



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Monday, April 17, 2023, @ 9:00 am

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – MPO Chair Troy McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- 2. PRAYER** – Pastor Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church led the Invocation.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – MPO Chair Troy McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:

Troy McDonald, Chair
Doug Smith, Vice Chair
Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Harold Jenkins
Commissioner Christopher Collins
Commissioner James Campo
Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas

REPRESENTING:

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

EXCUSED:

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Brian Ribaric, FDOT-FTE

Victoria Williams, FDOT-FTE
James Brown, FDOT-FTE
Carol Scott, FDOT-FTE
Christine Fasiska, FDOT
Wibet Hay, FDOT
David Dangel, Inwood
Pastor Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church
Zhuan Loo, Osiris 9 Consulting
Daniel Miller, Osiris 9 Consulting
Larry Sofield
Laverne Williams

A quorum was present.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

MPO Policy Board Meeting – February 27, 2023

A motion to approve the MPO Policy Board Minutes of February 27, 2023 was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT - 2022

Beth Beltran introduced the item to the MPO Board, and Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner, presented the Public Involvement Annual Report. He introduced the various objectives and strategies that were achieved in Calendar Year 2022.

A motion to approve the Public Involvement Annual Report – 2022 was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, motion passed unanimously.

B. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR – LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (LCB-TD)

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator introduced the agenda item and stated that the Chair of the LCB-TD must be a member of the MPO Policy Board. She mentioned that at the February 27th MPO Board meeting, Commissioner James Campo was appointed as the LCB Chair for 2023. Following the meeting, he informed MPO staff that he is not available to serve as the LCB Chair due to a scheduling conflict.

A motion to nominate Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins, the motion passed unanimously.

C. STATE CERTIFICATION – STATEMENTS AND ASSURANCES

Beth Beltran introduced the agenda item and she explained that every year the MPO must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation process as described in 23 C.F.R. §450.336. As part of this certification audit, several documents are required to be executed by the MPO Chair including the MPO Joint Certification Statement and Statements and Assurances No. 525-010-08 that include Lobbying Certification for Grants, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization, and Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance.

A motion to approve authorizing the Chair to sign the State Certification – Statements and Assurances was made by Commissioner Harold Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith; the motion passed unanimously.

D. TITLE VI AND OTHER NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez who presented the agenda item. Martin MPO must comply with both Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations regarding Title VI. FHWA requires the MPO to review the Title VI & Other Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan language on a regular basis to assure it is current. The only changes made for this update were to update the Title VI activity log and Table 1 – Top Languages Spoken at Home in Martin County, with American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 5-year estimates.

A motion to approve the Title VI and Other Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan Update was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously.

E. BRIDGE, PAVEMENT, AND SYSTEM PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez who gave an overview of the agenda item. Congress has required the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to

establish national performance measure areas for States and MPOs to carry out the Federal Aid Program. In response, USDOT established performance measure areas which include safety (PM1), bridge and pavement conditions (PM2), and system performance on the National Highway System (NHS) (PM3). The USDOT also requires States and MPOs to set targets for all performance measure areas and to report periodically on their progress in meeting those targets.

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired if this is where we can insert a commentary about SR-710 and the truck reliability index in terms of the truck traffic. Beth Beltran stated that FDOT will be giving an update at the end of the agenda under FDOT comments.

A motion to approve the FDOT Bridge, Pavement, and System Performance Targets and add comments on SR-710 performance and truck traffic was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously.

F. COVE ROAD WIDENING PD&E PROJECT KICKOFF PRESENTATION

Beth Beltran introduced David Dangel who gave the Cove Road Widening Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Project Kickoff Presentation. 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.

David Dangel stated that the PD&E study is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2025. The design funding is in the FDOT work program for FY25. There is currently no funding for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition or construction of the project and each year as the work program gets updated then those could be added in the future. Commissioner Campo asked how much ROW needs to be acquired? David Dangel mentioned that FDOT did not consider a ROW phase because they thought the road could be widened within the existing ROW. There are some water ponds that need ROW and towards the eastern end of the project where the road narrows down to 90-feet, you cannot build a four-lane road within 90-feet of the ROW. Also, the intersection improvements may require minor amounts of ROW depending on the number of turn lanes that are needed.

Commissioner Doug Smith mentioned that there is a lot of construction going on at the west end and if FDOT is taking that into consideration. David Dangel stated that the traffic model that's being used considers future land uses and what kind of development could come in especially with the intersection improvements because that additional traffic is going to change the way things operate.

G. FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE – PD&E STUDY AND SW MARTIN HIGHWAY (SR-714) INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced James Brown and Brian Ribaric who gave a brief overview on the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – PD&E Study and SW Martin Highway (SR-714) Interchange Update. The MPO Board previously had expressed concerns about the proposed Turnpike Interchange alternatives, especially the impact to SW Martin Highway. When the Turnpike staff came back to the MPO in October 2021, Board members did not support the proposed interchange at Leighton Farms Avenue. Turnpike staff stated that the future interchange improvement would occur when all parties (the Turnpike, County and MPO) agree that the proposed improvement was needed.

Commissioner James Campo asked to talk about the details of widening the Turnpike. Brian Ribaric stated that this past development cycle the Turnpike Enterprise initiated a minimum of six-lanes for the entire system, which is three-lanes in each direction. Currently the Turnpike Enterprise is programmed for design from Martin Highway up to Port St. Lucie Boulevard in FY24.

H. FDOT US-1 SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED (SUN) TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Beth Beltran introduced Wibet Hay and Daniel Miller who presented this agenda item. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study for the construction of a Shared-Use path from SE Bridge Road to the Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge Center and provided three alternatives, recommending alternative 1 that proposes the path along the east side of US-1. This project will connect the East Coast Greenway with the future Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN Trail, which is currently being studied by the MPO.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins mentioned that the northern portion that we already discussed is planned along the west side of US-1. The portion that is exiting Jonathan Dickinson State Park is on the west side of US-1. If you continue the path on the west side of US-1, there is a lot more room for ROW north of the railroad bridge and there is an existing sidewalk further north. Commissioner Jenkins asked why we could not propose the path on the west side of the road and have a spur over to the wildlife preserve. Also, the bridge for the path would go along the west side of US-1 over the railroad tracks and up towards an existing sidewalk and it wouldn't have to cross US-1 twice to connect to the planned northern portion. Commissioner Jenkins added what community involvement has been done with this SUN Trail. Wibet Hay stated that they have not completed any public involvement yet but will do public involvement in the design phase. She mentioned that there is an alternative, but this is just to check and make sure the project is feasible. Chances are when they get into the design phase, they might change something such as the location.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Doug Smith would like a standing agenda item for updates on SR-710 at every MPO Board Meeting until it gets built.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington would like an update and potential timeline on the Willoughby Extension. Beth Beltran stated that the PD&E phase is funded in FY24, and it is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) PD&E, which is the highest level PD&E. There is \$4 million allocated for this phase. An EIS takes longer than a regular PD&E. It also has a bigger public involvement component. After the environmental phase would come the design phase. After design is the ROW acquisition and it will be significant because it's a new roadway. A lot of times with a construction project that is funded through the MPO process, it can take up to 10 years during the normal phases. Because of the high level of environmental analysis that needs to be done, Ms. Beltran is anticipating that it will be 12-15 years for this project to be completed.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT

Christine Fasiska gave some information on the SR-710 widening project. Several weeks ago, the district met with FDOT Central Office to see what we can do about SIS funding. We continue to meet regularly with the district and have a standing two-week meeting where we are trying to create a game plan. There are several projects in the works currently. Right now, we have a study along SR-710 and that is from the Power Plant Access Road up to North of the county line. That study information will be completed in May 2023, and we should have a report back for short term or moderate type of operational improvements within that area. Also, there is an improvement at Tommy Clements that is scheduled for construction in September or October of 2023.

12. NOTES

ADJOURNMENT: 10:30 AM

Approved by:



Troy McDonald, Chair

5/15/23
Date

Prepared by:



Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

5/15/23
Date

Minutes Approved on May 15, 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) 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.