

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

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

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

November 8, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by Jeff Sabin

2. ROLL CALL

Lucine Martens, Planner, called roll.

FTAC Members in Attendance:

Jeff Sabin, Chair

Jared Dusharm, Vice Chair

Ryan Walpole

Jim Gorton

Thomas Lanahan

Samantha Lovelady

Justin Stroh

Dan Romence

Milton Leggett

Jeff Chamberlin

Members Excused:

Butch Olsen

Robert Ledoux

Andrew McBean

Janet Zimmerman

Brita Nowak

William Corbin

Linda Allen

Members Absent:

Donna Carman

Peter Kunen

Officer Dickson

Aubrey Brown

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner
Margie Tamblyn, Senior Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner

Others in Attendance:

James Brown, FDOT – Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)
Victoria Peters, FDOT
Vikas Jain, TYLin
Stewart Robinson, Kimley-Horn
Dr. Lissy La Paix, PE, CTS Engineering
Nick Slupecki, FDOT
Kent Walia, FDOT
Erika Sinclair, Chief Information Officer, Martin County ITS
Russell Norvell, Telecommunications Manager, Martin County ITS

A quorum was present for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Beth Beltran asked that Agenda Item 6A (Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O) Master Plan Update) be moved to after Agenda Item 6D on the agenda, as the Martin County Information Technology Systems (ITS) Department Staff had not yet arrived to participate in the discussion.

Motion to approve the amended agenda as presented was made by Jared Dusharm and seconded by Milton Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE SUMMARY MINUTES

- June 7, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2024, was made by Samantha Lovelady and seconded by Jared Dusharm. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE

Vikas Jain of TYLin presented an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He briefly went over the project overview and walked through various components of the public involvement plan. Mr. Jain explained how freight is a key component of the plan and explained that components such as emerging mobility,

performance measures, Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O), specifically the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), are areas where freight will be specifically covered and addressed.

Thomas Lanahan asked for information on the process for bringing project ideas forward for the 2050 LRTP. Vikas explained that all stakeholders can email the project team and/or complete the project survey. The QR code with the link to the project survey will be emailed to the committee members. Samantha Lovelady stated that there are several Comp Plan amendments along SR-714 that might be going through the approval process and if approved they should be included in the LRTP planning model.

Jeff Sabin asked if there will be attention to safe Intermodal planning in conjunction with rail locations in Martin County. He inquired about access points for spurs in the Stuart area and if this planning will be considered in the LRTP. Vikas explained capacity improvements if they are required, could be incorporated at least in the needs plan and then funding could be considered. Kent Walia stated that FDOT will touch base in the future with the project team and coordinate for submitting FDOT projects for the LRTP.

B. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) DISTRICT FOUR FREIGHT COORDINATOR UPDATES

Justin Stroh, FDOT District Four (D4) Freight Coordinator, offered two different approaches to getting truck parking within D4. Florida has prioritized truck parking and with that, FDOT D4 is comprehensively analyzing the entire district, having two studies occurring simultaneously that will be completed by May 2025: "Truck Parking Supply and Demand Analysis Study" and the "Truck Parking Engineering Analysis and Considerations Study". Part of addressing the need for truck parking is to identify land parcels to convert to trucking parking facilities and to develop some concepts and long-range cost estimates. Then an implementation plan will be developed to the truck parking facilities online as quickly as possible. The process involves working with Central Office, different local stakeholders to identify different land use patterns and then working with private trucking operators to identify where needs are in D4. Ultimately ten locations will be identified throughout D4.

Jared Dusharm asked if the 10 sites would be proposed to be publicly owned or privately owned. Justin clarified that currently they would be FDOT owned sites and in State Right of Way (ROW). There will be no charge for these spaces. A rest area model would be followed, they will be stand-alone facilities, that would include restroom facilities, security, and wayfinding. Justin will do further research as to the statutes and policies for disconnecting a trailer and/or leaving unmanned trucks at public truck parking facilities for extended periods of time. Ryan Walpole stated from a truck transportation perspective, he would highly recommend being against storage at truck parking facilities. He also commented that from the American Transportation Research Institute annual study of the trucking industry, businesses said the number one issue was the economy, but the

number two issue was truck parking. From a driver's standpoint the number one issue is truck parking; having a safe well-lit spot with utilities and bathroom facilities to make the drivers feel safe is highly encouraged in the future design of truck parking facilities. Currently, when a truck pulls into some of the existing rest areas, there are not many opportunities for parking and if the driver misses a parking spot, logistically the driver doesn't have the opportunity to turn back and come around and therefore the drivers are forced to park on the shoulder of the road. Therefore, the future truck parking areas design layout should include loop arounds for truck circulation.

Jim Gorton commented that there are a few studies underway with the Turnpike, specifically an interchange between I-95 and the Turnpike near the Bridge Road intersection. Also, there are some concepts designed for modification to the Turnpike interchange at SR-714/High Meadow and some of the potential truck parking parcels are located really close to these projects.

Thomas Lanahan commented that there is an automobile dealership in West Palm Beach that leases property from FPL to facilitate parking of three-quarters of his automobile inventory under FPL utility lines. Thomas Lanahan asked for clarification as to whether the trucks are idling at truck parking areas. Ryan Walpole explained that most trucks run on APU units; a small diesel engine that is utilized so they are not using the main engine which helps to reduce emission output and fuel burn.

Dan Romence inquired as to whether FDOT is considering any properties along SR-710 for siting of truck parking. Justin Stroh stated that properties along SR-710 could be considered in the future and the initial study is primarily to look at parcels adjacent to I-95 and the Turnpike. Ryan Walpole stated SR-710 is more of a regional freight truck route versus I-95 and the Turnpike which are over-the-road freight routes. Freight trucking parking is more needed along the main north/south corridors. OTR or over-the-road truck drivers are freight drivers that will be out travelling three to four days and running over five hundred miles. Under five hundred miles to a minimum of two hundred miles is considered regional freight. There is also local freight. Jeff Sabin summarized that FDOT is doing a one-year truck parking and engineering study based on tiers, criteria, and zoning.

Justin Stroh explained that back in 2017, a predecessor identified how much truck parking is online and how much will be needed for the future. Then a state-wide truck parking analysis study was implemented using GPS data at the weigh stations to identify a more regional state-wide look. This study is mostly an update supporting why more truck parking is needed in D4. He continued and explained that the FDOT team would go over the current truck parking supply and how FDOT will meet the truck parking demand in the future. Justin introduced Dr. Lissy La Paix, PE, with CTS Engineering who presented the "D4 Truck Parking Supply and Demand Analysis Study". The project objectives included quantifying truck parking throughout the five counties, confirming utilization and estimating future demand. The team is at the beginning of the project, and they are mostly defining existing conditions. They are considering prior studies, engaging a broad range of stakeholders, do interviews and surveys, including field verification. They will then

develop a methodology, such as improving or selecting the best methodology to estimate demand for the future. In Martin County there are four existing parking sites with a total of 194 parking spaces. All the truck parking spaces in Martin County are public. Each truck parking site will have a profile document including the site characteristics and amenities. There will be a total of 22 variables collected for each site. Next the team will forecast future demand with the use of macro level, micro and/or choice models.

After the presentation several FTAC members discussed truck parking logistics, and the high cost of private truck parking. Jim Gorton asked about the private parking and if the trucking companies have to pay to use these private parking spots. It was confirmed that trucking companies do have to pay for the private parking. Jim Gorton then brought up the topic of private/public partnerships where for example if an industrial development was being developed, that the developer would carve off a piece for truck parking but there would have to be some financial benefit to the developer/property owner. Ryan Walpole stated that the Florida Trucking Association was looking at partnering with a company that was looking at utilizing arenas/football stadiums when there were no sporting events going on; to utilize those areas for truck parking, but it all comes back to having the facilities. Justin Stroh commented in reference to private/public lease agreement options, FDOT is working to identify what that process would look like.

Justin Stroh stated that there are two upcoming PD&E's for capacity on I-95, where truck parking is in the scope of services. FDOT will present on these projects at a later date.

C. US-1 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC OUTREACH STUDY

Beth Beltran introduced Stewart Robertson of Kimley-Horn and Bonnie Landry of Bonnie C. Landy & Associates who presented on the US-1 Congestion Management/Public Outreach Study. The study limits for this project are on US-1 from SW Joan Jefferson Way north to the Martin/St. Lucie County Line. Mr. Robertson discussed the challenges within the study area that includes constrained roadway conditions.

Mr. Robertson stated that they identified challenges, such as the size of the parking lots, which create the sense of a vehicle dependent environment. They also noted the lack of connectivity between adjacent parcels, for example, between the Treasure Coast Mall and Target. It means that any vehicle trip that is going between those two uses must get out on to US-1, even for very short trips. There are longer vehicle trips on this corridor as well, as this is a major commuting route between St. Lucie County and Martin County. Mr. Robertson also explained that pedestrian facilities rarely extend into the parcels aligning US-1, which makes the environment less accessible to walkers and transit users. He explained that the data shows the PM conditions are more congested than the AM conditions.

Mr. Robertson stated that there has been a series of congestion mitigation strategies developed and included in the final study that are meant to help to address the congestion in the area.

D. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O) MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Kent Walia, Planning Supervisor with FDOT D4, introduced Dr. Lissy La Paix, PE, of CTS Engineering, the consultant for the TSM&O Master Plan Update. Also included on the team is Nick Slupecki with D4 Traffic Operations, and Victoria Peters, Transportation Planning Manager. Kent stated that the TSM&O Master Plan is updated every five years and he explained that TSM&O is the use of technologies and strategies to restore levels of service (LOS) and also manage traffic congestion without having to increase capacity.

Dr. Lissy La Paix explained that the team has been working on identifying existing conditions, performance measures, and review prior related plans. She summarized focus areas and strategies. This effort includes outreach and coordination with numerous stakeholders and MPOs. A map was shared that identified FDOT fiber in Martin County. Kent Walia explained that gathering the various agencies fiber network information is for the analysis standpoint of this project. TSM&O strategies by facility and mode were discussed.

Erika Sinclair, Martin County Chief Information Officer, and Russell Norvell, Martin County Telecommunications Manager, were both present during the agenda item to answer any questions and share information that came up during the presentation about Martin County fiber. Mr. Norvell explained that there is good fiber coverage within Stuart and in the eastern half of the county. However, going west towards Indiantown Martin County does not have fiber presence and relies on a private-local fiber provider for coverage and connectivity to County facilities.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Lanahan with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council stated that a project for a freight/rail bypass along US-27 to the Lake Okeechobee is being finalized and a copy of it will be provided to the MPO.

James Brown with FDOT discussed various Turnpike planning projects including truck parking.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

9. NOTES

10. NEXT MEETING – TBD

ADJOURNMENT 12:17 PM

Prepared by:

Lucine Martens
For Lucine Martens, Planner

6/5/2025
Date

Approved by:

Jeff Sabin
for Jeff Sabin, FTAC Chair

6/5/25
Date

Minutes Approved on June 5, 2025

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