

**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](http://www.martinmpo.com)  
(772) 221-1498

Monday, October 7, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM by Robert Daniels.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner, called roll.

**TAC Members in Attendance:**

Robert Daniels, Chair  
George Dzama  
Samantha Lovelady  
Ashman Beecher  
Andrew McBean

**TAC Members Excused:**

Taryn Kryzda

**TAC Members Not in Attendance:**

Dr. Kim DeLaney  
Stuart Trent  
Mark Cocco  
Peter Kunen  
Milton Leggett

**BPAC Members in Attendance:**

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas  
Julie Preast  
Bonnie Moser  
Michele Barnett Occhino  
Michael MacLeod  
Bradford Davey

**BPAC Excused Members:**

Don Fabricy  
Mike Bocchino  
Hal Forslund

**BPAC Members Not in Attendance:**

Dawn Arvin

**CAC Members in Attendance:**

Larry Sofield  
Blake Capps

**CAC Members Excused:**

Saadia Tsafarides  
John Patteson  
Hilary Young  
Trent Steele

**CAC Members Absent:**

Ann Kagdis  
Cindy Greenspan  
Helen McBride  
Howard Lyndon 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-Turnpike  
Tony Norat, FDOT-District 4  
Kelly Budhu, FDOT-District 4  
Vanita Saini, FDOT-District 4  
Michael Melendez, FDOT-District 4  
Vikas Jain, T.Y. Lin  
Kim Prescott, Quest  
Joseph Capra, Captec Engineering, Inc.  
David Dangel, Inwood Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Stewart Robertson, Kimley-Horn  
Bonnie Landry, Bonnie Landry & Associates  
Heather Shaw, Bonnie Landry & Associates  
Lauren Boshell, Martin County Staff Airport Operations

**A quorum was present.**

### **3. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Andrew McBean and was seconded by Larry Sofield. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the Joint CAC/TAC/BPAC Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2024, was made by Andrew McBean and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

### **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **A. 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, introduced Vikas Jain, T.Y. Lin, who presented the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) which states the importance of meaningful public involvement in the early planning stages as well as throughout the progression of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Jain detailed the development process of the LRTP; the Martin MPO is presently in the stage of crafting vision statements, goals, objectives, policies and performance measures that are in line with both state and federal standards. This stage is anticipated to be brought back to the committees and Board in December. A Visioning Session is scheduled to take place on November 19, 2024, at Stuart City Hall at 4:30pm.

**A motion to approve the LRTP Public Involvement Plan was made by Andrew McBean and was seconded by Larry Sofield. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **B. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) APPLICATION – SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

Beth Beltran introduced this agenda item and Pinal Gandhi-Savdas (City of Stuart) to present the updates made to the TAP Application. Pinal gave an overview of the changes to the application and introduced Joe Capra (Captec Engineering, Inc.) to discuss the project details further.

As the application stands, SE Dixie Hwy will maintain two-way traffic. A current land lease between the City of Stuart and the FEC may be affected with the expansion of the tracks for the proposed Brightline Station. For now, the land lease remains, and it includes the 8-foot parking area, a 2- foot sidewalk, and a white fence. The termination of this land lease would mean the loss of 20 parallel parking spaces.

The typical section of SE Dixie Hwy would have 10-foot travel lanes as opposed to the 11-foot travel lanes that exist today. The 5-foot existing sidewalk would remain. The SE Dixie Hwy improvements will include pervious pavers. The corridor will undergo improvements (expanding radii, perpendicular tie in on SW California Ave, narrowed lanes, and landscaping) to create safer conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Julie Preast praised the City of Stuart for considering the use of pervious pavers and wanted to ensure that idea is continuing to move forward. Mr. Capra stated that the pervious pavements are expected to be implemented in the project alongside improvements underground to allow for better drainage along this roadway. Mr. Capra mentioned that the City has tested pervious pavers in different locations and have had no issues with them.

Andrew McBean inquired about why this segment is no longer one-way as it was proposed previously. Mr. Capra explained that during public outreach meetings the public was not convinced of this change. The public outreach meetings were well attended, and the attendees expressed concern with this change as it would lead to more traffic in the adjacent neighborhoods.

Robert Daniels posed a question regarding what would be done to accommodate for the lost parking spaces with the end of the FEC Land Lease. Mr. Capra stated that parking spaces would be striped along SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St and there would be 14 spaces added back. Mr. Daniels asked if due to the placement of pervious pavers and narrowed lanes if this route may restrict trucks from using it. Mr. Capra stated that there were no plans in place to restrict trucks from using SE Dixie Hwy at this point, but it may be considered.

Ms. Preast recalled that the First Baptist Church property was listed on the market and inquired to see if it was still on the market. Mr. Capra stated the church was a helpful partner in this project and that it is still listed for sale. Ms. Preast stated that the City of Stuart should consider acquiring that property.

Larry Sofield considered if transit may be impacted by the narrowed lanes and if there are current stops near SE Dixie Hwy. Ashman Beecher stated that 10-foot lanes would be too narrow for the Marty bus to use and that there was an underperforming stop at Flager Ave and MLK Blvd. Ms. Gandhi-Savdas mentioned that the City of Stuart Tram was able to access Colorado St. which has 10-foot lanes. Mr. Sofield reiterated that access to transit could limit the need for parking in the area. Ms. Gandhi-Savdas stated that SE Ocean Blvd has the potential for buses and is being considered.

**A motion to approve the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application was made by Ashman Beecher and was seconded by Julie Preast. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. COVE ROAD WIDENING PD&E STUDY UPDATE**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study for the widening of Cove Road (FM# 441700-1). The study limits are from Kanner Highway to US-1. The purpose of widening Cove Road from two lanes to four lanes is to add capacity for all modes of travel and to improve the local transportation network. The PD&E Study will evaluate existing conditions, impacts to traffic, evaluate environmental concerns, and develop design alternatives for consideration.

Beth Beltran introduced this project briefly then turned it over to FDOT's consultant David Dangel to expand on the project updates. There are a few Alternatives that were considered on this roadway. The alternatives include either the implementation of shared use paths on both sides of the roadway or the use of 7-foot bike lanes on the roadway with a shared use path on one side of the road.

Based on the comments from the public meetings, the team is now considering the addition of roundabouts, raised medians, acquiring right of way to provide extra space for U-turns, and considering the addition of a noise wall for the neighborhoods.

Ms. Prest stated that as an individual who enjoys walking that shade trees are incredibly important, and she would like to see them implemented in the project. Mr. Dangel stated that the addition of trees occurs mostly during the design process which will occur later.

Blake Capps inquired about the benefits of using roundabouts. Mr. Dangel discussed that the design of roundabouts force drivers to slow down and that there are fewer crash types that can occur at a roundabout as compared to a signalized intersection. Mr. Capps expressed concerns with roundabouts considering the congestion it may cause and questioned whether roundabouts would be difficult for trucks to maneuver. Mr. Dangel stated that according to their traffic analysis they do not project significant congestion. Roundabouts, Mr. Dangel added, are typically made with a mountable material that allows trucks to pass with ease. Beth Beltran concurred and mentioned that Brita Nowak, a member of our Freight Transportation Advisory Committee, is an advocate of roundabouts.

Ms. Prest mentioned that with the addition of roundabouts there is an opportunity to add landscaping or public art within the center. Larry Sofield expressed his gratitude to FDOT and the consultant for their hard work, he inquired if they had considered adding a roundabout at SE Willoughby Blvd and SE Cove Rd. Mr. Dangel stated that there is difficulty in changing from a signalized to an unsignalized intersection. Mr. Sofield then asked about the location of a pond being where there is a building presently. Mr. Dangel discussed that FDOT is still considering where they may put a pond.

**A motion to approve the Cove Road Widening PD&E Study and consider the implementation of landscaping, public art and a potential roundabout at SE Willoughby Blvd and SE Cove Rd was made by Larry Sofield and was seconded by Julie Prest. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **D. US-1 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT / PUBLIC OUTREACH STUDY UPDATE**

Beth Beltran discussed the US-1 Congestion Management Study and brought Stewart Robertson up to share his findings. Mr. Robertson stated that US-1 is the road that has the most traffic in Martin County besides I-95. US-1 averages at about 63,300 vehicle trips per day due to the low vehicle occupancy and trips related to both local and thru traffic. A few issues found throughout this corridor are a vehicle dependent environment, lack of connectivity between land uses, and continued growth (both employment and residential).

Proposed solutions fall into one of three categories:

1. Multimodal Connectivity/Safety
  - a. Joint Access Driveways
  - b. Auditory and Vibratory Edge Line Striping
  - c. Sidewalk Level Separated Bicycle Lanes
2. Signal and Traffic Operations Improvements
  - a. Advanced Vehicle Detection
  - b. Adaptive Traffic Signal Control
  - c. Signal Timing Refinement
  - d. Integrated Corridor Management (ICM)
  - e. Passive Pedestrian and Bicyclist Detection
3. Advance Travel Condition Communications
  - a. Dynamic Message Signs (DMS)
  - b. Increase signage for alternate routes

Bonnie Landry discussed public engagement details including the survey, stakeholder interviews and public workshops. Ms. Landry played the video diary that included stakeholders who agreed to be filmed. Heather Shaw assisted Ms. Landry conducting the poll of proposed solutions.

Julie Preast discussed that in the past there was a proposed connection between the mall and Target when Kohl's was built, however due to the public push back this connection was not constructed. Ms. Preast wondered if there had been any opposition about this connection. Ms. Landry expressed that there had been a lot of support for these connections between land uses.

Blake Capps complimented the Bonnie Landry & Associates team on the usage of clickers for the polling system.

**This item is informational.**

## **E. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW INTERACTIVE MAP UPDATE**

Ricardo Vazquez presented the Development Review Interactive Map Update. As requested by committee members this map will be updated on a quarterly basis rather than twice a year. The consultant will reach out to Martin County and the municipalities

within Martin County for developments that are in the works. The Development Review Interactive Map can be viewed by following this link: <https://martinmpo.com/maps-tools>

Julie Preast praised staff for the more frequent upkeep of this map. Ms. Preast also mentioned that there are a few duplicates on the map that need to be edited and she stated she will share that information with Ricardo Vazquez. Samantha Lovelady asked for staff to share any development updates and new projects we receive from the City of Stuart. Ms. Lovelady states there are two projects that are currently in construction that have not been noted on our development map to include the hotel on S Colorado Ave and the development on the corner of SE Monterey Rd and SE Willoughby Blvd.

**This item is informational.**

**7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None**

**8. NOTES - None**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

- Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC – December 2nd, 2024

**10. ADJOURN – Robert Daniels adjourned the meeting at 3:25 P.M.**

Prepared by:

Margie Tamblyn  
Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner

1-29-2025

Date

Approved by:

Julie Preast for Robert Daniels  
Robert Daniels, TAC Chair

12-2-24

Date

**Minutes Approved on December 2, 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](mailto:rvazquez@martin.fl.us) in advance of the meeting. Hearing-impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.