



**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, June 19, 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 Sarah Heard
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Harold Jenkins
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
Village of Indiantown Council

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Commissioner Christopher Collins
Commissioner James Campo

City of Stuart Commission
Town of Sewall's Point Commission

Staff in Attendance:

Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Jessica Josselyn, Kittelson & Associates
Jeff Weidner, Marlin Engineering
Christine Fasiska, FDOT-D4
Ashman Beecher, MARTY

Cesar Martinez, FDOT-D4
James Brown, FDOT-FTE
Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church
Edward Ng, Corradino Group
Justina Peart, Valerin
Kenny Gil, Valerin
Larry Sofield
Corey Crowley

A quorum was present for the meeting.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Sarah Heard and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVE MINUTES

MPO Policy Board Meeting – May 15, 2023

A motion to approve the MPO Policy Board Minutes of May 15, 2023 was made by Commissioner Sarah Heard and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. AGENDA ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING - FINAL DRAFT FY24 – FY28 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ricardo Vazquez gave a brief overview on the Final Draft FY24-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He mentioned the TIP is the document that contains all Federal, State 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 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four (D4) Tentative Work Program that was approved by the MPO Board on December 12, 2022. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

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

B. TRANSIT EFFICIENCY STUDY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ricardo Vazquez introduced Jessica Josselyn from Kittelson & Associates, who gave a presentation on the Transit Efficiency Study. The purpose of this study is to describe the existing MARTY system (services and ridership) and review the adopted Transit Development Plan (TDP), socioeconomic trends and travel patterns. The study shall

identify fixed-route needs and community transit opportunities that will address transit system inefficiencies.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington asked about the 46% analysis in North Stuart, Rio, Jensen Beach area if it is based on the community outreach and input that data into the model. Jessica Josselyn stated that the way the model works is based on census data which shows population information, employment information, and other major attractors. The model is running algorithms that says these populations are going to get on that bus based on the route that they drew. Commissioner Hetherington added once the model is drawn do you go back, survey that specific area, and do another round of community outreach then test the model. Jessica Josselyn mentioned that is going to happen in the Transit Development Plan (TDP). Right now, under this scope of services, it was strictly testing with the model exercise based on initial feedback. She recommended going back out to the community where this route should go, who's interested in using it and working with Ashman Beecher, Transit Administrator of Marty for more details of that specific route.

Commissioner Doug Smith inquired if the model can plug in other routes to see the coverage increases, and if it can be done easily without spending \$50,000. Jessica Josselyn stated that it can be done very easily and they can manipulate and change the routes to test the performance. Commissioner Smith asked if the North Stuart, Jensen Beach, and Palm City routes are run together with all the other routes to see what goes on as a result of having these new routes. Jessica Josselyn mentioned they are looked at individually and as a system with Marty.

Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas asked how the bus stops are chosen because in Indiantown it is a concern. They have one bus stop that they are trying to shift over because of the safety issues. Jessica Josselyn mentioned that in this study they did not get into details of how the bus stops are chosen. Jeff Weidner added that this is way to detailed for the efficiency study. For this study, they are looking for direction of which way to go such as ridership or coverage.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins shared his thoughts, and he believes one investment we could make is in public outreach, public education, advertising and not necessarily purchasing busses or expanding routes. Making people comfortable to take advantage of what we already have is probably a good place to start.

Corey Crawley, member of the public, shared how he spent a lot of times in South America and his recommendation to the consultant is to go to the immigrant community and figure out how they do it now because they are very resourceful. If they make \$150/day, they won't mind paying \$10 to get to work and back home safely. Really dig deep into what they want and focus on the customer and serve that customer.

A motion to emphasize the ridership scenario and taking into consideration the suggestions that were made by Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas and Commissioner Harold Jenkins and no Saturday service was made by Commissioner Sarah Heard and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously. Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas made a comment and leaned towards exploring the hybrid scenario.

C. TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) SCOPE OF SERVICES

Ricardo Vazquez introduced Jeff Weidner, from Marlin Engineering, who gave an overview of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Scope of Services. In Florida, the TDP is required by the State for recipients of Public Transit Block Grant Program funding and is regulated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The TDP will define public transportation needs, involve substantial public participation, and develop a systemic plan and monitoring program. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

Commissioner Stacey Hetherington mentioned that on Task 2, stakeholder coordination, she hoped that there will be employers and riders on that stakeholder group and not just a bunch of government employees. Also, Task 3 public involvement, it says only two public workshops will be held and she thinks that is not enough. She stated that we should have at least one public workshop at each commission district of the county. We are talking about people that are potentially riding transit and they might not have transportation to get to the public workshops. Surveys are inexpensive and can be done ongoing so we can do as many surveys as possible.

A motion to add a public workshop in each commission district to the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Scope of Services was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously.

D. STATE ROAD (SR) 710 FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ricardo Vazquez introduced Cesar Martinez, of FDOT-District Four who gave a presentation on the State Road (SR) 710 Feasibility Study. In the study, several design options were presented to the Board and put to a vote.

A motion to recommend option three and ask the Martin County Commission to schedule a meeting with the Okeechobee County Commission as soon as possible to specifically work on this item with them and come up with an Interlocal Agreement was made by Commissioner Doug Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington, the motion passed unanimously. Council Member Susan Gibbs-Thomas wanted to see acceleration lanes added as well.

E. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW INTERACTIVE MAP UPDATE

Ricardo Vazquez gave a brief overview of the Development Review Interactive Map Update. Commissioner Stacey Hetherington shared her comment to make it more prevalent how to get to this map on the main page because she struggles finding it once she gets to the Martin MPO page.

F. FINAL DRAFT FY25-FY29 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)

Ricardo Vazquez gave a brief overview of the Final Draft FY25-FY29 List of Project Priorities (LOPP). At the MPO Policy Board meeting on February 27, 2023, the Board approved the Draft FY25 – FY29 LOPP. Scoping Forms for the newly added CR-

609/Allapattah Road (Priority #14) and SW Citrus Boulevard (Priority #15) projects were submitted to FDOT. Priority #9 (NW Alice Street) was edited to include the realignment of Alice Street with Wright Boulevard. The Board also made the widening of SR-710 its #1 Priority. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

Commissioner Sarah Heard inquired how can we get FDOT to proceed quickly and decisively in regards with SR-710, Cove Road, and CR-714. Ricardo Vazquez stated that Cove Road's PD&E study has kicked off and will ultimately be funded for design and construction. By including these projects on the list of project priorities, in a sense it is already in the process of moving forward. Christine Fasiska, FDOT-District Four, added that to move the priority up or down is not going to help it move along any faster. Typically, it is based on funding availability and when the project is ready to receive the money. Also, they need certain gaps between phases, typically, between design and construction anywhere from a two to three fiscal year gap.

A motion to adopt the Final Draft FY25-FY29 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) but to make sure that if the signalization of SR-710 and CR-609 is not funded, then it needs to be put back in priority #1 under the widening project was made by Commissioner Stacey Hetherington and seconded by Commissioner Sarah Heard, the motion passed unanimously.

G. REQUEST FOR FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CHANGE – SW HIGH MEADOW AVE

Ricardo Vazquez gave a brief overview of the agenda item. FDOT is requesting an update to the functional classification of SW High Meadow Avenue. Currently the roadway has two Functional Classifications. FDOT would like to change the portion that is currently Urban Local to Urban Minor Arterial. The beginning point of the roadway was moved further south, increasing the length of the roadway. He requested approval and was available to answer questions.

A motion to approve the Request for Functional Classification Change – SW High Meadow Avenue was made by Commissioner Sarah Heard and seconded by Commissioner Doug Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

H. NEW MPO WEBSITE

Ricardo Vazquez introduced Edward Ng, from The Corradino Group, who gave a presentation on the New MPO Website. The new website includes improved features such as a meeting calendar, document/minutes/agenda archive, emphasis areas, announcements, comment intake, and improved search functions. Also, the MPO is celebrating its 30th year and the website will be live at the end of June.

9. COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Troy McDonald shared that starting June 21st the Railroad Bridge will be up 15 minutes and down 15 minutes and every time the Railroad Bridge goes up

the Dixie Highway Bridge will go up as well. On top of that, Brightline is going to start running test trains on June 21st – June 23rd, two trains an hour at a speed up to 110 mph in Martin County.

11. COMMENTS FROM FDOT - None

12. NOTES

- Final CY22 MPO/State Joint Certification

13. NEXT MEETING

- MPO Board Meeting – September 18, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: 11:13 AM

Approved by:



Troy McDonald, Chair

9/18/23
Date

Prepared by:

for 

Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

10/2/23
Date

Minutes Approved on September 18, 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.