

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

Martin County Administrative Building, Commission Chambers  
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

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

(772) 221-1498

**Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 2:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting started officially at 2:03 P.M. and was called to order by Julie Preast, Vice Chair.

**2. ROLL CALL** – Anthony O’Neill-Butler, MPO Administrative Assistant, called roll.

**BPAC Members in Attendance:**

Julie Preast, Vice Chair  
Bonnie Moser  
Rachel Dumas  
Michael MacLeod  
Hal Forslund

**Members Excused:**

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, Chair  
Don Fabricy  
Mike Bocchino  
Bradford Davey  
Arlette Cataldo

**Members Absent:**

Jody Garrett

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner  
Lucine Martens, Planner  
Anthony O’Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

Keith Baker, Martin County Public Works  
Ashman Beecher, Transit Administrator  
James Brown, FDOT-FTE

Robert Lopes, FDOT-District Four  
Tanya Kristoff, H.W. Lochner  
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

**A quorum was not initially present for the meeting, so the meeting began with informational Agenda Item H. A quorum was reached at 2:06 P.M.**

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Bonnie Moser and was seconded by Michael MacLeod. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

- BPAC Meeting – September 11, 2023

**A motion to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2023, was made by Bonnie Moser and was seconded by Rachel Dumas. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC** – Patrick Duran commented on Agenda Item H, Monterey Road Grade Separation at FEC Railroad Crossing PD&E Presentation. Mr. Duran expressed his concerns about the alternatives that include an elevated structure as they can be difficult to cross for bicyclists.

### **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

**\*Agenda Item H was the first item discussed. \***

#### **A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Julie Preast nominated Pinal Ghandi-Savdas as Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Pinal Ghandi-Savdas was unanimously voted for as Chair.**

**Bonnie Moser nominated Julie Preast as Vice Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Julie Preast was unanimously voted for as Vice Chair.**

#### **B. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #3**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 as a result of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) funding of design and right-of-way acquisition for the CR-714 realignment project near SR-710.

**A motion to approve Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 was made by Michael MacLeod and was seconded by Bonnie Mosser. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT - 2023**

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner, presented the Public Involvement Annual Report, which is used to help ensure public input is considered during the transportation planning process.

Bonnie Moser complimented the Martin MPO on their public outreach efforts, stating that the MPO does a great job but should try and reach more youth. Julie Preast echoed her sentiments adding that the Martin MPO’s public involvement efforts are always upbeat and creative.

**A motion to approve the Public Involvement Annual Report - 2023 was made by Hal Forslund and was seconded by Bonnie Moser. The motion passed unanimously.**

**D. DRAFT FY26-FY30 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)**

Beth Beltran introduced the Draft List of Project Priorities (LOPP) to the Committee which is a list required by FDOT to determine funding opportunities within FDOT’s Work Program. Ms. Beltran called special attention to the changes to item #7, SR-710 at SW Allapattah Road, item #8, SE Commerce Avenue, item #9, US-1 at Palm City Road, and item #10, SW Palm City Road.

Julie Preast sought clarification on how projects are ranked. Ms. Beltran informed her that the important thing is to have an item on the list, which makes it available for funding.

Michael MacLeod asked if bicycle lanes would be included with the Commerce Avenue improvements. Keith Baker, Martin County Public Works Senior Project Engineer, advised that the current design included a paved shoulder, but that a bicycle lane could be further investigated. Rachel Dumas noted that repaving and resurfacing projects are supposed to include walkways and bike paths. Mr. Baker stated that he would further investigate both, but that he did not believe there would be enough room for both a sidewalk and a bike path. Bonnie Moser commented that a shared-use path would be much safer than a bicycle lane and more people would likely utilize it over a bike lane. Hal Forslund added that if we had safe, proper bike paths, we would have more people taking advantage of them.

**A motion to approve the Draft FY26-FY30 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) was made by Bonnie Moser and was seconded by Michael MacLeod. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **E. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) PROJECT APPLICATION**

Keith Baker presented the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project application for the SW Bulldog Avenue Sidewalk Project. Mr. Baker called attention to the eight-foot sidewalks suggested by the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Julie Preast asked if there were any concerns with adjusting the six-foot sidewalk to an eight-foot shared-use path. Mr. Baker advised that he was comfortable with the change and did not foresee any issues.

**A motion to approve the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Application was made by Michael MacLeod and was seconded by Bonnie Moser. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **F. 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Mr. Vazquez introduced the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services and explained that the intent and purpose of the LRTP is to encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of a cost-feasible transportation system that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight; and foster economic growth and development within the Martin County Planning Area.

Julie Preast asked if the Martin MPO was happy with the cost for the LRTP. Mr. Vazquez advised that the MPO was satisfied with the pricing.

**A motion to approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services was made by Bonnie Moser and was seconded by Michael MacLeod. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **G. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE**

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, introduced Jeff Weidner from Marlin Engineering who presented the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report Update. Mr. Weidner commented on the Technical Advisory Committee's request for an additional slide to explain the differences between Indian River County's GoLine and Martin County's MARTY system and discussed the big differences between the two systems.

Hal Forslund suggested that a route be made to take individuals to the beach and Hutchinson Island.

Julie Preast wanted clarification on the economics of the larger busses as she had previously heard that the larger busses were cheaper to operate, however, the public sees these large busses that are mostly empty, resulting in a negative perception. Mr.

Weidner advised her that the buses themselves are not cheaper, but that the cost of labor, which accounts for roughly 70% of operating costs, is more efficient. Ms. Prest went on to state that we need more bus shelters as the small bus signs are not enough and wondered if the inclusion of bike racks at every bus stop could help encourage more ridership. Ms. Prest continued that there needs to be a more concerted effort to acquire right of way to provide these facilities. Mr. Weidner stated that dedications from developers could be an option and could allow a business to make their own branded shelters or brightly colored bike racks. Ms. Prest emphasized that the commercial and residential building codes need to be adjusted to include these types of facilities and wondered why this wasn't included in the report. Mr. Weidner advised that the report contained the feedback from the TDP's public outreach and that it was an outline of objectives. Once these objectives are approved, they will be able to move forward with some of these ideas in the final report. Ms. Prest also mentioned that we should not be trying to recreate the wheel but should try to copy Indian River County's approach and that she would like to see an analysis of Indian River County's processes included in the report regarding what we can utilize here in Martin County.

Michael MacLeod questioned the amount of revenue generated by the cost of MARTY bus fares and wondered if the County would be willing to accept the loss of that revenue. Ashman Beecher, Transit Administrator, stated that \$145,000 was generated by fares. Mr. MacLeod pointed out that we are making only about 5% of the \$3 million budget from fare collection.

**A motion to approve the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report Update was made by Hal Forslund and was seconded by Bonnie Moser. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **H. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) MONTEREY ROAD GRADE SEPARATION AT FEC RAILROAD CROSSING PD&E PRESENTATION**

Robert Lopes with FDOT and Tanya Kristoff with H.W. Lochner, presented the PD&E study for the Monterey Road Grade Separation project which included nine potential alternatives. Ms. Kristoff noted that she had added an additional slide specifically relating to bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Julie Prest asked if there would be a website and, if so, would that website be through FDOT. Ms. Kristoff advised her that yes, it would be through FDOT.

Bonnie Moser, who lives in the neighborhood just north of the study area, stressed that this has been a long time, heavily residential area of Stuart and that nothing should be prioritized more than the maintenance of this residential area. Ms. Moser continued, stating that these alternatives seem tone-deaf as they would disconnect the neighborhoods and are more akin to a major highway interchange, not something one would expect near a residential community. Ms. Moser also noted that the pros of every

alternative is to increase traffic flow, which is not something the residents of this area care about, they do not want to see mass amounts of quickly moving traffic traveling through this area. Ms. Moser further stressed concerns about the lack of public involvement until June 2025, stating that this is a major misstep and a waste of time and money. Ms. Moser ultimately was not pleased with any of the alternatives.

Ms. Prest sought further information on the tunneling alternatives, asking if the tunneling option would result in the least impact to what is currently there and how it would be accomplished with concerns to the water table and local businesses. Ms. Kristoff advised that tunneling does require a greater right of way acquisition due to the extra support of the structure, but ultimately it does produce a design that appears to have a smaller blueprint. She also advised that pumps would need to be used for the impact by the water table. Regarding the impact to businesses, FDOT would put in some type of frontage road to maintain access to the current businesses. Ms. Prest stated that she felt like this option would have the least impact to the neighborhoods and the businesses.

Hal Forslund inquired about the height of the proposed bridge. Ms. Kristoff advised that the bridge would be approximately 35 feet high and would have a 23-and-a-half-foot clearance from the track. Ms. Moser suggested that when FDOT presents these options to the public, they include renderings to showcase the impact to the view shed. Ms. Prest echoed Ms. Moser's sentiments, adding that they should use 3D renderings so the public can truly see the impact.

Ms. Kristoff wanted to add that alternative 9 would allow traffic to flow and move south of the community. Ms. Prest advised that if alternative 9 would help the neighborhood, to please look at it closely.

## **I. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW INTERACTIVE MAP UPDATE**

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner, presented the Development Review Interactive Map Update to the Committee. The Development Review Interactive Map was developed to show County and municipal land developments. This information assists the MPO in making decisions related to transportation project priorities. It also serves as a vital resource for many departments and agencies.

**7. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None**

**8. NOTES - None**

### **9. NEXT MEETING**

BPAC Meeting – April 8, 2024 @ 2:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT: 3:24 P.M.**

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony O'Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

4-3-2024  
Date

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, BPAC Chair

4/3/2024  
Date

**Minutes Approved on April 3, 2024**

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 Americans 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 [rvazquez@martin.fl.us](mailto:rvazquez@martin.fl.us) in advance of the meeting. Hearing-impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.