

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00p.m., December 14, 2016
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Commissioner Brian Hamman.

The roll was called by Johnny Limbaugh, Lee County MPO staff, and a quorum was present. Those in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman, Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham, Fort Myers Councilmember Mike Flanders, Village of Estero Mayor Nick Batos, City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, City of Cape Coral Councilmember Rick Williams, and Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Tracey Gore. Also in attendance were Lee County MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney and Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Johnny Limbaugh.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

There were no public comments. No public present. Public comment was closed.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the November 9, 2016 Meeting Summary

Don Scott, Lee MPO Executive Director, introduced this agenda item.

A motion to approve the November 9, 2016 MEC Meeting Summary was made by Councilmember Rick Williams and seconded by Vice-Mayor Mick Denham. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Update on the Results of Nationwide 2016 Sales Tax Referendums

Don Scott introduced the agenda item. He explained there were nearly 400 transportation initiatives across the Country that were decided on Election Day 2016. From a review of the initiatives, these votes covered the following types of funding sources; sales tax increases, gas tax increases, bonding referendums, and property tax increases. Of the 48 transit related ballot measures, 33 passed or 69%. He provided a further breakdown of the national results and Florida specific results. Mr. Scott stated that the referendums have better chances of passing if there is a defined list of improvements and defined time periods. Mr. Scott asked if this was an item the committee wanted to pursue and opened the floor for discussion. He also showed a slide of the current funding sources including FAST Act and the Infrastructure Package.

A comment was made that if each community had a list of projects that the referendum would support, it would have better chances of passing in that community and then overall.

It was also suggested that a list of consequences for not adopting the referendum could be formulated.

Another suggestion was to compile a list of all the projects for each municipality and put together a complete package of projects to be funded.

There was a brief discussion about the municipalities combining and creating a referendum but that couldn't happen until their combined populations exceeded that of unincorporated Lee County. The individual municipalities could do individual Bond issues.

This discussion led to the introduction of the next agenda item on the previous infrastructure package.

Agenda Item # 4 - Information on the Previous Infrastructure Stimulus Package Requirements

Don Scott discussed the previous requirements and activities that were undertaken during the last federal stimulus package in 2009.

This item is a follow up to the discussion at the November MPO Board meeting regarding the possibility of a federal stimulus funding program under the new administration and how to best position ourselves for possible funding. Staff went back and researched the requirements that were issued the last time and though there were several iterations of project lists before the final one, listed below are the minimum requirements that guided the process for determining eligible projects:

- Is the NEPA process complete for the project
- Can the project qualify for a Categorical Exclusion
- Can the project could be construction ready within 120 days
- Is the project on a Federal Aid eligible roadway
- Has design been completed for the project
- Does the project fit within existing right-of-way
- Is the local agency LAP certified
- Is the project in the TIP, STIP and/or LRTP

Back in the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, the MPO and FDOT staff developed a list of potential projects that ended up going through three iterations and was then combined into one final list that was prioritized and approved by the MPO Board prior to submittal to FDOT. The project list included capacity, bridge, intersection, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and resurfacing/maintenance projects. One of the lists that was developed included projects where the design or right-of-way phases could be funded from stimulus funds but none of those projects ended up being funded. Attached to the agenda packet was the list that was submitted with the prioritization for the top projects generally having less issues with the project development process versus the projects on the bottom having more issues (time frame issues, not in the Cost Feasible Plan of the LRTP, questions with right-of-way, design-build projects where the local agency is not LAP certified for that etc.). In addition, attached to the agenda packet was the list of projects that was approved by the MPO Board and submitted to FDOT for consideration. Our area ended up receiving about \$69 million in stimulus funds and the projects that were funded were also attached to the agenda packet.

The committee had a discussion regarding the project list that would have to be compiled if a stimulus package was approved and how long it would take to formalize that list. In an effort to be prepared, the MPO could go to each municipality and the county and ask for a list of projects that would be high priority. These projects should meet the criteria listed above to have a better chance of being approved.

It was suggested to make a motion for the MPO to reach out to the County and the municipalities and have them each provide a list of projects for consideration.

A motion to approve was made by Deputy Mayor O'Flinn and seconded by Mayor Batos. There were no objections. It was approved unanimously.

A suggestion was made that the process should be extremely selective and strict criteria should be followed. Another suggestion was that the projects should be ranked.

Don Scott was tasked to pull the list together by the end of March.

Agenda Item #5 - Update on the TIGER Project

Don Scott gave an update on the TIGER project that included the status of adding the Wayfinding signs to the project. On December 1st the Wayfinding group met to finalize the Wayfinding plan and following the comments that were received the project team is finalizing the plan (locations, number of signs and cost). In addition, at the Wayfinding meeting they discussed the next steps that will now include a memo to the jurisdictions regarding where the signs are located that will provide the final information on what is being implemented. The links below include the Wayfinding sign package (still being finalized as noted above – note this is a large file and takes a while to load) and a spreadsheet of the signs by jurisdiction.

Mr. Scott handed out maps indicating the sign locations. Based on the meeting, the consultant is updating the plan. Mr. Scott also had a teleconference with FDOT and they are requiring a resolution to be signed by each jurisdiction. He handed out a sample resolution and a list of destinations. He stated that the MPO will still bring a resolution to the MPO Board at their meeting on Friday, December 16, 2016. This resolution will be an example for the jurisdictions to follow and will also show the support of the MPO Board.

<http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/Wayfinding/Draft-16.11.21-Lee-County-Wayfinding-Package.pdf>

<http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/Wayfinding/MPO-Wayfinding-Signs-by-Jurisdiction.pdf>

A discussion followed about the maintenance costs of the signs and how long the signs will last. Johnny Limbaugh responded that the costs will be minimal and sign templates will be produced in case they need to be replaced before their approximate ten-year life span expires.

The TIGER project final walk through on the last segment was December 14, 2016. There is still some work that needs to be completed. Mr. Limbaugh stated Daniels is the last segment and it is substantially complete. The railings have been ordered and will be installed when they arrive. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony once the project is completed.

A question was posed as to the consequence of a municipality not signing the resolution. Mr. Limbaugh stated that the signs cannot be installed without a maintenance agreement. FDOT requires the resolutions that will allow the signs to go up within FDOT right of way. The committee asked for a memo from the MPO explaining the resolution. Mr. Scott stated that was a suggestion of the Wayfinding committee and they are waiting for the final project package to be completed so they can send it with the memo. In the final package there will be a list of signs and locations for each municipality and the County.

Other Business

Agenda Item #6 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda. No public present. Public comment was closed.

Agenda Item #7 – Announcements

Don Scott announced that Johnny Limbaugh has given his notice to leave the Lee County MPO. Mr. Limbaugh has accepted a position as Director of Business Development with Wright Construction and his last day with the Lee County MPO will be January 6th. Mr. Limbaugh has agreed to see the TIGER project, including the Wayfinding signs, through to completion.

The location for the Lee County MPO Board meeting on Friday, December 16, 2016 is the Lee County Admin East Facility, Room 118, 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, FL. The meeting begins at 9 a.m.

Relating to the MPO Board Meeting, Agenda Item #5, a question was posed as to the normal procedure to bring these projects forward. Don Scott stated the School District begins the project by stating a need for facilities which they bring to the jurisdictions. The proposals go back and forth between the School District and the jurisdictions to determine maintenance and other issues. The MPO will evaluate the projects and recommend them for consideration.

A comment was made that Darla Letourneau has emailed some committee members of the MEC to recommend that they endorse the Wayfinding project.

Another question about the MPO Board Meeting was asked with relation to the rotational order of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Scott stated that Fort Myers Beach's representative will be nominated for Vice-Chair and the current Vice-Chair, Councilmember Williams, will be nominated for Chair.

Agenda Item #8 - Information and Distribution Items

Wayfinding documents including three maps, sample resolution, and list of destinations

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hamman at 3:05 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

All meetings of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Mr. Johnny Limbaugh at the Lee MPO 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (239) 330-2242; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. Or, e-mail jlimbaugh@leempo.com.

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator Johnny Limbaugh at (293) 330-2242 or by writing him at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.