

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

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

[www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com)

(772) 221-1498

**Friday, June 7, 2024 @ 1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by

**2. ROLL CALL**

**FTAC Members in Attendance:**

Jim Gorton  
Thomas Lanahan  
Samantha Lovelady  
Justin Stroh  
Dan Romence  
Peter Kuen  
Jared Dusharm  
Brita Nowak  
Dan Hudson  
Aubrey Brown  
Jeff Sabin

**Members Excused:**

Ryan Walpole, Vice Chair  
Donna Carman  
Janet Zimmerman

**Members Absent:**

Butch Olsen  
Robert Ledoux  
Officer Dickson  
Andrew McBean

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator  
Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner

Lucine Martens, Planner  
Peggy Brassard, MC Transit Division

**Others in Attendance:**

Nick Danu, FDOT  
Lisa Stone, Kimley-Horn  
James Brown, FDOT – Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)  
Luke Lambert, Martin County Public Works Department  
Larry Sofield  
Milton Leggett, City of Stuart

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

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

Beth Beltran asked there be a change to the agenda, by adding the approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2023, meeting since there was not a quorum present at the last meeting. Also, Ms. Beltran asked for the first agenda item to be the election of officers.

**Motion to approve the agenda, adding the approval of minutes from June 9, 2023, and adding the election of offices as the first agenda item was made by Jeff Sabin and seconded by Jared Dusharm. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES**

- June 9, 2023

**Motion to approve the minutes from June 9, 2023, was made by Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Jeff Sabin. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. MEETING SUMMARY**

- FTAC Meeting – December 1, 2023

**6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- NONE**

**7. AGENDA ITEMS**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**A motion to nominate Jeff Sabin as Chair was made by Jim Gorton and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to nominate Jared Dusharm as Vice Chair was made by Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Jim Gorton. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **A. FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE AND I-95 DIRECT CONNECT INTERCHANGE PD&E STUDY PRESENTATION**

Jazlyn Heywood with FDOT presented the Florida's Turnpike and I-95 Direct Connect Interchange PD&E Study Presentation. The study is from two miles south and one mile north of Bridge Road. There are two alternatives for the connection. Alternative 1 would have a diverging diamond shape and will require some modification to the existing ramps. The estimated cost is \$231 million. Alternative 2 does not require additions to the ramp. The estimated cost is \$156 million. Both alternatives would have emergency access roads.

Aubrey Brown asked if the construction material/equipment would be able to come in by train through Indiantown. Jazlyn Heywood stated they would look into it as time goes on for the project. Thomas Lanahan stated that Alternative 2 is the superior choice. The reason is not only because of the price difference, but because it does a better job at making the interchange with minimal impact to the bridge. Also, Alternative 1 is too close to the on/off ramps on I-95 and would cause confusion. The committee liked and approved of the emergency road access between the Turnpike and I-95, as it will allow emergency vehicles to get through faster and not be stuck in the traffic.

Jared Dusharm asked about the timeframe for the project. The representative from FDOT explained the project is still in the PD&E process and before the end of the study they will look for the funds for the design phase. The design process will take at least four years. As of right now there is no funding for the construction in the five-year work program.

## **B. COVE ROAD WIDENING PD&E PRESENTATION**

Lisa Stone, Kimley-Horn presented the Cove Road Widening PD&E Presentation. The intention is to go from two lanes to four lanes. The road is broken up into two segments. Segment one is from Kanner Highway to Avalon Drive. There are two alternatives for this section. Segment two is from Avalon Drive to US1. There are three alternatives for this segment. Alternative 1B and Alternative 2C were the most preferred in the Public Workshop.

Jim Gorton asked what the shared use paths would be made of. Lisa Stone stated they would be made with asphalt. Mr. Gorton also mentioned that he dislikes the gravity walls, and they are a maintenance nightmare logistically. Also, Mr. Gorton stated that the light poles should not be too tall because of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Thomas Lanahan agrees with the Public Workshop that 1B and 2C are the better options. Jeff Sabin asked what the timeframe of the project was. Lisa Stone explained that the study would be completed in the end of 2025. After that then design will begin and finding the funds for construction.

Comments from the Public came from Larry Sofield. Mr. Sofield stated that this project will be cutting off access to turn left onto Cove Road for the neighborhood behind Tres

Belle. There are many individuals who have trailers, boats, and horse trailers that turn out of that neighborhood, and they are not going to be able to make a U-Turn with the length of the trailers. Mr. Sofield also mentioned that during a previous presentation a roundabout was suggested at the intersection of Tres Belle Circle and Cove Road, and having a roundabout would be a lot easier than a U-Turn. Jim Gorton followed up and stated that on the weekends there are several people with horse trailers that go down Cove Road to the park. Mr. Gorton suggested FDOT reach out to the stakeholders with Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

**C. FINAL DRAFT FY25 – FY29 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – FREIGHT RELATED PROJECTS**

Ricardo Vazquez, MPO Principal Planner, presented the Final Draft FY25 – FY29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Freight Related Projects. Chapter 1 is the overview of the TIP and the major projects that are included with it. Chapter 2 is the project selection process, a list of project priorities that were approved during the TIP cycle, and the performance measures. Chapter 3 is the public involvement and how we reached out to the public to engage them and get their input on the TIP. Appendices are where the project summaries are located. It has the capital improvement plans from the municipalities and the county. The mentioned projects are the Cove Road project, SR-710 Widening project, and the CR-714 at SR-710 realignment project. FDOT did separate the SR-710 Widening project into two segments. Design and right-of-way for the project has been funded. CR-714 at SR-710 realignment project has been funded for right-of-way.

**Motion to approve the Final Draft FY25 – FY29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Freight Related Projects was made by Jim Gorton and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.**

**D. FY26 – FY30 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)**

Beth Beltran provided an overview of the FY26 – FY30 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) and which projects related to freight. SR-710 Widening project extends to Van Buren Avenue because that is where it transitions into Indiantown from a four-lane road to two-lanes. It was broken up into two segments so that it would be easier from a funding perspective. The widening of Cove Road will stay on the priority list until construction is funded. SR-710 at Allapattah Road, the MPO Policy Board requested to have the signal intersection improvements at this intersection be a separate project. The reason is because the safety intersection improvements could happen before the funding of the widening project. However, if anything happens and the widening starts first, then the signal and intersection improvements will be incorporated into the widening project.

Ms. Beltran provided the intersection of US1/Kanner Highway example of a project that was removed from the list due to construction being fully funded. Due to the safety and mobility issues with the intersection, the State has funded construction. A dedicated right turn lane onto Kanner Highway will be added. Also, when making a left from Kanner Highway to go on US1 toward the Roosevelt Bridge, it will go from a double left turn to a triple left turn.

Thomas Lanahan asked if the connection from the Turnpike to I-95 showed reducing trips on High Meadows, does it reduce it enough where the widening will not be needed. Luke Lambert stated that High Meadows will still need to be widened. Dan Romence sought clarification on what type of funding the CR-714 realignment has. Ricardo Vazquez stated they only had funding for the design phase.

**Motion to approve FY26 – FY30 List of Priorities (LOPP) was made by Thomas Lanahan and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) DISTRICT FOUR FREIGHT UPDATE**

Justin Stroh, District Freight Coordinator, presented the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four Update. Freight priorities, improvement for first to last mile connectivity, freight funding and other freight related projects are based off analysis from three categories: distribution activity, truck trip generation, and freight-related employment.

Jeff Sabin asked about adding additional rest stops or any updates on them. Justin Stroh explained that yes, there is a statewide model and database for this. Currently, the information for District Four is still being updated. However, the weigh station in Martin County is expanding the truck parking.

#### **8. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Brita Nowak asked for further information on the Cove Road Widening Project. Lisa Stone explained that the whole road will need to be reconstructed and new drainage will be done at the same time. Ms. Nowak also stated that a roundabout should be added on Cove Road. Ms. Nowak mentioned that bike lanes next to cars are not safe because people are not courteous and are distracted. Jeff Sabin expressed his gratitude for the MPO staff for their hard work, preparations for the committee meetings, the information they provide and engaging with the community.

Beth Beltran explained the QR code for a survey on the US1 Congestion Management Study from the Roosevelt Bridge to the St. Lucie County line. Ms. Beltran also provided information from an email that was received from Desiree Wood about the Truck Parking Club. They are going around and scooping up the free truck parking and reselling the spaces on their app to truck drivers. The person is reaching out to a lot of city and state

drivers about the spaces and not informing the drivers they are not reimbursed or can write it off as a parking expense. Brita Nowark explained further that the Truck Parking Club is an app, and it is happening nationwide, not just in South Florida. Ms. Nowark also made some suggestions on locations where truck parking can be placed.

**A motion to do a recommendation for the provision of a transient truck parking at warehouses and distribution centers was made by Thomas Lanahan and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.**

**9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**


**10. NOTES**

**11. NEXT MEETING**

- FTAC Meeting – December 6, 2024, at 1:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT 3:10 PM**

Prepared by:

*for*   
Brittany Truong, Administrative Assistant

  
Date

Approved by:

*for*   
Jeff Sabin, FTAC Chair

  
Date

**Minutes Approved on December 6, 2024**

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