

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
JOINT CITIZEN'S/TECHNICAL/BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (CAC/TAC/BPAC) MEETING**

Martin County Administrative Building Commission Chambers

2401 SE Monterey Road

Stuart, FL 34996

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Monday, April 3, 2023 @ 1:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:28 PM by Lisa Wichser, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

TAC Members in Attendance:

Lisa Wichser

Kim DeLaney

Robert Daniels

Howard Brown

Mark Cocco

Samantha Lovelady

Milton Leggett

Ashman Beecher

Ken DeAngeles

TAC Members Excused:

Peter Kunen

TAC Members Not in Attendance:

Stuart Trent

Sam Carver

BPAC Members in Attendance:

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas

Julie Preast

Bonnie Moser

Jody Leclair

Mike Bocchino

Hal Forsland

BPAC Excused Members:

Don Fabricy
Bradford Davey
Arlette Cataldo

BPAC Members Not in Attendance:

Dawn Arvin
Timothy Rossknecht
Michael MacLeod

CAC Members in Attendance:

Amy Eason
John Patteson
Cindy Greenspan
Ann Kagdis
Blake Capps
Saadia Tsafarides
Helen McBride
Howard Lyndon Brown

CAC Members Excused:

Hilary Young
Trent Steele

CAC Members Absent:

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Tori Bacheler, Kimley-Horn
Christine Fasiska, FDOT
Wibet Hay, FDOT
James Brown, FDOT-FTE
Victoria Williams, FDOT-FTE
Zhuan Loo, Osiris 9 Consulting
Cady Schlosser, Osiris 9 Consulting
Daniel Miller, Osiris 9 Consulting
Brian Ribaric, FDOT-FTE
Su Hao, FDOT-FTE
David Dangel, Inwood

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ken DeAngeles and seconded by Milton Leggett, the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the Joint CAC/TAC/BPAC Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2022, was made by Ken DeAngeles and seconded by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, the motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. TITLE VI AND OTHER NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez who presented the agenda item. Martin MPO must comply with both Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations about Title VI and other Nondiscrimination. FHWA requires the MPO to review the Title VI language on a regular basis to assure it is current. The only changes made for this update was to update the Title VI activity log as well as Table 1 – Top Languages Spoken at Home in Martin County, with American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 5-year estimates.

A motion to approve the Title VI and Other Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan Update was made by Julie Preast and seconded by Ken DeAngeles, the motion passed unanimously.

B. FDOT PRESENTATION – BRIDGE AND PAVEMENT, AND SYSTEM PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Beth Beltran introduced Christine Fasiska from FDOT who gave an overview of the agenda item. Congress has required the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to establish national performance measure areas for States and MPOs to carry out the Federal Aid Program. In response, USDOT established performance measure areas which include safety (PM1), bridge and pavement conditions (PM2), and system performance on the National Highway System (NHS) (PM3). The USDOT also requires States and MPOs to set targets for all performance measure areas and to report periodically on their progress in meeting those targets.

Julie Preast asked why FDOT has such low expectations on the pavement performance measure targets. She was concerned that the standard on good

condition for bridges is 60% and not 80%. Christine Fasiska stated that all the bridges throughout the entire district are inspected on a regular basis and every bridge has a different inspection cycle. Also, the funding for the bridges is statewide and these percentages are based on the statewide program. The goal is to make sure to get the bridges ready for either rehabilitation or replacement before it gets down to that unsafe condition.

A motion to approve the FDOT Presentation – Bridge and Pavement, and System Performance Targets was made by Milton Leggett and seconded by Mark Cocco, the motion passed with Julie Preast dissenting.

C. FLORIDA’S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE – PD&E STUDY AND SW MARTIN HIGHWAY (SR-714) INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced James Brown and Brian Ribaric who gave a brief overview on the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise – PD&E Study and SW Martin Highway (SR-714) Interchange Update. At a previous MPO Board meeting, the Board expressed concerns about the proposed Turnpike Interchange alternatives, especially the impact to SW Martin Highway. When the Turnpike staff came back to the MPO in October 2021, Board members did not support the proposed interchange at Leighton Farms Avenue. Turnpike staff stated that the future interchange improvement would occur when all parties (the Turnpike, County and MPO) agreed that the proposed improvement was needed.

A motion to approve the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise – PD&E Study and SW Martin Highway (SR-714) Interchange Update was made by Pinal Gandhi-Savdas and seconded by Milton Leggett, the motion passed unanimously.

D. FDOT US-1 SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED (SUN) TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Beth Beltran introduced Daniel Miller who presented the agenda item. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study for the construction of a Shared-Use path from SE Bridge Road to the Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge Center. This project will connect the East Coast Greenway with the future Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN Trail, which is currently being studied by the MPO.

Bob Daniels asked about the bridge difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 3. Daniel Miller stated that the difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 3 is that on Alternative 3 it would be an at-grade crossing. There is no current crossing at that location, and it will require a discussion with Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) to implement the crossing. When it comes to the bridge, it is not inside of FEC right-of-

way so the construction can be done outside of their right-of-way and the bridge deck can be lowered into that location. There is no real impact to their operation.

Lisa Wichser asked if it is outside the FEC's right-of-way, is the north and south side of the bridge in FDOT's right of way? Daniel Miller stated that it is on Alternative 1 and 2 but not on Alternative 3.

Blake Capps mentioned that Alternative 1 has the SUN Trail going along the east side of US-1 down to the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge and then crossing over the highway to connect with the existing section of the SUN Trail by the entrance to Jonathan Dickinson (JD) State Park. He suggested that the trail should go down the west side of US-1 since the connection at JD Park and the connection north of Bridge Road will be on the west side of US-1. He added that Alternative 1 has a possible connection to the Hobe Sound Scrub Preserve trail and inquired if the SUN Trail would pay for this connection. Daniel Miller stated that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) inside of the JD Park is looking to build a pathway that is going across the street. He added that the SUN Trail only provides the pavement and Martin County will have to figure out how to fund that connection.

Bonnie Moser expressed her desire for Alternative 2 along Dixie Highway because the speeds are slower and there is a greater chance of survival if a pedestrian or cyclist is struck by a turning vehicle. She shared that they recently lost a cyclist on US-1 to a turning vehicle in the crosswalk. She added that the Dixie route also connects more neighborhoods and users to the downtown businesses on Dixie and Bridge Road and even provides a safer connection to the beach. It can be of real benefit to the residents of Hobe Sound if it were located on Dixie. She understood that right-of-way is difficult to acquire but it is worth it for the community.

Julie Preast mentioned that anything along US-1 is less desirable than Dixie Highway in terms of aesthetic, noise, and the connectivity to go north to approach the City of Stuart. She added that this is specifically for cyclists and pedestrians, so we need to consider what they are looking for. She asked how many problems on Dixie Highway in that 1.9 miles stretch. Daniel Miller stated it is not a matter of obstacles it's a matter of right-of-way acquisition on that corridor.

E. COVE ROAD WIDENING PD&E PROJECT KICKOFF PRESENTATION

Beth Beltran introduced Vanita Saini and David Dangel who presented the Cove Road Widening PD&E Project Kickoff Presentation. The purpose of widening Cove Road from two lanes to four lanes is to add capacity for all modes of travel and to improve the local transportation network. The PD&E Study will evaluate existing conditions, impacts to traffic, evaluate environmental concerns, and develop design alternatives for consideration.

Julie Preast inquired if this PD&E study looks at proposed developments and where prospective crosswalks might be needed. David Dangel stated that they do look at those because there are a lot of developments coming in. They anticipate looking at a road that has a raised median and will have to determine where they will allow for a full median opening and full access versus directional.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8. NOTES - None

9. NEXT MEETING

- TAC – May 1, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
- CAC – May 3, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
- BPAC – May 8, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

10. ADJOURN


Seeing no other business items remaining on the agenda and no additional comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:58 PM.

Prepared by:


for Alor Cadorna, Administrative Assistant

10/16/2023
Date

Approved by:


Lisa Wichser, TAC Chair *KIM DEANEY,*
VICE CHAIR

Date

Minutes Approved on October 16, 2023

The Martin MOP 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.