

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Saadia Tsaftarides, Chair.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Anthony O'Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant, called roll.

**CAC Members in Attendance:**

Saadia Tsaftarides, Chair  
John F. Patteson, Vice Chair  
Hilary Young  
Blake Capps  
Larry Sofield  
Helen McBride  
Howard Lyndon Brown  
Trent Steele  
Cindy Greenspan

**CAC Members Excused:**

Ann Kagdis

**CAC Members Not in Attendance:**

**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  
James Brown, FDOT – Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
Robert Lopes, FDOT – District Four  
Tanya Kristoff, H.W. Lochner  
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering

**A quorum was present at 9:01 A.M. prior to any votes**

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Hilary Young and was seconded by Larry Sofield. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the September 6, 2023, CAC Minutes was made by Cindy Greenspan and seconded by Hilary Young. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

### **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**Blake Capps nominated Saadia Tsaftarides as Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Saadia Tsaftarides was unanimously voted for as Chair.**

**Saadia Tsaftarides nominated Larry Sofield as Vice Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Larry Sofield was unanimously voted as Vice Chair.**

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

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3. This amendment was requested by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to add funding for design and right-of-way acquisition for the realignment project at CR-714 and SR-710.

**A motion to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 was made by Larry Sofield and seconded by Hilary Young. 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 .

Larry Sofield noted that there were some openings on some of the MPO's Advisory Committees and asked what we could do to fill every position. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, referred to the MPO's plethora of public outreach, stating that this allows staff to market the MPO, reach out to our communities, and create connections that may fill these positions. However, some of these positions are appointed by the County Commissioners, and only they can fill those positions.

**A motion to approve the Public Involvement Annual Report - 2023 was made by Larry Sofield and was seconded by Blake Capps. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. 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 Complete Streets improvements.

There was a brief discussion regarding the criteria used for the ranking of different projects and their resulting rank on the LOPP. Ms. Beltran advised the committee that the most important thing is that all projects on the LOPP are available to receive funding but that the LOPP's ranking is decided by the MPO Policy Board and is useful when presenting projects to the State, like the MPO's number one priority, the widening of SR-710.

**A motion to approve the Draft FY26-FY30 List of Project Priorities was made by Cindy Greenspan and was seconded by Howard Lyndon Brown. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Keith Baker, Public Works Senior Project Engineer, presented the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project application for the SW Bulldog Avenue Sidewalk Project.

Larry Sofield wondered if a six foot sidewalk would be sufficient considering children also ride bicycles to school. Helen McBride echoed his sentiments, further stating that it should be an eight foot sidewalk. Mr. Baker stated that this was a very valid point and one that he would investigate.

Trent Steele inquired about the availability of impact fees and if those could be used as immediate funding for the project. Mr. Baker believed the impact fees had been used for the sidewalk segment that will route through the development where it will connect to this TAP project.

**A motion to approve the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Application was made by Larry Sofield and was seconded by Hilary Young. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner, 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.

**A motion to approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scope of Services was made by Larry Sofield and was seconded by Howard Lyndon Brown. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, introduced Jeff Weidner from Marlin Engineering and Jessica Mackey from Kittelson and Associates who presented the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report Update.

Larry Sofield wanted clarification on the mileage for our transit vehicles and their replacement schedule, calling special attention to the paratransit vehicles as there seemed to be a discrepancy in the mileage for a 2019 vehicle. Mr. Weidner stated that the vehicles are replaced after twelve years or 500,000 miles. Beth Beltran advised that the MPO would speak with the Transit Administrator and determine the proper mileage for the paratransit vehicles.

Blake Capps wanted to speak more about the fleet of vehicles, stating that a more varied approach with smaller vehicles may be more efficient and may also appear better to the public. Mr. Capps also sought clarification on the total amount that Martin County taxpayers pay toward the MARTY Transit System. Mr. Weidner advised that Martin County receives \$2 million in State and Federal funds and Martin County pays \$1 million annually for MARTY.

Saadia Tsaftarides, Chair, asked Mr. Weidner what type of feedback was received regarding weekend service as she believes it is needed. Mr. Weidner agreed and stated that they had received a lot of feedback regarding the need for weekend service.

**A motion to approve the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report Update was made by Larry Sofield and was seconded by Hilary Young. 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.

Discussion took place regarding the different alternatives and their impacts to the Witham Field Airport, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the local businesses.

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

Mr. Vazquez 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 and its Policy Board in making decisions related to MPO project priorities. It also serves as a vital resource for many departments and agencies.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Larry Sofield asked for an update on relations with other counties, specifically regarding the meeting that Ms. Beltran had with the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA). Ms. Beltran provided that the Martin MPO and Palm Beach TPA had shared the projects they were each respectively working on and noted how impressed the Palm Beach TPA is with Martin MPO's Freight Technical Advisory Committee. They also had a lengthy discussion on the many Complete Streets improvements that had been planned by the Palm Beach TPA. Ms. Beltran noted that the Palm Beach TPA has been extended an invitation to come and tour some of the Martin MPO's projects.

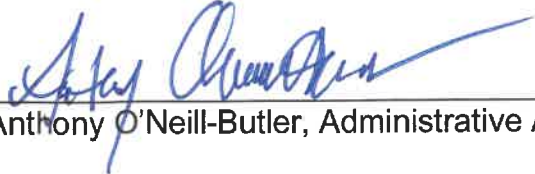
## **8. NOTES - None**

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

- CAC Meeting – April 3, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT: 11:01 A.M.**

**Prepared by:**

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

4-3-2024  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Saadia Tsaftarides, CAC Chair  
*Larry Seifield*

4-3-2024  
Date

**Minutes Approved on April 3, 2024**

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