

**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, September 6, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by Saadia Tsafarides, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

CAC Members in Attendance:

Saadia Tsafarides, Chair
John F. Patteson, Vice Chair (arrived at 9:10 A.M.)
Hilary Young (left at 10:15 A.M.)
Blake Capps
Larry Sofield
Helen McBride
Howard Brown (arrived at 9:39 A.M.)

CAC Members Excused:

Ann Kagdis

CAC Members Not in Attendance:

Trent Steele
Cindy Greenspan

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Peggy Brassard, Transit Specialist-Mobility Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering
Stewart Robertson, Kimley-Horn & Associates

A quorum was present at 9:10 A.M. prior to any votes

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 June 7, 2023, CAC Minutes was made by Helen McBride and seconded by Blake Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FY24 - FY28 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) ROLL-FORWARD AMENDMENT #1

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, sought approval of the FY24 Martin MPO Roll Forward Report/TIP Amendment #1. The Roll-Forward funds from FY23 will be added to the FY24-FY28 TIP, after being approved and signed by the MPO Policy Board Chairman. The Roll-Forward Amendment will be submitted to FDOT prior to the October 1, 2023, effective date. MPO staff recommends approval.

A motion to approve the FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program Roll-Forward Amendment #1 was made by Blake Capps and was seconded by Helen McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY23-FY24 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) REVISION 2 / AMENDMENT

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, shared with the Committee that Revision #2 / Amendment #1 is required because the MPO is increasing the FY24 budget by \$150,963. MPO staff recommends that this increase in funding be added to Task 4 - Consultant "2050 Long Range Transportation Plan" line item and Task 6 - Transportation Systems Planning Consultant "Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Map" line item. MPO staff recommends approval.

A motion to approve the FY23-FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision #2 / Amendment #1 was made by Hilary Young and seconded by Blake Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

C. FY24 - FY28 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner, shared with the Committee the four (4) modifications requested by The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to the MPO's FY24 - FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MPO staff recommends approval.

Blake Capps asked for more details on the Lighting Retrofit project. Ricardo Vazquez informed him that it is an upgrade of the lighting in the area. Beth Beltran added that the modification includes the lighting in the SW Joan Jefferson Project.

Larry Sofield asked about the priority level for the Cove Road project. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, informed him that it was #2 on the priority list after the SR-710 widening project.

A motion to approve the FY24 - FY28 TIP Modifications was made by Helen McBride and was seconded by Blake Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

D. US-1 AT SW PALM CITY ROAD INTERSECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY - ALTERNATIVES

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner, presented the five (5) alternatives being proposed to slow down traffic and lessen volume onto SW Palm City Road. Joy Puerta went through the pros and cons of each alternative and introduced the Complete Streets alternative which has been folded into each of the alternatives. She also spoke on the public workshops and their preferred choice of Alternative 5. Once an alternative has been selected by the MPO Board, the consultant will move forward with a complete conceptual design. MPO staff recommends approval.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the different alternatives.

A motion to approve Alternative 5 with a Complete Streets component was made by Helen McBride and seconded by Blake Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

E. DRAFT 2045 REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RLRTP)

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, introduced Stewart Robertson with Kimley-Horn & Associates who presented the draft for the 2045 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP). Stewart Robertson explained the new updates and improvements to the RLRTP. The next steps for the Draft 2045 RLRTP is to present it to the individual MPO's, the Treasure Coast Technical Advisory Committee (TCTAC), and the Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC) for adoption.

Beth Beltran pointed out that the MPO Board would be concerned that the widening project for SR-710 is not listed in the top ten (10) list. Beth Beltran suggested we take another look at the ranking criteria. Stuart Robertson stated that he would review the Tier 1 list and suggested that we present just the Tier 1 list for Martin County specifically at the MPO Board meeting. Beth Beltran explained that the Board would want to see the list overall and that the exclusion of the SR-710 project from the Tier 1 list would interfere with funding if it were coming from a regional funding source. Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Senior Planner, clarified that SR-710 is on the Tier 1 list, but it is not in the top ten (10).

Beth Beltran stated that she wants to ensure that the MPO Board sees this high-priority project classified as Tier 1.

A motion to approve the Draft 2045 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) was made by Blake Capps and was seconded by Helen McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

F. TRANSIT EFFICIENCY STUDY FINAL REPORT

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, introduced Jeff Weidner of Marlin Engineering. Under Task 6, the Martin MPO's FY22/23 – FY23/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies the Transit Efficiency Study (TES). The purpose of this study was to describe the existing MARTY system (services and ridership), as well as review the adopted Transit Development Plan (TDP), socioeconomic trends and travel patterns. The Transit Efficiency Study Final Report identifies various Transit Network Scenarios, some looking at ridership, some looking at coverage, and some a combination of both ridership and coverage scenarios (hybrid scenario). This Study also includes a cost analysis for these scenarios.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding additional routes, modifications, and bus stops.

A motion to approve the Transit Efficiency Study Final Report was made by Howard Lyndon Brown and was seconded by Helen McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

G. PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT TASK SCOPE OF SERVICES

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, requested approval of a Scope of Services for Professional Assistance Support. The adopted FY23 - FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) specifies that the MPO will obtain one or more General Planning Consultants (GPCs) to provide assistance to staff on a task order basis. This task order provides four (4) additional Open Houses or Listening Sessions in addition to the previous two (2) that were approved with the TDP for a total of six (6) that would cover all five Commission Districts in Martin County. The MPO will use its General Planning Consultants, Marlin Engineering, Inc. and their sub-consultant Kittelson & Associates for this work effort.

A motion to approve the Professional Assistance Support Task Scope of Service was made by Blake Capps and was seconded by John F. Patteson. The motion passed unanimously.

H. HOBE SOUND NORTH CORRIDOR SUN TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY - FINAL REPORT

Joy Puerta, MPO Planner and Project Lead, introduced Jeff Weidner with Marlin Engineering who sought approval of the final report. During the development of the study, input was received from agency and community stakeholders, the general public at three different Open Houses, MPO advisory committees and the MPO Board. The public chose the option for a separated pedestrian bike trail on the west side of US-1. Since there will be no need for right-of-way for the entirety of the project, the study found that we can consolidate the schedule and we could go into construction in 4-5 years.

Blake Capps asked what the timeline for the project would be. Jeff Weidner informed him that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is supportive of this effort, but he cannot predict the timeframe. Joy Puerta further clarified that once this recommendation is approved with the final report, FDOT will receive it and will move to the next phase, design, and then construction. The project could be completed within five (5) years.

Blake Capps also asked about the width of the sidewalks and their varying size. Jeff Weidner informed him that it mainly has to do with right-of-way restrictions and emphasized that this final report is more of a concept rather than an actual design.

A motion to approve the Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN Trail Feasibility Study - Final Report was made by Blake Capps and was seconded by Howard Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Larry Sofield was curious about the partnerships with other counties. He had seen a group that represented the Treasure Coast (Martin County, St. Lucie County, and Indian River County) and wanted to know if there was a group that coordinated between Martin County and Palm Beach County. Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, informed him that there is an upcoming meeting with our partners in Palm Beach, but that in the past we have not done a lot of partnering with them as they are looked at as a different region. Beth Beltran also noted that she had been in contact with her counterpart in Palm Beach County and that there was an MPO staff peer exchange taking place later in the week. Beth Beltran also noted that the Martin MPO is actively working on a project with Okeechobee County regarding the SR-710 project.


8. NOTES - None

9. NEXT MEETING

- Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC Meeting – October 16, 2023 @ 1:30 P.M.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 A.M.

Prepared by:


Anthony O'Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

2-7-2024
Date

Approved by:


Saadia Tsaftarides, CAC Chair

02/07/2024
Date

Minutes Approved on October 16, 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 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 in advance of the meeting. Hearing-impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.