



**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, May 15, 2023 @ 9:00 am

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – MPO Chair Troy McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Harold Jenkins
Commissioner Christopher Collins
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
City of Stuart Commission
Village of Indiantown Council

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner James Campo

Martin County Board of County Commission
Town of Sewall's Point Commission

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Ronald Kareiva, FDOT
Kris Kehres, FDOT
Christine Fasiska, FDOT
Jill Marasa, Ashley Capital
Larry Sofield

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 – April 17, 2023

A motion to approve the MPO Policy Board Minutes of April 17, 2023 was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins, the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Beth Beltran gave an overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Application. The TD Planning Grant funds are allocated for the purpose of completing the planning duties and responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. TD Planning Grant Program Distribution has \$24,540 and requires no local match. She requested approval and was available to answer questions.

A motion to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Application was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT FY24 – FY28 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez who gave a presentation on the Draft FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He mentioned the TIP is the document that contains all Federal, State and locally funded, and regionally significant transportation projects to be funded in Martin County during the next five fiscal years. This document is updated annually and is based on the FDOT District Four Tentative Work Program that was approved by the MPO Board on December 12, 2022. The Final FY24 – FY28 TIP is scheduled to be adopted by the MPO Board at the June 19, 2023 meeting. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

Commissioner Doug Smith asked when the right time is to amend the TIP. Beth Beltran stated that the List of Project Priorities (LOPP) is the best time to add or change a project, but those projects must be identified in the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Commissioner Smith asked about the Village Parkway Extension into St. Lucie County. Ms. Beltran explained that the Village Parkway Extension is in Martin MPO's adopted LRTP and in the Martin County Comprehensive Plan. She went on to say the Village Parkway Extension is not in St. Lucie TPO's adopted LRTP, in the Regional LRTP or in Port St. Lucie's Comprehensive Plan.

Jill Marasa from Ashley Capital wanted to thank the MPO Board members for bringing up the Village Parkway Extension. She is representing the developer from the Southeast side for Sunrise Grove Commerce Center. They have been working with the City of Port St. Lucie and really appreciate Martin County's support in keeping this on the radar and they will do their job as well to keep the communications open with their neighbors.

A motion to approve the Draft FY24 – FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to request that MPO staff draft letters to the St. Lucie TPO requesting that they put the extension of SW Village Parkway back into their Long Range Transportation Plan, and to the Treasure Coast Transportation Council (TCTC) requesting them to put the project in the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan as well as one of their priorities and copy the Mayor of Port St. Lucie, FDOT, and the delegation was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously.

C. STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM (SIS) COST FEASIBLE PLAN AND STATE ROAD 710 (SR-710) UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced Ron Kareiva of FDOT-District Four who gave the presentation. The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is Florida's high priority network of transportation facilities important to moving people and freight throughout regions. FDOT is updating the SIS Policy Plan, which sets the policy direction for designating, planning, and implementing the SIS. It is developed in consultation with statewide, regional, and local partners. SR-710 (SW Warfield Boulevard) is an SIS roadway facility. He was available to answer any questions.

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired if US-98 is on SIS network. Ron Kareiva stated that it has been added as an emerging facility, so it is considered as part of the SIS, and it is eligible for SIS funds.

Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas shared a story about a young father that lives in Indiantown who was involved in an accident along SR-710 on Saturday, May 13th. He was riding a motorcycle and he was run off the road. The accident occurred in the section south of the Power Plant, and SR-710 widening is not in the [Cost Feasible] Plan. She encouraged everyone to do anything and everything to prevent these accidents from happening.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired if there is a way to encapsulate the current circumstances that are happening along SR-710, and to keep documenting it to FDOT and the delegation so it stays on everybody's radar. Commissioner Harold Jenkins added to ask the Sheriff's Department to track the accidents as well.

Commissioner Troy McDonald shared some updates at the last MPOAC meeting. The speaker was Jared Perdue, FDOT Secretary, and he mentioned that the State is projecting exponential population growth over the next several years at a very rapid rate. The focus of FDOT is on transportation networks that compliment workforce development. They are also looking at alternate modes of transportation especially in South Florida where the transportation network such as I-95 will become maxed out without any room for growth. They are also dramatically expanding the Electric Vehicle (EV) network because of the amount of electric vehicles that are anticipated to be on the road over the next several years. One of the bright spots is that they have increased FDOT funding to \$2 billion this year over last year which puts FDOT funding up to \$14 billion for this legislative cycle. On top of that there is \$7 billion that are for 20 specific large scale capacity projects. So, this year we are looking at \$21 billion into projects for transportation from the State. He also received an email from Mark Reichert and asked the MPO staff to forward the 2023 Legislative Summary email to the rest of the MPO Board members.

Commissioner Doug Smith asked the MPO Board members whenever they have the opportunity, to talk to the Secretary of FDOT, to bring up the importance of the SIS and its recognition of rural SIS sections to the State of Florida. To raise the conversation every single time they have an opportunity to draw attention to it so that we keep pushing SR-710 and the fact that it is part of the SIS system, and it needs to be much more than it is today.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT - None

12. NOTES

- www.CoveRoadStudy.com
- US-1 from SE Dixie Hwy to S of SE Heritage Blvd – Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) Project (FM# 448447-1)

A motion to request that MPO staff draft a letter to replace or supplement the lack of a bike lane in the resurfacing of the 3R project to a multimodal path on US-1 from SE Dixie Hwy to S of SE Heritage Blvd., Project FM# 448447-1 was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harold Jenkins, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:39 AM

Approved by:



Troy McDonald, Chair 6/19/23

Prepared by:



Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant 6-19-23

Minutes Approved on June 19, 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.