



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING**
Martin County Administrative Center - Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 9:00 am

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner Sarah Heard called the meeting to order at 9:02AM
- 2. PRAYER** – Pastor Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church, led the Invocation.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Sarah Heard led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. ROLL CALL** – Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner, called roll.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner Edward V Ciampi
Commissioner J Blake Capps
Commissioner Eileen Vargas
Mayor Sean Reed
Mayor Carmine Dipaolo
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Laura Giobbi

REPRESENTING:

Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
City of Stuart Commission
Village of Indiantown Council
Martin County Board of County Commission
City of Stuart Commission

EXCUSED:

Commissioner Kaija Mayfield Town of Sewall's Point Commission

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner
Tobias Faucher, Planner

Others in Attendance:

Damaris Williams, Project Manager
Victoria Peters, FDOT District Office
Gary Ehrler, Public Speaker

A quorum was present for the meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Vargas and was seconded by Mayor Dipaolo. The motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

MPO Board Meeting – May 11, 2026

A motion to approve the May 11, 2026, MPO Policy Board minutes was made by Commissioner Vargas and seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ehrler thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He began by reading the MPO's Vision Statement and then addressed several projects that had been discussed during meetings throughout the year, noting that he was unsure whether the projects had been completed.

Mr. Ehrler first discussed the Avalon Street project. He stated that approximately 40 homes had lost half of their front yards as a result of the project and that vehicles were now blocking approximately 40 driveways. He expressed concern that the roadway had become narrower, making it difficult for vehicles to safely pass one another while traveling at the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. He stated that he believed the project did not represent good planning. Mr. Ehrler further stated that placing a sidewalk along the western edge of the right-of-way resulted in a significant loss of property for the affected homeowners. He questioned why existing streets were being re-engineered to improve safety when, in his view, the changes were negatively affecting residents' quality of life. Mr. Ehrler also mentioned a similar upcoming project in Jensen Beach. He stated that a petition had been circulated among the affected homeowners and that the majority of homeowners did not support the project.

Mr. Ehrler then revisited concerns he had previously raised regarding Commerce Avenue from Salerno Road to Indian Street. He questioned how the costs associated with the project would be allocated and asked who would be responsible for paying for the various improvements.

Mr. Ehrler stated that it was well documented that the primary reason for the Commerce Avenue project was drainage. He expressed concern that he had been informed that the project would begin at the southern end near Salerno Road rather than at Indian Street, where he believed the drainage issues requiring attention were located. Finally, Mr. Ehrler

requested clarification regarding the Board's call, stating that Commissioner Sean Reed should be identified as Mayor Sean Reed.

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL DRAFT FY27-FY31 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. Beltran introduced Mr. Bolivar Gomez, MPO Senior Planner, to present this item. Mr. Gomez presented the final draft FY 2027–FY 2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He explained that the TIP is an annual deliverable required of the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The TIP is a comprehensive five-year listing of all federally and state-funded transportation projects scheduled to occur within Martin County. The document also includes locally funded projects, regional projects that have received funding, and MPO priority projects that have been funded in some capacity.

Mr. Gomez stated that the TIP is consistent with the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, particularly with respect to projects identified as cost feasible. He explained that the TIP essentially mirrors the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) five-year Work Program and provides residents with an opportunity to review and provide input on transportation projects that are funded within Martin County.

Mr. Gomez noted that the TIP has a five-year planning horizon, is updated annually, and is financially constrained. He explained that the majority of the detailed information is contained within the appendices, which include individual project sheets showing projects scheduled to receive funding during the five-year period.

Mr. Gomez further explained that the TIP development process includes an extensive public outreach component. The draft document is made available for a 45-day public review period, during which the public may submit comments. He noted that a public hearing is also required as part of the process and that the public hearing was being conducted at this meeting. In addition, the TIP is advertised through local media and is posted on the Martin MPO website for public access.

Mr. Gomez stated that the TIP had been presented to the MPO Advisory Committees during May and June. Hard copies of the document were also made available at local libraries throughout the County and on the first floor of the County Administrative Center.

Mr. Gomez explained that each year in June, the MPO Policy Board adopts project priorities. FDOT subsequently provides the funding information for Martin County projects, which is incorporated into the TIP document. He noted that this process ensures that the TIP reflects the current funding status and priorities for transportation projects within the County.

Mayor Reed addressed the concerns raised during public comment and stated that he shared similar concerns regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program sidewalks, the Land Development Code, and non-conforming properties. He noted that he had previously raised concerns regarding Washington Street, Fisherman's Cove, and another project referenced during public comment. Mayor Reed expressed specific concerns regarding

Fisherman's Cove, stating that members of the public had reached out to elected officials to demonstrate their desire for sidewalks in the area. He questioned why staff would pursue potential grant funding before conducting public outreach and presenting the proposed projects to the public.

Ms. Beltran clarified that the projects referenced, including Avalon, Washington Street, and Fisherman's Cove, were applications submitted for the same funding source, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). She explained that the applications were submitted by Martin County, typically in response to requests from residents seeking sidewalks within their neighborhoods. Ms. Beltran further clarified that Mayor Reed had previously been informed that his concerns were a Martin County matter rather than an MPO matter. She explained that the County serves as the applicant for the TAP funding, and the applications are presented to the County Commission for approval before being forwarded to the MPO for approval and prioritization. Ms. Beltran noted that unlike other MPOs, typically the Martin MPO receives one application a year, and the funding that is available is usually enough for only one TAP project.

Assistant County Attorney Mr. Poprawski addressed the issue from a code enforcement perspective. He explained that if a property or project does not meet the requirements of the applicable ordinance, code enforcement would issue a citation. He further stated that the project would not have proceeded if it had been determined to be non-conforming.

Commissioner Giobbi raised a question regarding the Willoughby Extension. She stated that, based on her understanding, at least 60 percent of the individuals who had contacted the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) indicated that they were not in favor of the project; however, the project remained on the list.

Ms. Beltran responded that projects generally remain on the list until the PD&E phase is completed and the final documentation and analysis are received from FDOT. She explained that the project would remain on the list until that process was completed.

Commissioner Hetherington spoke specifically regarding Fisherman's Cove and stated that, over the years, there have been numerous calls from residents requesting improved pedestrian safety, sidewalks, and safer pedestrian paths to the bus stops. She stated that she could attest to the fact that a number of constituents in District 2 have specifically requested safer sidewalks in the Fisherman's Cove area.

A motion to approve the FINAL DRAFT FY27-FY31 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) was made by Commissioner Hetherington and was seconded by Commissioner Capps, with Mayor Reed dissenting. The motion passed.

B. FINAL DRAFT FY28-FY32 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)

Ms. Beltran stated that the last item was the final TIP that closes out the MPO's current funding cycle. She explained that the FY28–FY32 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) begins

the next funding cycle. The Board previously reviewed and approved the Draft FY28-FY32 LOPP in February, after which it was forwarded to the District Office for review.

Ms. Beltran explained that once the District Office receives this Final LOPP, it determines which projects will receive funding in the next Draft Tentative Work Program. She stated that the District's Draft Tentative Work Program, which is expected to be presented in the Fall, will identify the project phases that have been funded. After MPO Board approval, the Draft Tentative Work Program will subsequently be forwarded to Tallahassee for incorporation into the State's transportation budget.

Ms. Beltran explained that the primary project list is the roadway project list and noted that a few changes have been made since the list was approved in February. The first change, at the Board's request, was the addition of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad Bridge Project. The second change was where the right-turn lane was extended along US-1. She noted that this project would follow the intersection improvements at U.S. 1 and Kanner Highway.

Ms. Beltran further explained that the roadway list includes one new project to resurface Martin Highway and make safety improvements along the roadway. She then discussed the safety project list, which includes a new project for a dedicated westbound left-turn lane on Bridge Road.

Ms. Beltran reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project list and noted that the Board had approved the Palm Lake Park Sidewalk Project earlier this year. She stated that FDOT is currently reviewing the project, which is why it is listed as pending.

Ms. Beltran then discussed the list of public transit priorities. She explained that the MPO is required to maintain a transit priority list, which is provided annually by the Public Transit Division. She noted that the projects on the transit list generally remain the same from year to year. MPO staff recommended approval of the List of Project Priorities for submission to the FDOT District Office.

Commissioner Ciampi asked whether Item 6 could be moved ahead of Item 5 so that the railroad bridge project would receive a higher priority.

Commissioner Vargas asked for clarification regarding whether some of the projects include County funding in addition to State and Federal funding. Ms. Beltran responded that the roadway list is funded through Federal funds administered by the State and Federal funding programs. She noted that some projects also require a local match.

A motion to approve the FINAL DRAFT FY28-FY32 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES was made by Commissioner Hetherington and was seconded by Mayor Dipaolo. The motion passed unanimously.

C. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP) UPDATE

Ricardo Vazquez explained that the COOP serves as a guideline for how the MPO will conduct its business in the event of an emergency. He noted that the plan was reviewed and updated following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, with the last major update occurring in 2021 to address procedures for conducting MPO business during the pandemic.

Mr. Vazquez explained that the COOP outlines procedures for conducting meetings, meeting required deadlines, and ensuring that the MPO continues to receive and coordinate transportation project information and funding for the County and municipalities in the event of an emergency. He stated that the current document has been revised as part of the required periodic update but contains no major changes. MPO staff recommended approval of the updated Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

A motion to approve the CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP) UPDATE document by Commissioner Hetherington and was seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.

D. SR-5/US-1 AT SR-76/KANNER HIGHWAY INTERSECTION IMPROVMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Beltran stated that Ms. Damaris Williams, Project Manager for the US-1 and Kanner Highway Intersection Improvement Project, was present to provide the Board with an update on the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. She noted that the project was identified as MPO Priority #14. Ms. Beltran explained that the MPO has worked closely with the FDOT to expedite the project, and it does currently have funding for the construction phase.

Ms. Williams stated that the project included the addition of a right-turn lane of approximately 200 feet on southbound US-1 onto Kanner Highway. She noted that the triple left-turn lanes were added on Kanner Highway turning onto US-1. Ms. Williams explained that the purpose of the presentation was to provide the Board with a project status update and to identify the need for the extension of the right turn lane on US-1 that could not be addressed as part of the current project.

E. SR-710 UPDATE

Ms. Beltran noted that Ms. Victoria Peters, from the FDOT District Office, would provide the State Road 710 update. Ms. Peters stated that the Department has completed the right-of-way requirements for all segments of State Road 710, with the exception of Segment 453333-2, which is expected to be completed by the end of August. She explained that all other segments are currently under development and are anticipated to be completed by the end of November. Appraisals for those maps will be completed thereafter.

Ms. Peters stated that the Department is currently in the process of scheduling the initial public hearings for all segments. She noted that Segments 6 and 4 are expected to be the

first segments to proceed to public hearings, which are anticipated to be held in October. She also explained that the Department has been conducting one-on-one meetings with property owners to discuss project-related concerns, primarily driveway use and property access, as well as drainage concerns. Ms. Peters noted that the letting dates shown on the public website remain target dates that the Department currently believes are feasible.

Ms. Peters further stated that FDOT has been evaluating additional short- and mid-term solutions to improve safety along the State Road 710 corridor. She reported that the Department recently completed a passing-zone study and a speed study for State Road 710. The Department has received the draft report from the speed study, which is currently under review. She explained that the review process typically takes approximately three to four months before final results are available.

Ms. Peters stated the Operations staff attended the Farmers Market event to gather public feedback and suggestions regarding additional safety measures. One suggestion was the installation of flashing speed-feedback signs along State Road 710 to alert drivers to their actual speed. She noted that FDOT is currently in the process of procuring the signs, which is expected to take approximately one to two months before they can be obtained and installed.

Ms. Peters also reported that approximately one month ago, FDOT participated in a safety exchange in the Treasure Coast area. One recommendation from the event was to establish a pull-off area for law enforcement vehicles. She stated that Kris, FDOT's Operations Engineer, is currently working with the Sheriff's Office to evaluate potential locations where law enforcement officers could safely pull over vehicles involved in speeding violations and conduct enforcement activities along State Road 710.

9. COMMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Commissioner Hetherington thanked Secretary Braun's office and FDOT for their assistance. She stated that they had received numerous calls from constituent residents expressing concerns about traffic safety along Kanner Highway. In response to these concerns, a roadway safety assessment was conducted, which consisted of eight steps. Approximately 20 individuals participated in the roadway audit, along with representatives from the FDOT, to analyze the roadway and identify potential safety concerns.

Commissioner Hetherington stated that the findings from the roadway audit had been submitted to the appropriate office and that formal responses would be developed. She expected the final report to be available within the next one to two months and expressed hope that she would be able to return to the MPO to present the findings once the report had been finalized.

10. COMMENTS FROM FDOT– None

11. NOTES

12. NEXT MEETING

- September 21, 2026 – Martin County BOCC Commission Chambers @ 9:00AM

ADJOURNMENT: 10:41 AM

Approved by:



Sarah Heard, Chair
Martin County Commissioner



Date

Prepared by:



Katheryn Mayes, Administrative Assistant



Date

Minutes Approved on September 21, 2026

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, Principal 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.