

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
JOINT CITIZENS/TECHNICAL/BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (CAC/TAC/BPAC) MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Monday, April 29, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM by Robert Daniels, TAC Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

TAC Members in Attendance:

Robert Daniels, TAC Chair
Dr. Kim DeLaney
George Dzama
Stuart Trent
Taryn Kryzda
Peter Kunen
Samantha Lovelady
Milton Leggett
Ashman Beecher

TAC Members Excused:

TAC Members Not in Attendance:

Marc Cocco
Andrew McBean
Ken De Angeles

BPAC Members in Attendance:

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas
Julie Preast
Bonnie Moser
Don Fabricy

BPAC Excused Members:

Mike Bocchino

Michael MacLeod

BPAC Members Not in Attendance:

Dawn Arvin
Hal Forslund
Bradford Davey
Arlette Cataldo

CAC Members in Attendance:

Saadia Tsafarides
Larry Sofield
Howard Lyndon Brown

CAC Members Excused:

Cindy Greenspan
Ann Kagdis
Helen McBride

CAC Members Absent:

Hilary Young
Blake Capps
John F. Patteson
Trent Steele

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Tony Norat, FDOT-District 4
Kelly Budhu, FDOT-District 4
James Brown, FDOT FTE
Victoria Peters, FDOT-District 4
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering
Jessica Mackey, Kittelson & Associates
David Dangel, Ardurra

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Samantha Lovelady and was seconded by Dr. Kim DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the Joint CAC/TAC/BPAC Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023, was made by Samantha Lovelady and was seconded by Dr. Kim DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Joint CAC/BPAC Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2024, was made by Julie Preast and was seconded by Don Fabricy. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. FINAL DRAFT TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP)

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, introduced Jeff Weidner with Marlin Engineering and Jessica Mackey with Kittelson & Associates who presented the Final Draft Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Larry Sofield raised concerns about the pricing and connections and noted that a huge opportunity is being missed with a dedicated beach route. Ashman Beecher advised that MARTY had previously been eligible for a grant for such a route but the Board of County Commissioners declined this opportunity back in 2021. Mr. Beecher added that he would be willing to try to apply for said grant again. Mr. Weidner further advised that the TDP is a living document and will change with feedback and input.

Robert Daniels asked if Indian River County's financial system had been thoroughly looked into and wondered how they could afford such a large fare-free system. Mr. Weidner commented that fare-free systems can increase ridership and the more ridership the more grant money Indian River County receives. Mr. Beecher added that Indian River County gets a dedicated funding stream due to it not being in a Transportation Management Area, whereas Martin County must split the funding it receives with St. Lucie County, which is also a fare-free system.

Don Fabricy noted that there were a lot of unfunded expenses in the TDP and that Ashman Beecher or the Board of County Commissioners will have to prioritize their efforts if funding is not increased. Mr. Fabricy stated that he believed that in 5 years, things would be much better.

A motion to approve the Final Draft Transit Development Plan (TDP) was made by Ashman Beecher and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FINAL DRAFT FY25-FY26 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator presented the Final Draft FY25-FY26 Unified Planning Work Program, noting that this version includes the previously approved de-obligated funds.

A motion to approve the Final Draft FY25-FY26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was made by Julie Prest and was seconded by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas. The motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT FY25-FY29 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Vazquez introduced the Draft FY25-FY29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Sofield asked if the CIP was required to be included in the TIP to which Ms. Beltran informed him that it was.

A motion to approve the Draft FY25-FY29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Saadia Tsaftarides and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

D. SE AVALON DRIVE SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Beltran introduced Keith Baker, Capital Projects Administrator, who presented the SE Avalon Drive Sidewalk Project Update. Mr. Baker noted that the project was more or less the same, but they had discovered an existing water main that required them to switch the side of the road for the sidewalk.

A motion to approve the SE Avalon Drive Sidewalk Project Update was made by Julie Prest and was seconded by Dr. Kim DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

E. MARTIN COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT (MCPT) TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT (TAM) PLAN – TRANSIT ASSET TARGETS

Ms. Beltran introduced Ashman Beecher, Transit Administrator, who presented the Martin County Public Transit (MCPT) Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan – Transit Asset Targets.

A motion to approve the Martin County Public Transit (MCPT) Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan – Transit Asset Targets was made by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

F. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP) UPDATE

Mr. Vazquez introduced the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Update. The purpose of the COOP is to ensure the continued operation of the MPO in the event of an emergency and ensure that the MPO's resources can be reached. MPO staff has reviewed the adopted COOP and has made minor changes to the document, which includes:

- Updated Martin MPO Division Call List
- Updated Section 2: Continuity of Meetings
- Revised document format and graphics

A motion to approve the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Update was made by Julie Prest and was seconded by Dr. Kim DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

G. COVE ROAD PD&E PRESENTATION

David Dangel with Ardurra presented the Cove Road PD&E Presentation. The project limits are from Kanner Highway to US1. The purpose is to widen the lanes from two to four lanes. The project has two segments. The segment one is from Kanner Highway to Avalon Drive and it has two alternatives. Segment two is from Avalon Drive to US1 and has three alternatives.

Julie Prest asked if the 96.25-foot right of way has enough room for turn lanes. Mr. Dangel explained that yes, there would be turn lanes at Avalon Drive and Montego Cove. Mr. Dangel also stated that the lanes would widen out at US1 to match what is already there. Dr. Kim DeLaney asked if it was possible to fit a pair of 10-foot shared paths on the 96-foot right of way. Mr. Dangel explained that with shared use paths each has a different criteria, and it is required to have six feet between the curb and the path. This has been a discussion with DOT and a possibility could be widening the sidewalk instead of a second shared use path. Bonnie Moser agrees with the suggestion made by Dr. DeLaney.

Julie Prest asked if shade trees is apart of the PD&E estimates. David Dangel stated that they do not get into details of landscaping in this stage and it would normally be included in the design phase. Dr. Kim DeLaney also stated that she would love to see shade trees along this section because it is a safe route to school and it would make a good experience and encourage users. Dr. DeLaney also mentioned that there is a \$100,000 a year FDOT Beautification Grant for shade trees on state roadways.

Larry Sofield wanted to know if for the public meeting if the advertising signage would be going up again and if emails would be sent from those followed up from the last meeting. David Dangel said yes they will be doing both of those things. Mr. Sofield stated there is a lot of Sandhill Cranes and wildlife that walk along this road and if there were plans to put up a barrier like bushes to protect the wildlife. Mr. Dangel explained that with DOT

roads, a wildlife crossing would be added. However, this requires state owned land to accomplish this and in an urbanized area like this road, there is not much that can be done. Julie Preast asked if signage could be put up, like Sandhill Crane Crossing. Mr. Dangel stated there are already signs up. Mr. Dangel also stated that this would be more in the design process, but he will notate the suggestions for the design process.

Bonnie Moser requested that at the next public meeting, induce demand is talked about and what might happen to this road with the traffic when it changes to four lanes. Ms. Moser also asked that for the next public meeting to explain the intentions of traffic calming in the area once it will be four lanes because people do not go the speed limit currently, let alone when there are multiple lanes.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie Preast called for regulations regarding electric bicycles and their permitted uses on sidewalks. Ms. Preast also called attention to the high level of trash and debris buildup on the Roosevelt Bridge and how her attempts to contact the company in charge of maintaining it were met with undesirable outcomes.

Dr. DeLaney wanted to inform everyone that talks were underway to extend Tri-Rail up to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

Don Fabricy also called for regulations regarding electric bicycles and their usage of sidewalks in Martin County and wanted Ms. Beltran to check to see if any policies were being looked into.

Saadia Tsaftarides sought traffic speed signs for Dixie Highway in the Golden Gate community, stating that there is an exorbitant need for them on this stretch of roadway. Ms. Beltran and Ms. Preast advised that she reach out to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as they should have some they may be able to provide.

8. NOTES

9. NEXT MEETING

- Joint CAC/TAC/BPAC – October 7th, 2024

10. ADJOURN – 3:05 PM

Prepared by:

FOR Margie Tavelly
Anthony O'Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

10/7/2024
Date

Approved by:

[Signature]
Robert Daniels, TAC Chair

10/7/2024
Date

Minutes Approved on October 7, 2024

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