

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

Martin County Administrative Building
4th Floor Workshop Room
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Friday, December 2, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Joan Goodrich, FTAC Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

FTAC Members in Attendance:

Joan Goodrich, Chair
Lisa Wichser
Jim Gorton
Samantha Lovelady
Milton Leggett for Tim Voelker
Thomas Lanahan
Daniel Ochoa
Mark Crosley
Rob Palmer for Robert Ledoux
Ryan Walpole
Jared Dusharm
Brita Nowak

Members Excused:

Jeff Sabin, Vice Chair
Donna Carman
Butch Olsen
Officer Dickson
Yvette Ager Goodiel
Desiree Wood
Aubrey Brown

Members Absent:

Sam Carver
Michele Miller

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

James Brown, FDOT
Victoria Williams, FDOT

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda moving item 6C to the top of the list was made by Thomas Lanahan and seconded by Jared Dusharm. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES

- May 20, 202

A motion to approve the Minutes of May 20, 2022 was made by Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Ryan Walpole, the motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- NONE

6. AGENDA ITEMS

C. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) – DISTRICT FOUR FREIGHT COORDINATOR PRESENTATION

Chair Joan Goodrich introduced Daniel Ochoa from FDOT District Four Freight Coordinator. He gave a background on himself and talked about his role as the District Four Freight Coordinator. He presented information regarding the National Highway Freight Network, and the ongoing Truck Parking Assessment on I-95.

Rob Palmer inquired if funding could be used to support facilities such as connectors to the National Highway Freight Network. Daniel Ochoa stated that is correct, funds can be used to support facilities like connectors and the funds are starting to reach out further and spread out from the network.

Lisa Wichser asked is there is another network besides Freight Highway Network. Daniel Ochoa mentioned that FDOT has the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) which covers most of I-95 and I-75. The rural and urban connectors have their own separate funding and there will be a lot of overlapping from the two networks.

Brita Nowak inquired if the truck parking on I-95 is going to be redesigned or in progress because the parking spots went away. Daniel Ochoa stated that these are just initial planning concepts. Brita Nowak added that the design on the I-95 Martin County rest area does not work very well because once you pass a parking spot there is no way to circle back around, so the driver must get back on the highway.

Ryan Walpole expressed the desire to have restroom facilities because typically a weigh station does not have a restroom area included. Daniel Ochoa stated that these comments will be addressed moving forward.

Thomas Lanahan suggested to go big on the design of the Martin County rest area parking instead of just adding ten parking spaces. With the process and the impacts of construction which will reduce the capacity of the current parking while adding the new parking area it is best to go for the bigger effort. Even if they have to phase it and start with only the first ten parking spots but the design is finished, and the rest can be done at a later time.

Brita Nowak mentioned if the rest areas generate income such as adding more vending machines, it would help fund the expansion for truck parking. Local vendors can stock the vending machines. Drivers are willing to spend money if they have the space to park. Victoria Williams from FDOT stated that on I-95 the Federal system has prohibitions about interfering with local business opportunities.

A motion to approve to include the MPO to be part of the review process as these projects go into planning, the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee would like to provide input on the recirculation of rest areas, include amenities as well as the new technology for each parking spot was made by Jim Gorton and seconded by Brita Nowak, the motion passed unanimously.

A. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FY24 – FY28 DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Beth Beltran gave an overview of the agenda item. She stated that the Policy Board approved a List of Project Priorities (LOPPs) for FY24-FY28. These priorities were submitted to FDOT’s District Four Office. FDOT develops its Draft Tentative Work Program after considering the LOPPs submitted.

A motion to approve the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY24 – FY28 Draft Tentative Work Program was made by Thomas Lanahan and seconded by Samantha Lovelady, the motion passed unanimously.

B. FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE FY24 – FY28 DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Beth Beltran introduced James Brown from the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) who gave a visual presentation on Florida Turnpike Enterprise FY24 – FY28 Draft Tentative Work Program. He mentioned the Turnpike is proposing a project to improve traffic operations for north-south through trips that provides a connection between I-95 and Florida's Turnpike near the existing I-95/Bridge Road Interchange.

Lisa Wichser inquired about the bridge replacement on the South of Becker Road, if the temporary bridge could be left permanent and used for the future widening. Victoria Williams stated that she will check with the project manager and will certainly give feedback on it.

Samantha Lovelady asked if the Turnpike Enterprise are installing electric vehicle charging stations. James Brown stated that they have them in all eight service spots and it is a strong focus right now.

Thomas Lanahan mentioned that the signage on SW Martin Highway is not adequate to warn you in advance to what lane you need to be in to go north or south. He suggested to make the sign twice as big as it needs to be or to provide road signage on the pavement.

A motion to approve the Turnpike FY24 – FY28 Draft Tentative Work Program and to include the suggestion for the temporary bridge to remain open for future expansion, and improved signage on SW Martin Highway comments was made by Tom Lanahan and seconded by Samantha Lovelady, the motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Crosley from the Florida Inland Navigation District mentioned that the waterway is still very underutilized. A lot of that has to do with the infrastructure to get to the waterway and some of the old rules about things coming in from the port. The Port of Virginia has successfully gotten numerous containers off the road by developing a port in Richmond. This has taken numerous trucks off the road, and it's been very successful. He suggested that we do the same in Florida as we have near shore areas to move goods and services. Lastly, another big need that we have is for local waterway contractors to have access to waterways as it becomes urbanized. Some of the greatest opportunities for those access points are FDOT's causeways because it already has deep water and seawalls. A lot of it has to depend on local communities working with FDOT and FDOT being receptive to that.

Jim Gorton mentioned that both of Martin County's causeways have parks underneath them so we would have to remove park amenities and convert it. Martin County received a grant that provided us with funding for the Sandsprit Park boat ramp improvements and one of those boat ramps is dedicated for commercial use.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

9. NOTES

10. NEXT MEETING

FTAC Meeting – June 9, 2023 at 1:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT 2:27 PM

Prepared by:



Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant



Date

Approved by:



Joan Goodrich, FTAC Chair



Date

Minutes Approved on June 9, 2023

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 American 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) 221-1498 or in advance of the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.