



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY BOARD 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, September 16, 2024 @ 9:00 am**

**MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Harold Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- 2. PRAYER** – Pastor Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church led the Invocation.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Harold Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. ROLL CALL** – Brittany Truong called roll.

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Harold Jenkins  
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington  
Commissioner Kaija Mayfield  
Commissioner Ed Ciampi  
Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas  
Commissioner Sean Reed

**REPRESENTING:**

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

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Doug Smith, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Christopher Collins  
Commissioner Sarah Heard

Martin County Board of County Commission  
City of Stuart Commission  
Martin County Board of County Commission

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner  
Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner  
Lucine Martens, Planner  
Brittany Truong, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

Bill Howell, Lochner  
Shelby Coke, Coke Consulting, LLC.

Larry Sofield, Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Member  
Jazlyn Heywood, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)  
Victoria Williams, FTE  
James Brown, FTE  
Henry Pinton, FTE  
Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church  
Tracey Xie, FDOT  
Zach Gazza, Hobe Sound Farmers Market  
Ron Kareiva, FDOT  
Kelly Budhu, FDOT  
Victoria Peters, FDOT  
Tony Norat, FDOT  
Jeannelia Liu, Caltran Group  
Tina McKinnie, Caltran Group

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

Since the Vice Chair was not present, MPO Board members concurred with having Commissioner Jenkins chair the meeting.

**5. APPROVE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and was seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.**

**6. APPROVE MINUTES**

MPO Policy Board Meeting – June 17, 2024

**A motion to approve the June 17, 2024, MPO Policy Board minutes was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**8. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. MPO BYLAWS - AMENDMENT**

Beth Beltran stated that the changes to the MPO Bylaws are very straightforward. They reflect the Apportionment Plan that the MPO Board approved last Fall , and they also reflect the Governor's letter of approval. The changes add a fifth County Commissioner on the MPO Board so the MPO Board now has nine voting members. This is pending legal review and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

**A motion to approve the Amendment to the MPO Bylaws pending the Legal Department's approval was made by Commissioner Edward Ciampi and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. FY25-FY29 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) ROLL FORWARD AMENDMENT**

Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner, gave a brief presentation of the FY25-FY29 Roll Forward Amendment. She explained that the Roll Forward Amendment is the process of rolling forward funds from the previous year's TIP cycle into the currently adopted TIP. She proceeded to give some details regarding the amount of funds being rolled into the current TIP.

**A motion to approve FY25 – FY29 TIP Roll Forward Amendment was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and was seconded by Commissioner Kaija Mayfield. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **C. FY25 – FY29 – TIP MODIFICATION #1**

Margie Tamblyn explained that the purposed of FY25-FY29 TIP modification is to modify the project limits of the SR-710 Widening Project (FM# 453333-1). FDOT has updated the southeastern project limit, and this change needs to be reflected in the currently adopted TIP. The original project was from FPL Access Road to CR-609/Allapattah Road. The new limits are from FPL Access Road to SW Van Buren Avenue.

**A motion to approve FY25 – FY29 TIP Modification #1 was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and was seconded by Council member Susan Gibbs-Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **D. FY26-FY30 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP) - MODIFICATION**

Margie Tamblyn stated that this modification for the LOPP is to reflect the changes being made in the TIP modification, which is to update the project limits of the SR-710 widening project to be consistent with the FDOT Work Program.

**A motion to approve FY26 – FY30 LOPP Modification was made by Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas and was seconded by Commissioner Edward Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **E. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION UPDATE**

Tony Norat, FDOT-District Four, and FDOT consultant Jeannelia Liu, Caltran Group, gave a brief introduction regarding the Functional Classification Update process. The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Federal Functional Classification process occurs following the U.S. Decennial Census and adjusts the Census urban boundaries and groups roadways into classes such as principal and minor arterials, collectors, and local streets. FDOT-District Four initiated this decennial review and has worked with staff of Martin MPO, the County and its municipalities to develop the Functional Classification Update.

**A motion to approve 2020 Federal Functional Classification and Urban Area Boundaries Map was made by Commissioner Edward Ciampi and was seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **F. TURNPIKE AND I-95 DIRECT CONNECT PROJECT UPDATE**

Jazlyn Heywood, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), gave a project overview regarding the Turnpike and I-95 Direct Connect PD&E Study. The purpose of the project is to enhance safety, improve emergency response and evacuation, and to enhance system linkage between the Turnpike and I-95. Ms. Heywood discussed the public outreach that FDOT FTE has conducted since the last time that they presented to the Board. They made additional presentations to the Martin County Public Works Department, Martin County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach TPA, the Martin MPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC), and the Town of Jupiter Island Commission. FDOT FTE also held two Alternatives Public Information Meetings to discuss the project with the community.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington asked Ms. Heywood to clarify if the outreach conducted so far was all the public outreach that the Turnpike staff was going to conduct. Ms. Heywood stated that there will be one additional outreach opportunity, with the Public Hearing being held in the first quarter of 2025. Commissioner Hetherington stated that the 31 comments received at the Public Information Meeting doesn't seem to scratch the surface considering that the project may impact thousands of people. Ms. Heywood stated that FTE reached out to hundreds of individuals and posted signs for the meeting at the Turnpike service plazas and advertised the meetings on social media. Ms. Heywood stated that those who attended the meeting had chosen to be a part of the process, and that FTE cannot force people to come to their meetings.

Commissioner Ciampi thanked FTE staff for their presentation. He asked for a timeline regarding when the project will be constructed. Ms. Heywood stated that FTE is looking to fund design in 2030, which could mean construction can start around 2035. But this timeline could always change depending on available funding.

Mr. Zach Gazza with the Hobe Sound Farmers Market stated that his community is going to be affected by either alternative one or alternative two, by a land taking. Speaking not as a landowner but as someone who uses Bridge Road and uses the I-95 connection daily, along with his family and extended family, he doesn't think that people know this is happening. He was at the virtual and in-person Public Information Meetings, and there was very little community involvement. He said FDOT is literally building bridges on top of bridges at the southern entrance to Martin County. It's going to be a major construction project. He stated the project, which looks to be constructed in around 2035, and the community in the area may look different at that time, so to make these decisions based on 2020 plans doesn't make sense. He also stated that it would make sense to construct the direct access between the Turnpike and I-95, and any new interchanges at Bridge Road at the same time, so that there isn't construction happening continuously for years to come.

## **G. SR-A1A ROAD SAFETY AUDIT – SR-A1A/SE OCEAN BLVD. FROM EAST OF MONTEREY ROAD TO WEST OF EVANS CRARY SR. BRIDGE**

Beth Beltran introduced the agenda item and stated that when she found out that the FDOT was doing a Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) on the segment of SR-A1A from Monterey Road to Evans Crary Sr. Bridge, she asked MPO staff participate in the audit along with County and City staff. Ms. Beltran explained that because this segment is on the MPO List of Project Priorities, she asked FDOT to come and make a formal presentation regarding the outcome of the audit. She explained that the RSA is finalized, but that the Advisory Committee Members discussed the RSA and have input on how to improve the area. She then turned it over to FDOT and their consultant, who proceeded to give a presentation on the RSA.

Tony Norat explained that an RSA is a relatively new process for FDOT. This process is intended to be streamlined and to implement immediate improvements to an area or corridor. Although the RSA may not include all the potential recommendations or improvements that the public may like to see, it doesn't mean that the MPO couldn't request additional studies or improvements for the area. He then turned it over to Tracy Xie, who continued the presentation.

Tracy Xie, FDOT District Four Safety Office, stated that the RSA is a formal safety performance examination of a roadway segment or intersection. She explained that before an RSA is conducted, FDOT staff and their consultant will look at crash data and roadway conditions to identify areas that should be audited. After the RSA is done, they will share their recommendations and findings from the RSA with the County/municipal government staff and find ways to implement the improvements.

Mr. Shelby Coke, Coke Consulting, stated that the team was aware of previous studies conducted for this area, which includes the East Ocean Blvd./SE Monterey Road Corridor Traffic Study which was conducted by the Martin MPO in 2014 and the Treasure Coast Pedestrian Crosswalk Master Plan Phase 1 Study conducted by FDOT in July of 2021. He discussed the recent RSA, and some of the findings and recommendations that were developed as part of the process. He expects that some of the recommendations could be incorporated through push button contracts to expedite some of these improvements. FDOT is looking to see which improvements can ideally be completed by early 2025.

Beth Beltran explained that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) all accepted the RSA report, but they had comments on what they would like to see moving forward with this area.

The CAC wanted to see the speed limit lowered on the Evans Crary Sr. Bridge. Their concern is that people are coming down the west side of the bridge at more than 40 miles an hour. They also talked about people coming north on Monterey and going right onto East Ocean Boulevard, who don't seem to stop at the red lights, which is a problem as there's a pedestrian crosswalk at this location. The CAC requests that there

be a speed study in the area. The CAC also requests that the surrounding businesses and neighborhoods be included in any public involvement conducted by FDOT.

The TAC recommended fresh striping along the segment. They also passed a motion to recommend that FDOT do a future speed study for the entire length of the project and extend the eastern limit to include the bridge to the east side of the Sewall's Point Road and East Ocean Blvd. intersection.

The BPAC were very concerned with the bicycle and pedestrian safety in this area. They suggested cameras and citations for the intersection of Monterey Road and East Ocean Boulevard. The conversation included discussions about a traffic study starting at SE Palm Beach Road going east, and a mid-block crossing from East Ocean Mall to the Dunkin' Donuts/Subway area. The MPO traffic study that was developed in 2014 as well as the Master Plan that FDOT developed in 2021 both address a mid-block crossing in that area. The BPAC members mentioned that the lanes are very wide in this area and that narrowing lanes and protecting the bike facilities would help with safety along this segment. In addition, BPAC members discussed the difficulty in making left turns.

Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas commented that she is a very visual person, and in her opinion, the speed limit pavement markings are very impactful.

Commissioner Heatherington stated that an RSA in this area is worthwhile because it's been a constant concern for the community. She said that she has been on the MPO Board and Board of County Commissioners for six years, and her first year she had a couple of town hall meetings where approximately 100 people attended, and it was all about their concerns at the intersections of East Ocean Blvd. at Saint Lucie Blvd. and at Monterey Road. The County has spent five to six years doing traffic calming on St. Lucie Blvd. which included many of the recommended actions in the RSA.

Commissioner Mayfield states that she thinks it's great FDOT is doing this. She has traveled this road often, and it feels like a free for all.

**A motion was made by Edward Ciampi to send a letter to FDOT with the recommendations from the Advisory Committees and MPO Board regarding improvements to the SR-A1A/East Ocean Blvd. corridor. It was seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **H. APPORTIONMENT PLAN**

Beth Beltran stated that the MPO Board had received a letter from the Town of Jupiter Island requesting to be a voting member on the MPO Board. She explained that the MPO Policy Board composition is determined by the Apportionment Plan. The MPO Board approved the Apportionment Plan at the October 2023 meeting, and it was submitted to the Governor soon after. She explained that Governor Ron DeSantis had approved the Apportionment Plan in August. The Apportionment Plan is updated every 10 years. At its June meeting, the MPO Board requested that MPO staff come back to the September Policy Board meeting and give a presentation on the Apportionment Plan process.

The Board made a recommendation that MPO staff draft a letter to the Town of Jupiter Island thanking them for their interest in participating as a voting member on the MPO Policy Board, but at this time, the makeup of the Board is finalized, and this topic can be revisited during the next Apportionment Plan process.

**I. SR-710 UPDATE**

Ron Kareiva, FDOT District Four, provided a brief update regarding the SR-710 projects. He stated that the left turn lane at SR-710 and Tommy Clements is currently under construction and it's on pace to be completed in November of 2024. As stated at previous meetings, the right turn lane at the same intersection can begin as soon as the left turn lane project is completed. Regarding the CR-714 and SR-710 realignment project, the design has started. Right of Way is currently funded for the realignment project, as well as the SR-710 widening projects. FDOT is continuing to look for opportunities to advance the project for construction.

**9. COMMENTS FROM FDOT**

**10. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None**

**11.COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –** Commissioner Harold Jenkins recommended that Commissioner Sean Reed attend the MPOAC Weekend institute to familiarize himself with the MPO planning and funding process.

**12. NOTES –** A letter was included in the agenda packet that was a response from Steve Braun, FDOT District Four Secretary. The MPO Board had sent a letter regarding expediting the SR-710 project, especially with the funding of the construction phase. Secretary Braun explained in his letter that FDOT is looking at different sources to fund each segment of the SR-710 project as best they can. Ms. Beltran explained that SR-710 is on the State's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), which opens the project to additional sources of funding.

**13. NEXT MEETING - MPO Policy Board Meeting – October 21, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:31 AM**

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Harold Jenkins, Martin County Commissioner**

10/21/24  
**Date**

**Prepared by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner**

10/21/24  
**Date**

**Minutes Approved on October 21, 2024**

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 Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require language translation services (free of charge) should contact Ricardo Vazquez, Principal 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.