



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

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025 @ 9:00 am**

**MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner Sarah Heard called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- 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** – Susan Ortiz, Administration Assistant, called roll.

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Sarah Heard  
Commissioner Edward V Ciampi  
Commissioner Blake Capps  
Mayor Carmine Dipaolo  
Commissioner Kaija Mayfield

**REPRESENTING:**

Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
Village of Indiantown Council  
Town of Sewall's Point Commission

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Eileen Vargas  
Commissioner Christopher Collins  
Commissioner Sean Reed  
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington

Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
City of Stuart Commission  
City of Stuart Commission  
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner  
Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner  
Lucine Martens, Planner  
Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

James Brown, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise  
Kris Kehres, FDOT

Kathy White, FDOT  
Cesar Martinez, FDOT

**A quorum was present for the meeting.**

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Ciampi and was seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. APPROVE MINUTES**

MPO Board Meeting – October 8, 2025

**A motion to approve the October 8, 2025, MPO Policy Board minutes was made by Commissioner Mayfield and seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

## **8. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FY27-FY31 DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Beth Beltran noted that each year, the MPO Board receives a presentation from FDOT on the Draft Tentative Work Program. She then introduced Cesar Martinez.

Cesar Martinez, FDOT's District Planning Administrator, greeted the Board and thanked them for the invitation to return. He explained that he was accompanied by a small team from the FDOT office. While Secretary Braun was unable to attend, Mr. Martinez conveyed his regards and confirmed he would cover both the Secretary's portion of the presentation as well as his own. Mr. Martinez also introduced Kathy White, the newly appointed liaison for Martin County MPO. Having joined the office about a month ago, she will now be a regular participant in these meetings. With introductions complete, Martinez proceeded to present the Draft Tentative Work Program to the Board.

Commissioner Capps raised questions regarding the section on funding allocations. He observed that allocations appeared lower than in prior cycles, reflecting adjustments tied to revenue projections from the most recent estimating conferences. Commissioner Capps asked whether Florida's transportation funding mechanisms are designed to remain stable during economic downturns, referencing the 2008–2012 Great Recession as an example. He inquired whether FDOT experienced severe cutbacks during that period or if funding remained relatively steady despite broader economic challenges.

Mr. Martinez responded that in recent years, revenues to the State and agency have remained flat, with little growth expected in the near term. At the same time, construction cost estimates have risen, creating a budgetary challenge. He confirmed that while mechanisms exist to maintain some funding stability during recessions, revenue reductions

are still expected in such circumstances. Commissioner Capps acknowledged the explanation, clarifying that while funding is generally preserved during downturns, agencies must still contend with reduced revenues and rising costs. He thanked Mr. Martinez for the response.

Commissioner Heard emphasized the importance of funding reallocations within District 4, specifically citing the significant investment directed toward the SR 710 widening project. She expressed appreciation for the agency's prioritization of this project, noting that the MPO is grateful for the support. Commissioner Heard's remarks underscored how funding decisions directly impact local infrastructure priorities and community needs.

**A motion to approve the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY27-FY31 Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Commissioner Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW**

Ms. Beltran introduced the next agenda item, noting that every four years the MPO undergoes a Federal certification audit. She explained that the final step in this process is for the Federal Highway Administration liaison to present the certification report to the Board for approval. She confirmed that the report was included in the agenda packet and then introduced Erica Thompson, who joined the meeting remotely.

Ms. Thompson greeted the Board and proceeded to present a summary of findings from the 2025 Federal certification review of the Port St. Lucie Transportation Management Area (TMA). She explained that Federal regulations require certification reviews at least once every four years to formalize continuing oversight and to document the evaluation of the TMA's planning process. Her remarks emphasized the importance of this review in ensuring compliance, accountability, and transparency in regional transportation planning. There were no questions from the Board.

**A motion to approve the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Federal Certification Review was made by Commissioner Capps and seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **C. FY26-FY30 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) ADMENDMENTS**

Ms. Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner for the MPO, presented the Fiscal Year 2026–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments. She began by noting there were two specific amendment items for Board consideration.

The first item, Amendment No. 3, concerned State Road 710 (Southwest Warfield Boulevard). This amendment was requested by FDOT to include project funding from west of SE 126th Boulevard to the Martin/Okeechobee County line. Ms. Tamblyn explained that funding allocations were scheduled across multiple fiscal years FY 2026, FY 2027, FY 2029, and FY 2030 totaling just over \$8 million for the project.

The second item involved the addition of a Section 5307 formula fund for transit operations within the Martin County, Port St. Lucie urbanized area. Ms. Tamblyn clarified that this funding supports the large urban operating budget, combining contributions from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and local sources. The amendment adds nearly \$2.5 million to the program.

**A motion to approve the FY26-FY30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments was made by Commissioner Mayfield and seconded by Commissioner Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **D. FLORDIA TURNPIKE FY27-FY31 DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. James Brown, MPO liaison for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, introduced himself for the record and presented the agency's Fiscal Year 2027–2031 Tentative Work Program. There were no questions from the Board.

**A motion to approve the Florida Turnpike FY27-FY31 Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Mayor Dipaolo and seconded by Commissioner Capps. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **9. COMMENTS FROM FDOT**

Ms. Beltran offered remarks from a staff perspective, extending appreciation to Mr. Caesar Martinez for his instrumental role in securing funding for the SR 710 widening project. She noted that Mr. Martinez, was particularly effective in conveying the story of Indiantown to Tallahassee. He highlighted the community's needs and the discussions held at MPO meetings.

#### **10. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None**

#### **11. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS – None**

#### **NOTES**

Commissioner Heard inquired whether the Board needed an update on the development review map. Ms. Beltran responded that the map is available online and has recently been updated. She explained that staff now plans to update the map four times per year, and it will be brought before the Board each time. She noted that the map can be accessed via the MPO website, and staff is available to assist with any questions.

Ms. Beltran also added a scheduling note: while other MPO meetings in December are canceled, a special Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting is scheduled on December 8. The meeting will focus on e-bikes and local ordinances adopted in Florida, with discussion on how the region should approach future regulations. Commissioner Ciampi requested that the results of the BPAC meeting be brought back to the Board. Ms. Beltran confirmed that the outcomes will first be presented at the Joint Advisory Committee meeting in February, and then formally reported to the MPO Board.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

MPO 11/5/2025

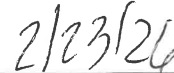
- MPO Policy Board Meeting – February 23, 2025, at 9:00am

**ADJOURNMENT: 9:37 AM**

**Approved by:**



**Sarah Heard, Chair  
Martin County Commissioner**

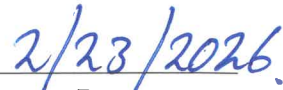


**Date**

**Prepared by:**



**Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant**



**Date**

**Minutes Approved on February 23, 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](mailto:rvazquez@martin.fl.us) in advance of the meeting. Hearing-impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.