

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC) MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Workshop Room

2401 SE Monterey Road

Stuart, FL 34996

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

(772) 221-1498

**June 5, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Tom Lanahan

**2. ROLL CALL**

Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant, called roll.

**FTAC Members in Attendance:**

Thomas Lanahan

Clyde Dulin

Justin Stroh

Dan Romence

Peter Kunen

Milton Leggett

Andrew McBean

Chris Kelly

Brita Nowak

William Corbin

**Members Excused:**

Jeff Sabin, Chair

Jared Dusharm, Vice Chair

Ryan Walpole

Jim Gorton

Linda Allen

**Members Absent:**

Donna Carman

Butch Olsen

Robert Ledoux

Officer Dickson

Aubrey Brown

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner  
Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner  
Lucine Martens, Planner

**Others in Attendance:**

James Brown, FDOT – Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)  
Henry Pinzon, FDOT – Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)  
Jeffery Chamberlin, SLC Commercial Realty & Development

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

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

Beth Beltran informed the Committee that the Chair was absent, and the Vice-Chair was delayed. Tom Lanahan agreed to serve as acting Chair until the Vice-Chair’s arrival.

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Milton Leggett and seconded by Peter Kunen. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES**

- FTAC November 8, 2024

**A motion to approve the FTAC Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2024, was made by Andrew McBean and seconded by Milton Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE**

**6. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. FINAL DRAFT FY26-FY30 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Ms. Beltran introduced Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner for the MPO, who presented the FY26-FY30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Tamblyn described the TIP as a core annual document outlining a five-year, financially constrained plan for regionally significant transportation projects. The TIP includes federally, state, and locally funded initiatives aligned with MPO priorities and consistent with the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and its cost-feasible framework. She provided an overview of the TIP development cycle, noting key milestones. The list of project priorities is compiled in June, followed by the Draft Tentative Work Program in October, and culminating in the adoption of the Work Program and TIP the following June. The current TIP is scheduled for adoption on June 16, 2025.

The meeting transitioned into a series of inquiries and updates, beginning with Dan Romence's question to Justin Stroh, FDOT District Four Freight Coordinator. Dan asked whether FDOT had determined the source of fill material for the SR-710 project. He noted that the Indiantown Marine Center is currently engaged in a project and could potentially supply all the fill FDOT might need, a timely opportunity worth considering.

Jeffery Chamberlin then raised a concern about traffic congestion at the intersection of Willoughby Boulevard and Monterey Road. He observed that the left turn onto Willoughby has become increasingly busy and asked whether any improvements were planned for that location.

Andrew McBean shifted the conversation to the Monterey Road Grade Separation at the FEC Railroad. He asked about the project's current status, prompting Ms. Beltran to provide an update. She explained that FDOT and its consultant are still in the process of meeting with County departments and local agencies to gather input. Once that feedback is compiled, FDOT plans to reconvene with FEC Railroad to share the local perspectives. Ms. Beltran elaborated on the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, noting that it originally considered eight to 10 alternatives. That list has since been narrowed to three, including one option that proposes an overpass over the FEC tracks at Monterey Extension/SE Grumman Boulevard. However, FEC has indicated that such an overpass would be classified as a new crossing, a designation that would require the closure of two existing crossings. Ms. Beltran mentioned that there are unused sidings along the corridor that could be considered for closure to meet this requirement. This sparked further discussion, with Tom Lanahan and Clyde Dulin both expressing the view that an overpass should not be considered a new crossing. Their comments reflected broader concerns about how such classifications could impact local infrastructure planning.

Ms. Beltran concluded the update by sharing that an Open House for the Monterey Road Grade Separation Project is planned for the fall. FDOT and the consultant will return to the MPO advisory committees and Board to present the feedback gathered from both local agencies and FEC Railroad. Ms. Beltran noted that the next FTAC meeting would likely be scheduled for November, given the scheduling challenges that typically arise in December.

**A motion to approve the Final Draft FY26-FY30 Transportation Improvement Program was made by Clyde Dulin and was seconded by Milton Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) NEEDS PLAN**

Ms. Beltran opened the meeting and introduced Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner for the MPO and Project Manager for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), who led the presentation. Mr. Vazquez provided an overview of the LRTP, emphasizing its role as a federally and state-mandated planning document that identifies transportation projects over a 20 to 25-year horizon. He noted that the LRTP is updated every five years

and the current update cycle is underway. Mr. Vazquez clarified that while the packet contains all identified needs projects including those not yet prioritized, today's presentation would focus on freight-related projects to support a more targeted discussion.

During the meeting, several participants raised questions and observations related to corridor needs and freight movement within the LRTP 2050 Needs Plan:

Justin Stroh inquired whether truck Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) data could be incorporated into the Needs Plan to better illustrate freight activity across key corridors. He also asked whether proposed improvement projects in Martin County were being prioritized based on higher truck AADT volumes.

Tom Lanahan noted significant development activity occurring in St. Lucie County, just north of the county line, and emphasized its potential impact on the Range Line/Allapattah Road corridor.

Clyde Dulin raised a potential need for improvements along Martin Highway between I-95 and Citrus Boulevard. He also shared his understanding that FDOT is reevaluating CR-714's classification to better align with its actual context. Ricardo Vazquez confirmed that the MPO and its consultant are considering adding a project to reflect this anticipated need.

### **C. TURNPIKE DIRECT CONNECT – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Beltran introduced Jazlyn Heywood, who presented the preferred Alternative presentation. After presenting to the committee Ms. Haywood opened the floor to questions. There were no questions from the committee.

### **D. FY27-FY31 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)**

Ricardo Vazquez presented the FY27-FY31 List of Project Priorities, noting that the draft version had been reviewed in February and subsequently approved by the MPO Board before submission to FDOT. The SR-710 widening project remains central, with two segments already funded for construction and the remaining two still on the Priority List. During the February TAC and CAC meetings, committee members recommended elevating Project #5 (the SR-710/CR-609 signal and turn lane improvements) to position #3 to place SR-710-related projects together and emphasize their urgency.

Thomas Lanahan raised a question regarding the double tracking of the Florida East Coast (FEC) railway and the associated bridge reconstruction. He noted that while these improvements do not appear on the current list of priority projects, they remain important to the region and asked how such privately funded initiatives are acknowledged within the planning process.

Ms. Beltran clarified that the project is included in the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as a privately funded initiative. Because the current Needs Plan focuses on projects eligible for federal attributable funding, privately funded efforts like this are not listed among the competing priorities.

Mr. Lanahan asked for clarification regarding the safety improvement project at Amarillis, which appears on the unfunded safety priority list. He inquired whether inclusion on this list allows the MPO to pursue funding for the project.

Ms. Beltran confirmed that projects on both the safety priority list and the unfunded roadway list are eligible for funding but are currently unfunded for construction. She noted that while some projects may have other phases funded, once construction funding is secured, the project is removed from the unfunded list.

**A motion to approve the FY27-FY31 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) and move project #5 up to #3 made by William Corbin and was seconded by Andrew McBean. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FREIGHT COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Justin Stroh provided the committee with an update. He began by highlighting the ongoing call for projects under the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP), a formula-based funding program managed on an annual cycle by the state. Mr. Stroh explained that project submissions are evaluated through both qualitative and quantitative assessments, as outlined in the Freight Mobility and Trade Plan, which was most recently updated in 2024. FDOT Central Office is responsible for conducting the quantitative analysis, while qualitative review is handled at the district level. Approved projects are incorporated into the investment element of the Freight Mobility and Trade Plan. In addition to the NHFP update, Mr. Stroh previewed a planning-level analysis focused on commercial vehicle safety and crash data across the district, aimed at informing future freight planning efforts.

Brita Nowak raised concerns about the underutilization of the truck staging area in Jupiter, noting that it is frequently empty. She emphasized the broader issue of insufficient staging areas and cited Plant City, Florida, as a successful example where truck parking, access, and staging facilities are well-aligned with freight volumes.

Mr. Dulin requested clarification on the distinction between a truck staging area and a truck stop. It was explained that staging areas do not include amenities such as fuel pumps, differentiating them from traditional truck stops.

Ms. Nowak also asked whether there has been any consideration for establishing truck parking or staging areas at existing tandem parking locations. James Brown from Florida's Turnpike Enterprise acknowledged the comment and said he would follow up. It was suggested that Justin Stroh be invited to the next scheduled FTAC meeting to present findings from recent truck parking and truck crash studies.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

9. NOTES

10. NEXT MEETING – TBD

**ADJOURNMENT 11:33 AM**

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

11/7/2025  
Date

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Sabir, FTAC Chair

11/7/2025  
Date

**Minutes Approved on November 7, 2025**

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