



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION GOVERNING BOARD

MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008 AT 2:00 PM

STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW FIRST STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

AGENDA

Chairman
Bruno A. Barreiro

Vice Chairwoman
Barbara J. Jordan

Voting Members
Lynda Bell
Kevin A. Burns
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Audrey M. Edmonson
Shirley M. Gibson
Carlos A. Gimenez
Perla T. Hantman
Sally A. Heyman
William H. Kerdyk
Joe A. Martinez
Dennis C. Moss
Julio Robaina
Dorrian D. Rolle
Marc D. Sarnoff
Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson
Rebeca Sosa
Javier D. Souto
Richard L. Steinberg

Non-Voting Members
(FDOT District VI)
Gerry O'Reilly, P.E.
Gary L. Donn, P.E.

County Mayor
Carlos Alvarez

County Manager
George M. Burgess

**Assistant County
Manager**
Ysela Llort

**MPO Secretariat
Director**
Jose Luis Mesa, Ph.D.

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1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 20, 2008

3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS

A. CITIZEN COMMITTEES

1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST
2. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)
3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)
4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
5. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

B. MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)

1. Status Report

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. **SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET: CSX RAIL CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY**
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE CSX RAIL CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

2. **REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER PERLA T. HANTMAN: AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.04 SELECTION OF MPO CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.04 OF THE RULES OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA REGARDING THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MPO GOVERNING BOARD

5. REPORTS

A. MPO BOARD MEMBERS

1. Request by MPO Board Member MPO Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson: Status of Reversible Flow Lanes Project @ NW 7th Avenue (**withdrawn from 2/21/08 Agenda**)
2. Request by MPO Board Member Richard L. Steinberg: Maintenance/Repair of Vehicle Detection Loops
3. Request by MPO Board Member Richard L. Steinberg: I-95 HOT lanes Status Report
4. Request by MPO Board Member Dorrian D. Rolle: I-95 Sound Walls Maintenance Schedule

B. COUNTY MANAGER

C. COUNTY ATTORNEY

D. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT VI)

E. MPO SECRETARIAT

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS

It is the policy of Miami Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The facility for this meeting is accessible. For sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or materials in accessible format, please call 305-375-4507 at least five business days in advance.



**FINAL OFFICIAL
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA
GOVERNING BOARD**

SUMMARY MINUTES

MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008 AT 2:00 P.M.

**STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW FIRST STREET
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization on April 24, 2008:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Board Member Kevin A. Burns | Board Member Dennis C. Moss |
| Board Member Jose “Pepe” Diaz | Board Member Dorrin D. Rolle |
| Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson | Board Member Natacha Seijas |
| Board Member Shirley M. Gibson | Board Member Katy Sorenson |
| Board Member Carlos A. Gimenez | Board Member Rebeca Sosa |
| Board Member Perla T. Hantman | Board Member Javier D. Souto |
| Board Member Sally A. Heyman | Board Member Richard L. Steinberg |
| Board Member Joe A. Martinez | Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan |
| Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro | |

Non-voting members present: Mr. Gary Donn, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The following staff members were present: Jose Luis Mesa, Director, MPO Secretariat; Bruce Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Barreiro asked Mrs. Elizabeth Rockwell, MPO Staff to call the roll.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Board Member Bell | -Absent | Board Member Moss | -Present |
| Board Member Burns | -Present | Board Member Robaina | -Absent |
| Board Member Diaz | -Present | Board Member Rolle | -Present |
| Board Member Edmonson | -Present | Board Member Sarnoff | -Absent |
| Board Member Gibson | -Present | Board Member Seijas | -Present |
| Board Member Gimenez | -Present | Board Member Sorenson | -Present |
| Board Member Hantman | -Present | Board Member Sosa | -Present |
| Board Member Heyman | -Present | Board Member Souto | -Present |
| Board Member Kerdyk | -Absent | Board Member Steinberg | -Present |
| Board Member Martinez | -Present | | |

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro-Present
Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan-Present

Mrs. Rockwell announced quorum was attained.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Martinez moved for approval of the agenda. Board Member Sosa seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Board Member Burns expressed concern with the number of times the MPO Citizen Committees' reports have been skipped. He stated that the extended County Commission meetings have caused the MPO Board meetings to be cut short. He further stated that the MPO has skipped committee reports twice within the last three months. He also expressed that this type of practice was not fair to the Chair of these committees that have taken the time to attend these meetings. Board Member Burns stated that the MPO Board should demonstrate a greater amount of respect to these individuals because they are all volunteers.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Martinez moved for approval of the March 20, 2008 minutes. Board Member Moss seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS

A. CITIZEN COMMITTEES

1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST

Board Member Kerdyk appointed Mr. Robert W. Rodriguez to BPAC
(This appointment was read by Board Member Gimenez).

2. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

No report provided for this item.

3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)

No report provided for this item.

4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

No report provided for this item.

5. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)

No report provided for this item.

B. MIAMI DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)

1. MDX Status Report

No report provided for this item.

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET: CSX RAIL CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE CSX RAIL CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

Board Member Martinez moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Sosa seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

2. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER PERLA T. HANTMAN: AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.04 SELECTION OF MPO CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Board Member Hantman introduced the item by providing a brief history of the MPO Board Chair/Vice Chair selection process. She concluded by stating that the proposed request will allow all of the voting MPO Board members the opportunity to participate in the selection of Chair and Vice Chair for the MPO Governing Board.

Board Member Seijas stated that she did not see a problem with the current rule. She then stated that she did not believe any of the MPO Chairs or the county commissioners have ever been disrespectful to the other Board members. She requested clarity from staff on which entity supplies the local match to federal grants received by the MPO. Mr. Mesa responded that Miami-Dade County provides the match to the federal grants. She further asked how much funds the county budgets to match these grants. Mr. Mesa responded that the amount for FY 2008 is approximately \$768,000. She also asked whether the School Board, MDX or the other municipalities contribute funding to match these grants. Mr. Mesa responded no. Board Member Seijas concluded by stating that she does not support this item.

Board Member Hantman responded that the proposed resolution had little to do with the finances or how the members were treated. She then stated that the proposed item is presented as a means to update the MPO rule that has been in effect since 1977 when the MPO Board was comprised of only Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She concluded by stating that the MPO Board was created as an independent body.

Board Member Burns stated that the county commission is comprised of thirteen members that get to choose their Chair and Vice Chair. He then stated that it's only fair that the MPO Board which is comprised of twenty-three (23) elected and appointed members have the opportunity to choose their own Chair and Vice Chair. He further stated that the funds Miami-Dade County uses to match federal grants are from tax payers that each MPO Board member represents. He also stated that everyone contributes to the funding of the MPO program. He concluded by stating that every MPO Board member that wish to serve in this leadership capacity should have that opportunity.

Board Member Heyman stated that she concurred with the comments expressed by Board Members Burns and Hantman. She then stated that the MPO Board is an independent entity from the BCC.

Board Member Sorenson stated that she believes the proposed item is a reasonable request. She then stated that since the MPO is a separate body from the county commission it should elect its own leadership. She concluded by stating that since the proposed amendment will not go into effect until January 2009, it should coincide with the current process.

Board Member Gimenez stated that he also supports the proposed item. He then stated that the MPO Board is a separate body from the county commission. He further stated that from his experience the leadership is chosen from amongst the members of the Board.

Board Member Gibson reminded the Board that change is sometimes a good thing. She concluded by stating the MPO Board is an independent body and the proposed resolution will further demonstrate that independence.

Board Member Sosa stated that the MPO Board has always been a nonpolitical body. She further clarified by stating that under the current system the MPO Board does not have to deal with the power struggle that is associated with electing a Chair/Vice Chair.

Board Member Diaz stated that he agreed with Board Member Sosa's comments. He then stated that he does not believe the benefits of this item outweigh the potential turmoil that might develop during the process of electing leadership.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan expressed that the previous process could also be viewed as being very political depending on who is looking at it. She then stated that once she looked at the current process from the eyes of a non-commission member, she concluded that she would also prefer to have a choice in the leadership selection and not have an automatic system in place.

Board Member Souto stated that he did not see the advantage of changing a system that worked. He then stated that the MPO Board

always operated in a fair manner. He concluded by stating that within the fifteen years he has served on the MPO Board he has never witnessed a problem. He further concluded by stating that the current process has worked out very well and therefore the proposed changes are not necessary at this time.

Board Member Moss asked how other MPO Governing Boards choose their leadership. Mr. Mesa responded that he did not know of any Board that functioned like the Miami-Dade MPO Board.

Board Member Edmonson stated that because the MPO Board is a separate entity, it should have its own rules and processes that does not depend or based on what the county commission does.

Chairman Barreiro stated that he could not be supportive of the item. He then stated that the Miami-Dade MPO is unique because of its charter-county option. He then stated that through the thirteen commission districts and the additional municipal representation the Miami-Dade MPO assures representation from all jurisdictions and areas of the county. He concluded by stating that in the long run the current process ensures that there is cohesiveness in policy making between the BCC and MPO.

Board Member Seijas requested that staff look at the rules of reducing how many county commissioners could serve on the MPO Board. Mr. Libhaber responded that the state statute determines the membership of the MPOs. He further clarified by stating that the charter-county option allows the entire county commission to serve on the MPO Board. He then stated that the apportionment option specifies a limited number of county commissioners that can serve on the Board.

Board Member Souto suggested that the Board seek input from the Governor on this issue.

Board Member Burns stated that the proposed resolution addresses the issue of how the Board will choose its leadership. He then stated that the issue regarding amending the composition of the Board will require an amendment to the state statute. He concluded by stating the discussion on amending the Board composition should be address at another time.

Board Member Sosa requested that staff provide a comprehensive report on the funding mechanism including how the staff, electricity and rent are paid.

After much discussion, Board Member Hantman moved for approval of the resolution Board Member Edmonson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro-Nay

Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan-Aye

Board Member Bell	-Absent	Board Member Martinez	-Nay
Board Member Burns	-Aye	Board Member Moss	-Aye
Board Member Diaz	-Nay	Board Member Robaina	-Absent
Board Member Edmonson	-Aye	Board Member Rolle	-Nay
Board Member Gibson	-Aye	Board Member Sarnoff	-Absent
Board Member Gimenez	-Aye	Board Member Seijas	-Nay
Board Member Hantman	-Aye	Board Member Sorenson	-Aye
Board Member Heyman	-Aye	Board Member Sosa	-Nay
Board Member Kerdyk	-Absent	Board Member Souto	-Nay
		Board Member Steinberg	-Aye

The resolution passed 10-7.

5. REPORTS

A. MPO BOARD MEMBERS

1. Request by MPO Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson: Status of Reversible Flow Lanes Project @ NW 7th Avenue

Board Member Edmonson requested that staff study the corridor for alternatives to improve the traffic issues. She then asked whether the funding from the Reversible Flow Lanes Project @ NW 7th Avenue could be used for landscaping the corridor. Mrs. Esther Calas, PWD Director, responded that the funding for this project was from the People Transportation Plan (PTP) funds that were allocated specifically for reversible flow projects. She then stated that the funds would have to be redistributed to another project in the county. She concluded by stating that staff will report back on any funding available for aesthetic improvements in this corridor.

Mr. Donn added that the FDOT Work Program currently has funding set aside to do landscaping improvements at different sections along NW 7th Avenue. He concluded by stating that staff can provide this information to Board Member Edmonson.

2. Request by MPO Board Member Richard L. Steinberg: Maintenance/Repair of Vehicle Detection Loops

Board Member Steinberg informed the Board that based on the research by the City of Miami Beach it was discovered that the maintenance of vehicle detection loops is in poor condition throughout the county. He then stated that based on the analysis provided by the staff 1 in 4 intersections in the county that have this system are failing. He further stated that these malfunctions cause commuters to sit at red lights longer than necessary. He concluded by requesting clarity on what could be done to address this issue. Mr. Bob Williams, PWD, stated that this issue has been on-going since the late 1980s. He further stated that the

maintenance staff within the PWD has until recently been shrinking. He then stated that from the assistance of the PTP funds, PWD has requested additional staff for this division in order to address these concerns.

Board Member Steinberg expressed concern with the amount of funding that has been budgeted to address the maintenance and repair of these loops. Mr. Williams responded that staff is aware that additional funding will be necessary in order to keep up with the maintenance demands. He concluded by stating that staff is currently looking for additional funding.

Board Member Seijas requested that the item be deferred to the BCC Governmental Operations and Environment Committee to allow them an opportunity to discuss and provide answers to Board Member Steinberg's concerns at the next MPO Board meeting. Board Member Steinberg agreed to defer this item.

3. Request by MPO Board Member Richard L. Steinberg: I-95 HOT lanes Status Report

Board Member Steinberg stated that the City of Miami Beach has concerns with this project. He then informed the Board that the project's layout has changed from the way it was previously presented to the Board. He further informed that the previous assumption allowed access to the managed lanes on I-95 at various locations. He then stated that later presentations revealed that the City of Miami Beach would not have access to these lanes. He further informed the Board that the construction of this project and its impacts to the city was not fully explained. He also stated that FDOT is proposing removing an exit ramp to the city for at least one month which will have a major impact to the tourism and hospital operations.

Mr. Gus Pego, FDOT Director of Operations, stated that based on the engineering and traffic forecast demand model, the midway entry/exit point at 81st Street was eliminated. He further clarified by stating the model indicated that the amount of traffic volumes in the managed lanes versus the volumes in the general purpose lanes created a safety and operational issue with a midpoint entry/exit access ramp. He then stated that the purpose of the I-95 Managed Lanes project was to provide means of moving people from downtown Miami to I-595 in Broward County. He further stated that another project goal included improving the bus rapid transit between the two counties. He concluded by stating the department is still evaluating all the possible scenarios on addressing the City of Miami Beach concerns regarding the timing of the bridge closure.

Board Members Burns and Heyman expressed concern with FDOT's decision to not have additional opportunities to enter or

exit the I-95 managed lanes. They concluded by expressing the need for staff to reconsider this decision.

Board Member Hantman requested FDOT staff meet with the School Board Facilities Planning staff to discuss the potential impact this project will have on school bus traffic.

Board Member Gimenez requested that staff research the option of not enclosing the managed lanes and instead allow access at more locations.

Board Member Steinberg expressed concern with FDOT delayed response to the issues raised by the City of Miami Beach. He then stated that FDOT staffs' inability to provide answers to the questions raised is an excuse to continue the project in its current direction giving little regard to the MPO Board's concerns.

Chairman Barreiro requested staff to provide a complete report on the I-95 Managed Lanes project to include the concerns raised by the Board. He further requested that Board members forward additional concerns to FDOT staff.

4. Request by MPO Board Member Dorrin D. Rolle: I-95 Sound Walls Maintenance Schedule

Board Member Rolle requested that staff provide a schedule of the maintenance and repair of the I-95 noise walls within Districts 1-3.

Mr. Ronald Steiner explained that due to the older formulas, the maintenance/repair of the sound walls was never budgeted. He then stated that staff has worked to modify these formulas to include the maintenance of the sound walls. He further stated that funding for these activities will become available in July 2008. He concluded by stating that by December 2008 the first contract for painting the sound walls will be issued. He further concluded by stating that graffiti will continue to be addressed on an as needed basis.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan complemented FDOT for the pressure cleaning efforts under the expressway. She concluded by stating that these efforts have made a difference in the communities' appearance.

Board Member Sosa expressed commendation to Mr. Roman Gastesi for becoming the County Manager for Monroe County.

Board Member Burns informed the Board that the City of North Miami has submitted a letter requesting the MPO Board at its next meeting revisit the implementation plan for the Northeast Miami-Dade Corridor Traffic Study.

Board Member Souto requested that staff prepare a resolution to identify an independent location to hold MPO Board meetings. He then stated it's not fair to keep the public waiting for two hours in order to conduct these meetings.

Board Member Diaz requested the MPO staff work with the County Clerk's Office to verify the meeting dates in order to avoid having MPO meetings the same days as the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) meetings or BCC agendas with hot topics.

- B. COUNTY MANAGER**
- C. COUNTY ATTORNEY**
- D. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (District VI)**
- F. MPO SECRETARIAT**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No discussion on the above items.

7. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.