

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

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

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Monday, February 3, 2025 @ 1:30 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM by Robert Daniels, Chair.

ROLL CALL

Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant, called roll.

TAC Members in Attendance:

Robert Daniels, Chair

Dr. Kim DeLaney, Vice Chair

George Dzama

Kim McLaughlin

Taryn Kryzda

Mark Cocco

Milton Leggett

Samantha Lovelady

Ashman Beecher

Lauren Boshell

TAC Members Excused:

TAC Members Not in Attendance:

Peter Kunen

Ken DeAngeles

Non-Voting Member in Attendance:

Kelly Budhu

Sally Waite

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator

Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner

Lucine Martens, Planner

Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

James Brown, FDOT-FTE
Erik Ferguson, Martin County
Jamie Polidora, Martin County
Luke Lambert, TMC
Brad Salisbury, FDOT
Jim Gorton, PWD
Robert Lopes, FDOT
Alejandro Janreguy, Lochner/FDOT
Tony Nora, FDOT

A quorum was present.

Beth Beltran introduced Susan Ortiz as the MPO's New Administrative Assistant. Ms. Beltran also informed the committee that Kim McLaughlin is an alternate for Stuart Trent of the Town of Jupiter Island.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Cocco and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- TAC Meeting – September 4, 2024

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024, was made by George Dzama and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Beltran explained the Election of Officers is during the first meeting of the calendar year. Mr. Daniels asked if anyone was interested in the position of chair. Taryn Kryzda stated Robert Daniels should be reelected as Chair, Mr. Daniels accepted.

A motion to approve Robert Daniels as Chair was made by Taryn Kryzda and was seconded by George Dzama. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee proceeded with the election of a Vice Chair. Ms. Beltran noted that Dr.

Kim Delaney currently holds the position but had not been able to confirm with Dr. Delaney prior to the meeting whether she was interested in continuing in the role. Ms. Beltran asked if there were any other members interested in the position. Jim Gorton expressed interest, and Mr. Gorton was elected as the new Vice Chair.

A motion to approve Jim Gorton as Vice Chair was made by Taryn Kryzda and was seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

B. SAFETY TARGETS

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez, who presented the annual safety targets for review and approval.

A motion to approve Safety Targets was made by Ashman Beecher and was seconded by Mark Cocco. The motion passed unanimously.

C. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) PROJECT APPLICATION

Beth Beltran explained that the TAP comes before the Board every year and introduced Jamie Polidora from Capital Projects. Ms. Polidora presented the Project Application.

Ms. Polidora explained this year's TAP application focused on the Fisherman's Cove sidewalk project. The Fisherman Cove's neighborhood is located east of South Carolina Highway and south of Southeast Main Street, it currently lacks sidewalks and direct connections to existing sidewalks along Kanner Highway, a major arterial roadway.

Taryn Kryzda expressed concern regarding potential impacts of federal funding moratorium on TAP grants. Ms. Polidora stated there are no official indication of such impacts at this time. Applications are still being accepted.

Mark Cocco raised a concern regarding the cars parked in the driveways potentially blocking the proposed sidewalks. Ms. Polidora explained that residents had initially believed certain portions of the right-of-way were private property. However, clarification was provided that the right-of-way partially extends into their yards. Despite his concerns, Mark Cocco expressed his support for the project.

George Dzama stated the goal is to get people off the road. Mr. Dzama also recognized to the Board that the neighborhood is a lower-income area with children needing safe routes for walking. The project has been a long-requested improvement, addressing both pedestrian safety and stormwater management.

Robert Daniels asked Mr. Dzama where the storm water would go. George Dzama stated that it had its own drain system.

Lucine Martens asked about plans to extend the sidewalk network to the neighborhood east of the bridges. Ms. Polidora stated that the expansion is recognized as valuable but is not included due to current budget constraints. There is a possibility of phasing future projects to include bridges on Heron and Norfolk streets.

Mr. Daniels asked if there were any further questions. There were not.

A motion to approve the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Application was made by Dr. Kim DeLaney and was seconded by Mark Cocco. The motion passed unanimously.

D. TITLE VI REPORT UPDATE

Beth Beltran explained the Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan is an annual agenda item brought before the Board. Ms. Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez who stated the Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan outlines the MPO's commitment to ensuring no discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, or other protected categories. The plan also details the procedures for addressing and resolving and Title VI complaints. Table One has been updated to reflect the 2023 five-year estimates of the top languages spoken in Martin County homes. The final page now includes all Title VI and equity-related activities conducted by MPO staff over the past two years.

A motion to approve the Title VI Report Update was made by Samantha Lovelady and was seconded by Taryn Kryzda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. DRAFT FY27-FY31 LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES (LOPP)

Beth Beltran introduced the List of Project Priorities (LOPP). Ms. Beltran stated that the draft List of Project Priorities is presented annually, with final approval scheduled for June. Two separate draft lists are being presented; the Roadway List, which is the traditional list that the Board reviewed annually and the Local Road Safety Program List, a new list derived from funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act. Ms. Beltran proceeded to read through the Project Priority lists.

Ms. Beltran then introduced Eric Ferguson, the newly hired Traffic Engineer for the County who provided an update on the number one project on the list. The presentation provided an overview of the project's goals.

Ms. Martens inquired whether the overall cost estimate for the Southeast Dixie Highway project accounted for right-of way expenses. She noted that multiple studies have been conducted, revealing significant restrictions along Dixie Highway due to limited right of way and its proximity to the Florida East Coast Railroad. Ms. Martens also asked whether leasing agreements or other associated costs related to the railroad would impact the total project budget. Mr. Ferguson clarified that the cost estimate presented was focused solely on construction. The only anticipated right-of-way acquisition at this stage would be at Osprey for roadway improvements, which is expected to be manageable. Lease

agreements may be necessary for certain traffic signal equipment, although specific details are still under review.

Eric Bradshaw from the DOT inquired about the second train warning signal, asking whether it consisted of two separate signs – one for pedestrians and one for vehicles – or was it a combined sign visible to both. Mr. Ferguson clarified that there is only one sign for pedestrians.

Dr. Delaney raised a question regarding quadrant coverage, she asked whether additional quadrants should be considered wherever intersection upgrades were being made, particularly to align county improvements with school zone safety standards. Mr. Ferguson responded that the issue often results in debate, as ensuring vehicles do not drive around crossing gates can be challenging. He noted that it would be more difficult for drivers to maneuver around properly implemented barriers, emphasizing the need for strong design solutions. Dr. Delaney agreed that reinforcing the message of safe crossings is important, acknowledging the difficulty of stopping certain behaviors. She expressed a desire for further clarification on whether the section in question already included four quadrants. Jim Gorton clarified that there are five quadrants in question, all designed as safety measures.

Ms. Beltran emphasized the importance of pedestrian safety, she highlighted concerns about train gate malfunctions and stressed the need for improved safety measures, particularly given the small-town setting where roads are narrow, and pedestrian and cyclist activity is high. Ms. Beltran noted that the addition of a second train warning system would be particularly valuable in enhancing safety.

A motion to approve Draft FY27-FY31 List of Project Priorities (LOPP) was made by Taryn Kryzda and seconded by Dr. Kim DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

F. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez, who presented the Public Involvement Annual Report. The report, included in the agenda packet, provides a detailed overview of the public involvement events hosted by the MPO during the 2024 calendar year. It outlined the strategies associated with the six public involvement goals. Mr. Vazquez prepared a brief PowerPoint presentation summarizing key goals and the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. Following the presentation, approval of the annual report was requested.

A motion to approve the Public Involvement Annual Report Update was made by Ashman Beechman and seconded by Samantha Lovelady. The motion passed unanimously.

G. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) SR-710 AND SW ALLAPATTAH ROAD WIDENING AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL PRESENTATION

Beth Beltran introduced Brad Salisbury, who presented the widening project on SR-710

and SW Allapattah Road.

Ms. Martens asked whether with the new traffic signal at Terra Lago near the 65+ community there are plans for a designated transit stop, either by FDOT or the developer to improve accessibility for the residents. Mr. Sailsbury stated the coordination with Terra Lago will continue, as they access permit approval and can be addressed during the permit review process.

Ms. Beltran inquired where the study includes the Terra Lago signal or the SW Allapattah Road signal, expected to be review in September. Mr. Salisbury confirmed it was the Allapattah signal.

H. FDOT'S MONTEREY ROAD AT FEC RAILROAD CROSSING GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT.

Beth Beltran introduced Rob Lopes, who presented the FDOT's Monterey Road at FEC Railroad crossing grade separation project.

Ms. Beltran raised concerns regarding traffic issues between Dixie Highway and US1 near Monterey, noting that the area has previously been identified as problematic. The primary issue involves traffic flow, particularly during peak hours, as drivers attempt to reach US1 or turn into the shopping center just before US1. Ms. Beltran asked if the project under discussion aims to evaluate traffic circulation in this corridor, with the hope that sequencing improvements will be incorporated to enhance overall traffic management. Mr. Lopes confirmed that, regardless of the selected alternative, the project will specifically examine this corridor. While the team has already conducted a preliminary review and identified key safety concerns, a more detailed discussion on these findings is planned for later.

Mr. Lopes then introduced Alejandro Janreguy from Loughner, who was selected by the Department to conduct the study. Mr. Janreguy explained that the project began approximately a year ago and has now surpassed the traffic collection stages. The team is currently evaluating various alternative solutions which were presented to the committee and seeking additional feedback to determine the best path forward.

Lauren Boshell requested to review a slide and asked whether it represented a bridge at the location. Mr. Janreguy confirmed that it depicted an elevated bridge option, which is one of the proposed strategies. While the concept shown reflects an ideal construction scenario within the existing right-of-way, adjustments can be made based on stakeholder feedback. One anticipated modification involves slightly shifting elements, though the extent of the adjustment remains uncertain. Mr. Janreguy emphasized that the design is not final and will be refined further.

Ms. Boshell then inquired about the rail grade crossing at Dixie Highway leading into the airport. The response indicated that Dixie would be elevated, eliminating the need to stop whenever there is airport access. Preliminary analysis suggests this adjustment would

divert a significant amount of traffic away from the Monterey-Dixie intersection. While it is unclear whether the diversion is sufficient, the findings justify continued evaluation. Ms. Boshell asked if this solution would replace the proposed bridge, and the response confirmed that it is being assessed as an alternative. The team will determine whether it meets key objectives, including improved evacuation efficiency, emergency response times, and overall reliability for movement between both sides of the corridor.

Ms. Martens then asked whether commercial businesses had been included in the public outreach efforts. Mr. Janreguy confirmed that outreach consists of two components. First, the team defines the impacted areas, which can extend from the start of project studies to the project limit, covering a broad range of stakeholders. The number of businesses and residents reached is determined in coordination with the department and project manager. Second, geofencing is used to capture input from individuals traveling through the corridor who do not reside in the area but frequently commute through it. This method ensures that commuters and other stakeholders receive relevant project updates and access to resources.

Robert Daniels inquired about the additional crossover and the associated trade-offs. The response clarified that for each new crossing—whether at grade, under, or over—the Department, City, or County must consider eliminating two existing crossings. Discussion ensued and Mr. Daniels expressed concerns about project investments in improving crossings, particularly when a crossing scheduled for closure had recently received funding. He acknowledged the long-term need for safety improvements but questioned the efficiency of this approach. The consultant explained the team is seeking clarification on regulatory criteria, as requirements for new crossings do not currently distinguish between elevated and at-grade designs. The preferred approach is to close two existing crossings when creating a new at-grade crossing, while elevated crossings might only require one closure. A formal inquiry has been submitted for confirmation.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

8. NOTES – 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Outreach and Survey

Beth Beltran introduced Ricardo Vazquez, who presented on the LRTP outreach survey. Attendees were encouraged to participate by using the QR code on the business-style cards distributed during the meeting. Attendees are encouraged to engage their communities and maximize survey participation to help shape a stronger transportation plan.

9. NEXT MEETING

- Joint BPAC/CAC/TAC Meeting – April 7, 2025, at 1:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: 2:26 P.M.

Prepared by:


Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

Date

Approved by:



Robert Daniels, Chair



Date

Minutes Approved on May 5, 2025

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 in advance of the meeting. Hearing-impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.