documents, projects, and funding determinations before consideration by the MPO Board.

STRATEGY 1A

Advisory committee positions are filled

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): 100% filled
- Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC): 83% filled
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC): 75% filled
- Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC): 100% filled
- Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD): 88% filled
- Overall Percentage of Committee Positions filled in 2023: 90%
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 90%; Measure: ≥ 80%)**

STRATEGY 1B

Advisory committees receive meeting notices, agenda items, and information at least 5 days before meetings

- 100% of Advisory Committee meeting notices and information were sent at least five days before the meeting.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: ≥ 80%)**

STRATEGY 1C

Advisory committee recommendations/actions are presented to the MPO Board

- In 2023, committee members had opportunities to provide comments and recommendations to the MPO Board for planning studies and products such as:
 - FY24 - FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - FY25 - FY29 List of Project Priorities (LOPP)
 - Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study
 - Community Characteristics Report 2023
 - US-1 at SW Palm City Road Feasibility Study
 - Transit Efficiency Study
 - Transit Development Plan (TDP) Scope of Services
 - US-1 Congestion Management/Public Outreach Scope of Services
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

OBJECTIVE 2



Equitable Access

Provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision-making.

STRATEGY 2A

Meetings and events are held at convenient times and locations

- In 2023, the MPO held over 30 public meetings at various times of the day as well as different locations in Martin County, such as the County Administrative Center, Hobe Sound Civic Center, Jensen Beach Community Center, Flagler Place in Stuart, City of Stuart City Hall, and Lamar Howard Park in Golden Gate.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

STRATEGY 2B

Persons with disabilities are provided access to information and participation opportunities.

- All meetings are held in ADA-accessible locations and project-related information is made accessible to vision-impaired persons by using the “Searchable” feature of Adobe Acrobat Pro.
- In addition, Persons with Disabilities are represented on the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to provide input.
- The public is also notified on how to access accommodations as needed. All meeting notices, agendas, and staff e-mails contain information regarding nondiscrimination or who to contact if special accommodations or language translation services are required.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

STRATEGY 2C

Public involvement activities are geographically dispersed throughout the MPO area.

- MPO staff held a Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study Public Meeting on January 11, 2023, at the Hobe Sound Civic Center.
- MPO participated in Mobility Week during the First Friday ArtWalk event in Stuart, where staff shared safety information/items.
- MPO staff hosted a Transit Development Plan (TDP) public meeting at Lamar Howard Park in Golden Gate on December 6th, and in Downtown Jensen Beach during Jammin’ Jensen on December 7th.

- The US-1 at SW Palm City Road Intersection Feasibility Study had two public workshops held for the project. The first workshop was hosted on March 8, 2023, at the City of Stuart City Hall Commission Chambers. The second workshop was hosted on August 23, 2023, at Flagler Place in downtown Stuart.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

STRATEGY 2D

Public involvement activities and events target a diverse group of participants.

- MPO staff continues its Safety Social Media Campaign with key components for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, Nighttime Visibility Safety Awareness and Mid-Block Safety Awareness.
- On January 11, 2023, MPO staff held a Hobe Sound Corridor SUN Trail Feasibility Study Open House at the Hobe Sound Civic Center.
- MPO staff held a public meeting at the Lamar Howard Park in Golden Gate on December 6th.
- MPO staff conducted safety-related campaigns throughout the year, such as the Walk to School Day at JD Parker Elementary on October 4th, the Bike to School Day on May 17th at Crystal Lake Elementary, as well as participating in a downtown Stuart Artwalk Event during the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Mobility Week.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

STRATEGY 2E

Public information is available in a format for traditionally underserved populations.

- The MPO continues to contract with LanguageLine Solutions, a nationwide leader in the field of translation and interpretation services. The service provides over-the phone, face-to-face and videoconference interpreting and document translation services. This provides the MPO access to more than 200 languages.
- Flyers for the January 11, 2023 Hobe Sound SUN Trail Open House were developed in both English and Spanish.
- Flyers, surveys, and other printed materials were developed in Spanish and English for the Transit Development Plan.
- Martin MPO's website is easily translated into different languages with the use of Google Translate.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

STRATEGY 2F

The MPO maintains an up-to-date database of contacts that regularly receive information.

- The MPO maintains an up-to-date database of contacts that regularly receive information.
- **Evaluation: Strategy Achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

OBJECTIVE 3



Engage the Public

Engage the public early, often, and with clarity so that opportunities exist for public feedback in the transportation decision-making process.

STRATEGY 3A

Public information regarding MPO actions is available in different formats and easily accessible.

- Documents are available in a searchable format that accommodates the visually impaired.
- MPO meetings are televised live on local Martin County Television (MCTV) Channel 20 and U-verse Channel 99; past meetings can be viewed “on demand” on the Martin County website.
- MPO meeting minutes and agendas are easily accessible on the Martin MPO website.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 3B

The MPO responds to public inquiries within seven working days of the date of receipt.

- Martin MPO utilizes the electronic public inquiry system “Request for Service”. This allows the request to be tracked from the time of inquiry until the time of resolution.
- All public inquiries were addressed within seven working days.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 3C

Meeting notices and information are available at least five days prior to meetings.

- 100% of meeting notices and information were made available at least five days before meetings.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved (Satisfaction 100%; Measure 80%)**

STRATEGY 3D

MPO will provide follow-up information to groups on project process and comments received.

- During each MPO public meeting, staff shares information related to public comments and recommendations.
- After MPO Meetings, staff shares relevant information with all committee members and Board members.

- MPO staff provides follow-up notices and information to groups in the form of meetings, flyers, or updates to the website.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 3E

Public participation opportunities will be made available at key decision-making milestones.

- The FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) review period was advertised for 45 days prior to adoption. Advisory Committee members and Board members were able to provide comments on the Draft FY24-FY28 TIP in May and the Final FY24-FY28 TIP during the June 2023 cycle of meetings.
- The FY25-FY29 Draft List of Project Priorities was presented at the Advisory Committee meetings and Board meeting in February 2023 and the final LOPP was presented during the June 2023 cycle of meetings.
- Hobe Sound Corridor SUN Trail Study Public Meeting was held at the Hobe Sound Civic Center on January 11, 2023, to gain input from the community regarding the final conceptual alignment for the East Coast Greenway trail connection.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 3F

Public feedback is incorporated into transportation decision making.

- Comments received from the public were shared with the MPO Policy Board members.
- Comments and feedback from the public were incorporated into several of the Martin MPO's plans and studies, such as the Transit Efficiency Study, the Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study, the Community Characteristics Report, and the US-1 at Palm City Road Intersection Feasibility Study.
- Record of public comments and how they were integrated into the transportation planning process maintained by MPO staff.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

OBJECTIVE 4



Public Involvement Methods

Use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public.

STRATEGY 4A

The MPO utilizes varied public involvement techniques.

- Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study Public Meeting was held on January 11, 2023. This meeting was held in the Hobe Sound Civic Center and scheduled right before the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting.

- The Martin In Motion Facebook page has continued to share safety messages and also provides updates on current MPO work products and public events.
 - The Martin MPO Website shares announcements on upcoming meetings and special events and hosts all MPO documents.
 - MPO Staff members participated in Walk to School Day with staff from J.D. Parker Elementary on October 4, 2023, to promote safe walking.
 - Staff participated in a Bike to School event at Crystal Lake Elementary School on May 17, 2023, to teach students how to properly wear a helmet and how to ride a bicycle safely.
 - Staff engaged the public during the US 1 at SW Palm City Road Intersection Feasibility Study Open House on August 23, 2023, where the attendees were asked to rank their preferred alternatives for the intersection.
 - During the development of the Transit Efficiency Study, surveys were conducted to gain input from the public on their preferred transit service improvements.
 - MPO staff used surveys during the development of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) to learn how the public views transit and what enhancements they would like to see within the next 10 years.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 4B

The MPO conducts surveys on the effectiveness of public outreach techniques.

- During MPO public meetings, members of committees and the general public during sign-in are asked if meetings are scheduled at convenient days and times.
 - The MPO included a survey in the Winter 2023 edition of the MPO Newsletter “On the Move” which asked readers to answer questions regarding their preferred time for meetings and their preferred methods of public outreach.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 4C

Public information is available in languages other than English, as appropriate, or in other means to address disabilities.

- The MPO partners with Google to offer a unique option on its website that translates the site into more than 75 languages.
 - The MPO maintains a contract with LanguageLine, a translating service available for written, on-site, and telephone translations to accommodate more than 200 languages.
 - Currently, one Spanish-speaking professional is on staff.
 - During the development of the Transit Efficiency Study and the Transit Development Plan, surveys and public outreach materials were produced in both English and Spanish.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 4D

The MPO uses varied website tools to provide information.

- MPO staff continued to use its traditional website as a means of providing information to the public (www.martinmpo.com). All pages of the MPO website are available in more than 75 languages.
- The MPO has an interactive web-based TIP that will allow users to see each project on a map, research financial information for specific projects, and generate customized reports.
- MPO staff utilizes social media to share meeting event information and safety messages.
- Staff continued the Bicycle and Pedestrian Virtual Safety Awareness messages with key components for Nighttime Visibility Safety, Mid-Block Safety, Bicycle Safety and Pedestrian Safety as part of the Vision Zero Plan. Awareness Messages continued to be published in the County Connection Digital Newsletter and the Martin MPO Martin in Motion Social Media Account.
- Martin MPO staff developed a Development Review Interactive Map to assist the MPO Board in prioritizing projects in relation to planned developments.
- MPO staff introduced three new social media campaigns that included:
 - Schools Out Campaign
 - Back to School Campaign
 - Aggressive Driving Campaign
- The Martin MPO developed a new website, which included improvements to the event/meeting calendar, meeting minutes and agenda archive, plans and studies archive, and the search function.

❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 4E

The MPO uses the website to track public interest in activities.

- Martin MPO uses Google Analytics to track activity on the website.
- Activity is tracked on the Development Review Interactive Map.
- The Martin MPO Facebook page and Instagram profile (Meta Business Suite) allows staff to receive notifications when someone comments, likes, or shares an announcement from the MPO.

❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 4F

The MPO maintains and uses a social media presence to provide information and receive feedback.

- Martin MPO uses Facebook and Instagram to maintain a social media presence.

❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

OBJECTIVE 5

Transit Feedback



Gather public feedback on the Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit.

STRATEGY 5A

Request the Martin County Section 5307 Program of Projects (POP).

- The MPO collaborates with Martin County Public Transit to inform the public about transit projects. In doing so, the public can provide input on the Program of Projects and be involved in the prioritizing of the Program of Projects for funding. During the June 2023 Advisory Committee meetings, individuals had the opportunity to comment on the Public Transit POP. The MPO Policy Board also reviewed the POP on June 19, 2023.
- **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 5B

POP will be included in the MPO List of Project Priorities (LOPP) and presented at the CAC, TAC, BPAC and MPO Policy Board meetings.

- The POP was included in the LOPP and presented to the CAC, TAC, BPAC and MPO Policy Board.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

OBJECTIVE 6

Strive to Improve



Strive to continuously improve the public participation process.

STRATEGY 6A

Review, revise, and re-adopt the PPP at least once every 3-5 years, amending as necessary in between.

- The PPP was adopted on February 21, 2022. MPO staff has reviewed the PPP and does not have any recommended changes to the document at this time.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 6B

Continuously evaluate public participation techniques and strategies, changing or adding as necessary.

- MPO staff produces an Annual Report to determine the effectiveness of its public outreach.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

STRATEGY 6C

Produce a Public Involvement Annual Report each year using Methods of Effectiveness (MOE) to monitor performance.

- An Annual Report has been produced. All strategies have been achieved.
- The 2023 Annual Report is available on the Martin MPO website, and available upon request.
- ❖ **Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**