

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Held on March 20, 2015

The following members were present for the Joint Board Meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Collier MPO on March 20, 2015 at the Bonita Springs City Hall, Council Chambers, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, Florida.

Lee County MPO Board Members Present:

Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass	Lee County District 2
Commissioner Larry Kiker	Lee County District 3
Commissioner Brian Hamman	Lee County District 4
Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee County District 5
Councilman Jim Burch	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Williams	City of Cape Coral
Mayor Randy Henderson	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Vice-Mayor Stephen McIntosh	City of Bonita Springs
Mayor Ben Nelson	City of Bonita Springs
Councilman Mike Gibson	City of Bonita Springs
Councilman Mick Denham	City of Sanibel

Collier MPO Board Members Present:

Commissioner Donna Fiala	Collier County District 1
Commissioner Thomas Henning	Collier County District 3
Commissioner Penny Taylor	Collier County District 4
Councilwoman Dee Sulick	City of Naples
Councilman Sam Saad	City of Naples

Non-Voting Members Present:

Secretary Billy Hattaway, FDOT

Those also in attendance included: Secretary Billy Hattaway, Ms. Laura Lockwood, Ms. Carmen Monroy, Ms. Sarah Canala, Mr. Zac Burch, Mr. D’Juan Harris, and Ms. Suzanne Lex with FDOT; Mr. David Loveland with Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT); Ms. Lucilla Ayer, Ms. Lorraine Lantz and Ms. Kristin Campos with the Collier MPO; Mr. Scott Teach with the Collier County Attorney’s Office; Mr. Don Scott, Mr. Ron Scott and Mr. Johnny Limbaugh and Mr. Derek Rooney with the Lee County MPO; Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran; Ms. Darla Letourneau and Ms. Ann Pierce with BikeWalkLee; Mr. Nick Casalanguida with Collier County Growth Management Division; Ms. Michelle Arnold with the Collier County Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) Department; Mr. Jeff Perry with Stantec Consulting; Ms. Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Ms. Dayna Fendrick with Collier County PAC; Ms. Gladys Delgadillo with Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Mr. Jeff Perry with Stantec Consulting; Ms. Patty Whitehead with Responsible Growth Management Coalition; Mr. Peter Congialosi with The Preserve; Mr. Gavin Jones; BCC Engineering; Ms. Kris Cella with Cella Molnar & Associates; Mr. John Podczerwinsky and Ms. Laurie Beard with Collier County Transportation Planning Department; Ms. Nancy Payton with the Florida Wildlife Federation; Ms. Judy Wallace, Mr. Al Wallace, Mr. Maurice Richard and Laurie Shas with Grandezza; Mr. Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering Ken Goldstein, citizen

Agenda Item 1– Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:01 a.m.

Ms. Campos of the Collier MPO called the roll for the Collier MPO Board and announced that a quorum was attained.

Councilwoman Sulick - present
Councilman Saad – present
Commissioner Fiala - present
Commissioner Henning - present
Commissioner Hiller - absent
Commissioner Hiller - absent
Commissioner Nance - present
Commissioner Taylor - present
Councilman Batte - absent
Mayor Hamilton - absent

Mr. Limbaugh of the Lee County MPO called the roll for the Lee County MPO Board and announced that a quorum was attained.

Commissioner Mann - absent
Commissioner Hamman - present
Commissioner Kiker- present
Commissioner Pendergrass- present
Commissioner Manning- absent
Councilman Leonardo- present
Mayor Henderson - present
Councilman Flanders- absent
Mayor Sawicki – absent
Councilman Carioscia - absent
Councilman Burch – present
Councilman Williams - present
Councilman Mandel - absent
Mayor Ruane - absent
Mayor Nelson- present
Vice-Mayor McIntosh- present
Councilman Leon - absent
Vice-Mayor Denham- present
Councilman Gibson - present

Agenda Item 2– - Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN FOR COUNILMAN LEONARDO AS CHAIRMAN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 3 Election of a Chairperson

Chairman Leonardo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comments will be taken at each Agenda Item

Agenda Item 5 – Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Leonardo announced that Chair Reports would be added to the Agenda between Agenda Item 6 and Agenda Item 7.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 6 – Lee MPO Board Item Only – Approval of a Bank Resolution to finalize the Line of Credit for the TIGER Grant Project

Mr. Scott introduced the item and reported that the Lee County MPO previously approved a resolution authorizing the borrowing of money through a line of credit. He stated that the bank has submitted the paperwork for the agreement to the Lee County MPO Attorney that he is currently reviewing. He noted that the bank has requested that a bank formatted resolution be approved by the MPO Board. Mr. Scott explained that the Lee County MPO is required to have the resolution because the design-build project has started.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN BURCH TO APPROVE THE BANK RESOLUTION TO FINALIZE THE LINE OF CREDIT FOR THE TIGER GRANT PROJECT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MANN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR REPORTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Lorraine Lantz, Collier MPO Principal Planner, reported that the Joint Lee/Collier CAC met on March 10th and did not attain a quorum.

The Joint Committee approved the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities, the Joint Regional Pathway Project Priority and the Changes to the Southwest Coast Connector.

The Joint Committee received a presentation and participated in a discussion on the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Plan from FDOT.

The Joint Committee discussed the status of each MPO's LRTP.

The Joint Committee discussed House Bill 391 related to the Location of Utilities. The CAC was informed of the concern expressed by the TAC. The concern was that this Bill would have a large financial burden on the jurisdiction or FDOT to pay utility relocation costs and to pay for utility work needed to eliminate unreasonable interferences in certain existing utility easements.

The Joint Committee discussed Senate Bill 1554 related to Transportation. The CAC was informed of the concern expressed by the TAC. The concern expressed by the TAC was that the Bill deletes the requirement that the district director for the Fort Myers Urban Office of the Department of Transportation be responsible for developing the 5-year Transportation Plan and other services for specified counties which include Lee and Collier Counties. There was some discussion regarding the history of the Southwest Area Office and the benefit of having FDOT advocates in the area.

The Joint Committee recommended that the MPO take a position against these Bills as they are proposed, because of the concerns.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Report

Ms. Lorraine Lantz, Collier MPO Principal Planner, reported that The Joint Lee/Collier TAC met on March 10th and did not attain a quorum.

The Joint Committee approved the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities, the Joint Regional Pathway Project Priority and the Changes to the Southwest Coast Connector.

The Joint Committee received a presentation and participated in a discussion on the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Plan from FDOT. There was some discussion regarding the LRTP and if 10 laning of I-75 was cost feasible, the timing of prioritizing regional SIS priorities and when the committee should be submitting regional SIS priorities to FDOT.

The Joint Committee discussed the status of each MPO's LRTP.

The Joint Committee discussed House Bill 391 related to the Location of Utilities. Generally, the Bill authorizes county commissioners to grant licenses for utility lines within certain right-of-ways; authorizes DOT & certain governmental entities to prescribe & enforce certain rules regarding utility lines within right-of-way limits; prohibits municipalities & counties from requiring resubmission of certain information from utilities. The Bill specifies that utility located in certain right-of-ways must pay for work necessary to alleviate interference to use of certain roads or rail corridors. The concern expressed by the TAC was that this Bill will require an authority or entity to pay utility relocation costs and to pay for utility work needed to eliminate unreasonable interferences in certain existing utility easements.

The Joint Committee discussed Senate Bill 1554 related to Transportation. The concern expressed by the TAC was that the Bill deletes the requirement that the district director for the Fort Myers Urban Office of the Department of Transportation be responsible for developing the 5-year Transportation Plan and other services for specified counties. There was some discussion regarding the history of the Southwest Area Office and the benefit of having FDOT advocates in the area.

The Joint Committee recommended that the MPO take a position against these Bills as they are proposed, because of the concerns.

Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC) Report

Ms. Dayna Fendrick, PAC Chairwoman, The Joint County/Collier PAC/BPCC met on the February 27th and a quorum was attained.

The Joint Lee County/Collier PAC/BPCC Committee received a presentation from Dr. Allen Weiss, Naples Community Hospital CEO, on the Blue Zones Project. The Committee also received a presentation from Bonita Springs Public Works Director Matt Feeny on the Bonita Springs Downtown Improvement Project

The Joint BPCC/PAC approved of Proposed Changes to the Southwest Coast Connector and made a recommendation of Joint Regional Pathway Priorities for the Joint Lee County/Collier MPO Board

The Joint Committee also received an overview of Safety Project Criteria from FDOT Safety Staff and an update on the Vanderbilt Drive Greenway

Mr. Teach recommended that the Joint MPO Board re-order the Agenda and move to Reports and Presentations since Collier MPO Board was short one member for a quorum.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item 8A – Presentation and Discussion on the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) (re-ordered by Joint MPO Board)

Ms. Lex introduced Ms. Catala, District 1 SIS Coordinator with FDOT. Ms. Catala gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the FTP and SIS Policy Plan. Ms. Catala stated that FDOT is currently updating the FTP and the SIS Policy Plan. She explained that the FTP defines Florida's future transportation vision and identifies goals, objectives and strategies to accomplish that vision. She stated that the FTP is the statewide long-range transportation plan for all of Florida. Ms. Catala noted that the SIS Policy Plan identifies policies for planning and implementing Florida's SIS, the statewide high-priority network of transportation facilities critical to Florida's economic competitiveness.

Ms. Catala reported that to guide the update process of the FTP and SIS Plan, FDOT has assembled a Steering Committee. She explained that the Steering Committee would provide recommendations to FDOT about the FTP and SIS Policy Plan based on Committee members' expertise; input from other statewide, regional and local partners; and supporting technical analysis. She noted that at the first Steering Committee, members discussed the following topics:

- Reviewed charge and work plan.
- Reviewed requirements for FTP and SIS Policy Plan.
- Discussed long-range trends and alternative futures.
- Reviewed statewide summit input.

Ms. Catala stated that at the second meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- Discussed key drivers of Florida's future.
- Discussed key opportunities and issues for each mode.
- Reviewed regional forum input.
- Identified potential themes.
- Established advisory groups.

Ms. Catala reported on the upcoming Steering Committee dates which included:

- May 28 – 29, 2015 – Cape Canaveral
- July 21 – 22, 2015 – St. Augustine
- September 17, 2015 (tentative) – TBD
- October 23, 2015 - Tallahassee

Ms. Catala stated that FDOT has developed five potential alternatives for transportation in Florida which are intended for discussion about future transportation goals, objectives and strategies. Ms. Catala reported that the first potential alternative discussed is called Groundhog Day – Prerecession returns. She noted that throughout the workshops, there was not any consensus for this alternative.

Ms. Catala stated that the second potential alternative is It's a Small Word - Florida as a Global Trade Hub which includes the following trends:

- Enhanced long-distance corridors
 - Multi-modal/multi-use corridors
 - Passenger rail between urban areas
 - Inland freight corridors
 - Interstate connections
 - Future corridor planning
- Technology applications
 - Automated vehicles and smart corridors
- Efficient logistics system
 - Logistics cluster/intermodal logistics centers
 - Supply chain management
 - Port coordination and expansion
- Multimodal passenger hubs
 - Connections to airports, seaports, city centers
 - Integration with local transit and resource sharing

The third potential alternative is called Tomorrow Land – Florida as an Innovation Hub which includes the following trends:

- Technology applications
 - Tele-presence
 - Automated vehicles
 - Solar/other energy sources
 - Wireless connectivity
- Expanded transportation choices
 - Transit
 - Shared resources
 - Active transportation
 - Integrated payment
- Modernizing and repurposing corridors
 - Multi-modal/level/use corridors
 - Special lanes for automated vehicles
- Focus on urban core
 - Walkable neighborhoods

- Transit oriented development
- Complete Streets

The fourth potential alternative is called Back to the Future – Return to Focus on Agriculture and Rural Lifestyle which includes the following trends:

- Sustainable rural development
 - New markets for agriculture and other natural resources
 - Alternative energy sources
 - More diverse economic base
- Expanded investment in inland/rural infrastructure
 - Transportation (highways ,rail, transit)
 - Telecommunications
- Emphasis on self-sustaining rural and urban communities

The fifth potential alternative is called Stormy Weather – Slow or No Growth in the Future and includes the following trends:

- Economic diversification
 - Protect historic strengths (agriculture, tourism)
 - Grow new industries
- Emphasis on maintenance of existing infrastructure and redevelopment of existing centers
- Repurposing (or abandonment) of some infrastructure
- Adaption to extreme events and climate change
- Regional collaboration
 - Consolidation of services

Ms. Catala stated that the Florida Chamber of Commerce’s vision for Florida encompasses vibrant communities enjoying prosperity and high-paying jobs realized through competitive advantage in a global economy. She explained that such a view calls us to an attainable future. It also creates a practical challenge for those who demand that their aspirations correspond with common sense.

Ms. Catala stated that the framework offered to accomplish such a task is known simply as the Six Pillars. She noted that the product of years of collaboration and research by the Florida Chamber Foundation, the Six Pillars identifies the critical factors determining Florida’s future:

- Talent supply and education
- Innovation and economic development
- Infrastructure and growth leadership
- Business climate and competitiveness
- Civic and governance systems
- Quality of life and quality places

Ms. Catala reported that FDOT would like the public to share their vision for Florida’s future. Chairman Leonardo questioned what FDOT has planned for Babcock Ranch, the planned community under development in Southwest Florida. Ms. Catala stated that Babcock Ranch

would be the first solar-powered city in the United States and more than half of the area was to be preserved as open space, nature reserves or for agricultural use.

Chairman Leonardo referenced economic diversification and questioned what the discussion was for growing new industries. Ms. Catala explained that there was a lot of discussion regarding alternative energy and to utilize existing buildings and no more need for large manufacturing plants.

Agenda Item 8C – Update on the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plans for Collier MPO and Lee County MPO (re-organized by Joint MPO Board)

Ms. Ayer introduced Mr. Perry who presented an overview on the Collier MPO 2040 LRTP Update Process in a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Perry stated that Federal regulations require MPO's to update the LRTP every 5 years, extending the 20 year planning horizon. Mr. Perry noted that the 2040 LRTP Update is due in December of 2015.

Mr. Perry discussed the Collier MPO's Completed Tasks which included:

- 2010 Socioeconomic (SE) Data Development
- 2010 Model Validation Support
- 2040 SE Data Development
- 2019 E+C Network (Highways and Transit)
- Preliminary Goals and Objectives
- Preliminary Project Selection/Evaluation Criteria
- FDOT District One Regional Planning Model 2010 Delivered
- FDOT District One Regional Planning Model 2010 Delivered
- E+C with 2040 SE Data Run
- Preliminary 2040 Needs Assessment
 - Project Costs such as Right-of-way (ROW), Preliminary Engineering (PE), Environmental (ENV) and Construction (CST)
 - Preliminary environmental impact evaluation
 - Project selection criteria scored equals ranked order
- Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) Network Model Run Alternative #1
 - Sub-set of the Needs Assessment

Mr. Perry discussed the remaining tasks which include:

- CFP Model Runs Alternatives #2 - #5
- Select a preferred CFP Network Alternative
- CFP Improvements by 5-Year Windows (Years of Expenditure)
- Needs Network Model Runs Alternatives #2 - #4
- Final 2040 Needs Assessment
- Phase III – Final Plan Documentation and Adoption

Mr. Perry discussed the Preliminary Needs Assessment which includes:

- 67 major capacity projects - \$2.98 billion
- 9 new bridges - \$24.8 million
- 13 significant CMS/ITS projects - \$13 million

- Transit - \$1.67 billion
 - 4 new transit circulator services
 - 7 new fixed-route services
 - 5 new flex services
 - 5 new express services
 - 19 existing service route improvements

Mr. Perry stated that the total for highways in the Needs Plan was \$3.02 billion and the total for transit was \$1.67 billion. He explained that the cost included the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) cost and asset replacement for existing services.

Councilman Denham referenced the Preliminary Needs Assessment and stated that the cost for 9 bridges for \$24.8 million was significantly lower than 5 bridges in Lee County for approximately \$100 million. Mr. Perry explained that the bridges in Collier County were selected from a study that Collier County conducted a few years ago and that many of the bridges would provide connectivity.

Chairman Leonardo stated that Vehicle Miles of Travel VMT has been one of the top five priorities at the MPOAC on how to deal with the future highway capacity needs and the decreasing revenues. Chairman Leonardo stated that VMT in Florida and throughout the nation would continue to decrease in the upcoming years.

Mr. Scott then provided an overview of Lee MPO's Current 2040 Activities in a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Scott discussed the Lee County MPO's Completed Tasks which includes the following:

- Baseline Conditions and Maps
- 2010 Jobs and Population Data
- Land Use Scenario Planning and Outreach
- 2040 Jobs and Population Forecasts (including the adopted lane use scenario)
- 2040 LRTP Goals and Objectives
- Revenue Estimates
- Regional Model

Mr. Scott stated that the Lee County MPO has begun reviewing the 2040 revenue forecasts and is continuing the land use scenario project that is looking at land use alternatives. He explained that Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach are already close to achieving build-out, although some development potential remains. Mr. Scott reported that Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs comprehensive plans do not attempt to show the level of development anticipated at any point before build-out, or to assess how many dwelling units are used only during the peak season. Mr. Scott explained that the preferred scenario would be used in a computer model that would simulate travel patterns across 12 counties in southwest Florida.

Mr. Scott discussed federal and state revenues and reported that Federal and State revenues have fallen approximately 22%:

- The 2035 YOE was \$1,262.1 million
- The 2040 YOE equals \$986.9 million

Local revenues have dropped 32%:

- 2035 (PDC) equals \$2,171.1 million
- 2040 (PDC) equals \$1,485.8 million

Discussion ensued regarding revenue. Mr. Scott stated that the population in Lee County increased by an average of 3.1%.

COLLIER MPO ATTAINED A QUORUM AT 9:53 A.M.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item 7A – Review and Approval of the Proposed Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities

Mr. Scott introduced the item and stated that Lee County and Collier MPO staff, working in conjunction with the local jurisdictions, has updated their list of joint TRIP priorities for MPO Board consideration. He stated that the updated TRIP priorities include the addition of new fifth year (FY20/21), updating the project cost estimates, project limits and the funding amount being requested by the maintaining agencies. Mr. Scott noted that the Joint Lee and Collier TAC and CAC meeting as a Committee of the whole as both Lee County and Collier County, did not achieve a quorum, voted unanimously to approve the priorities.

COMMISSIONER HENNING MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED JOINT TRIP PRIORITY. MOTION SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 7B – Review and Approval of the Proposed Joint Regional Pathway Priority

Mr. Scott introduced the item and reported that last year; the Lee County and Collier MPO had submitted two regional pathway priorities which were adopted by the Joint MPO Board with regional coordination agreements for funding through Transportation Alternative (TA) - Any Area funds. Mr. Scott explained that only one project was funded through SU funds, specifically allocated to the Lee MPO and not through TA funds. The unfunded project from last year is as follows:

- Old 41 from US 41 in Collier County to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County - \$1,694,310 for the design and construction of a 10-foot wide shared-use path on the west side of Old 41.

Mr. Scott reported that the unfunded project is identified in the Lee-Collier Joint Regional Pathway Network, a requirement for any bicycle pedestrian project that is considered for discretionary funding and submitted jointly by the Lee County and Collier MPOs as a regional project. He explained that assignment of project priorities was not warranted since only one project is being submitted for funding, Mr. Scott stated that the Joint Committee endorse the project for FDOT consideration, utilizing TA funds, during the development of the new FDOT Work Program.

Ms. Campos announced that the first registered public speaker was Ms. Darla Letourneau. Ms. Darla Letourneau, Bike Walk Lee, stated that Bike Walk Lee strongly supports the referenced project because it promotes safety.

Ms. Campos announced that the second registered speaker was Ms. Patty Whitehead with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition (RGMC). Ms. Whitehead stated that she strongly supports this project however; she was troubled by the MPO's response that stated that the PD&E for the referenced project was 4-years out and that it would take an additional 5 years to complete. Construction is not expected to commence until at least another 5 years after that, so 15 to 20 years before there would be any construction on the proposed project.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GIBSON TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED JOINT REGIONAL PATHWAY PRIORITY. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Burch requested assurance that the City of Bonita Springs was supportive of this shared-use pathway. Mayor Nelson stated that the City of Bonita Springs supports the project.

Mr. Limbaugh provided clarification for Board members and stated that the PD&E Study was for the roadway expansion project, which would take 15 years to complete. Mr. Limbaugh explained that the Lee County and Collier MPO are requesting a shared-use pathway along the corridor.

Councilman Burch questioned if it was possible that the \$1.6 million that is currently allocated to the project, be programmed to a different project. Secretary Hattaway explained that that funding would remain programmed for this project.

Agenda Item 7C – Review and Approval of the Proposed Changes to the Southwest Connector

Ms. Ayer introduced the item and stated that Lee County and Collier MPO's Southwest Coast Connector (SW2C) Working Group met on January 30th to review and evaluate the Lee and Collier portion of the proposed Southwest Coast Connector identified in the Priority Trails Map of the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan. She stated that the Working Group was comprised of Lee County BPCC and Collier PAC members. Ms. Ayer explained that the Priority Trails Map includes those high priority trails of statewide and regional significance from the Land Trails Opportunity Map and that both maps are part of FGTS Plan.

Ms. Ayer reported that in addition to the proposed changes to the Southwest Coast Connector, the Working Group felt that there was a need to show a separate trail in the Priority Trails Map that connects both counties and that traverses through the rural areas in Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties. Ms. Ayer noted that this trail, identified in the Lee and Collier Regional Pathways Map, have sections which already have existing or programmed pathways. Ms. Ayer explained that MPO staff is calling this new trail simply the "Rural Connector" which will hook up with the Southwest Coast Connector in Lee County. The proposals of the Working Group were presented for comments to the Lee MPO's TAC and CAC at their February 5th meetings, and the Collier MPO's PAC at its February 17th meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN SAAD TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR. SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN SULICK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Campos announced that the first registered public speaker was Ms. Darla Letourneau. Ms. Darla Letourneau, Bike Walk Lee, thanked the Joint Lee County and Collier MPO Joint Committees for their support of the proposed changes to the Southwest Connector. She noted

that collaboration between Lee County and Collier County was vital. She explained that there was untapped potential for economic development in Florida to promote tourism.

Agenda Item 7D – Review and Joint Board Input on Transportation Legislative Issues

Mr. Scott presented the item and gave a brief overview on HB 391 and SB 896 Location of Utilities in a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Scott reported that several transportation legislative issues have been raised over the last few weeks and MPO staff wanted to inform the Joint MPO Board of their negative impacts to the region.

Mr. Scott reported that in the past, utility companies have been required to pay to relocate lines or facilities located within property held for the public's benefit when relocations are required (within the right-of-way or public utility easements).

Mr. Scott explained that the proposed bill changes would prevent local governments from requiring utilities to pay the cost of relocation unless the utilities are within a right-of-way as opposed to the current requirement for utility relocations occurring "upon, over, under or along" a roadway. He reported that the proposed bill changes would also require that the local governments pay the expense of relocating a utility if it is located within a utility easement, public or private roadway.

Chairman Leonardo questioned the sponsor of HB 391. Councilman Burch stated that Representative Ingram sponsored HB 391 and Senator Brandes.

Mr. Scott discussed the current issues and updates which included:

- HB 391 and SB 896 Location of Utilities – The proposed legislation creates a right of reimbursement to a utility if FDOT requires location of the utility for purposes not described in the statute. The proposed legislation also provides the utilities a right of reimbursement for projects conditioned or resulting from projects by another entity. Most importantly, the proposed bills create a right of reimbursement for the utilities where the utility maintains an existing and valid utility easement; thereby invalidating existing and future agreements between FDOT and utilities, including subordinate agreements. The proposed legislation also makes several changes to the way municipalities and counties handle impacting local roadways.

Commissioner Hamm stated that when the Lee County Board of County Commissioners voted to establish a franchise fee for electric companies in Lee County, he was told that the franchise fee was being established because the electric companies were utilizing the right-of-way for no charge. Commissioner Hamm questioned what exactly a franchise fee was for.

Councilman Burch stated that Cape Coral would be a target of HB 391 and SB 896. Councilman Burch reported that Cape Coral prevailed in 3 lawsuits with Lee County Electric Cooperative. He noted that Cape Coral maintains that LCEC was obligated to pay for costs associated with relocating the utility equipment during road projects. Councilman Burch reported that it would have cost approximately \$4 million dollars to move utilities during roadway expansions for 3 projects.

Chairman Leonardo questioned if the Joint Board should transmit a letter to Tallahassee. Mr. Scott stated that the recommendation from the Joint TAC/CAC was for the Joint Board to

oppose the bill and take a position against these bills, because of the concerns that are associated.

Councilman Burch recommended that the Joint Board transmit a resolution that opposes HB 391 and SB 896.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN BURCH TO TRANSMIT A RESOLUTION THAT OPPOSES HB 391 AND SB 896. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS.

Discussion ensued. Councilman Burch stated that the utility companies should be charged through their rate payers system, which is built into their budget. He noted that the city of Cape Coral does not want to pay for all the rate payers through LCEC system.

Councilman Saad explained that there were 44 days left in the Legislative session and the Joint Board's decision should be acted upon immediately. Councilman Saad recommended that the Chairman of the respective MPO's compose a letter stating the opposition and include a copy of the city of Cape Coral's resolution.

Councilman Saad entertained a Motion to compose a letter opposing HB 391 and SB 896 for Collier MPO Board members.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DONNA FIALA FOR COUNCILMAN SAAD, COLLIER MPO BOARD CHAIRMAN, TO COMPOSE A LETTER OPPOSING HB 391 AND SB 896. SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN SULICK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCILMAN BURCH AMENDED HIS ORIGINAL MOTION FOR THE LEE MPO BOARD CHAIRMAN TO COMPOSE A LETTER OPPOSING HB 391 AND SB 896. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Scott discussed SB 1554 – FDOT's General Transportation Bill which repeals in statute (s. 20.24 (4) (d), F.S.) the Fort Myers Urban office's responsibility for developing the 5-Year Transportation Plan for Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties. He stated that the language being removed also includes the responsibility for providing policy, direction, local government coordination and planning for the aforementioned counties. Mr. Scott stated that only the Fort Myers Urban Office was referenced in the statute. He noted that this change was being done to be consistent with other urban offices such as Orlando, Jacksonville, Pensacola and Tallahassee.

Mr. Scott provided a brief history of FDOT and stated that the State Road Department (now named FDOT) established 4 districts to decentralize governmental operations and to improve local coordination. He explained that in the 1980's FDOT has been reorganized over several years by changing District boundaries, adding two new Districts, Turnpike and other area offices.

Mr. Scott provided a brief overview of the history of FDOT and stated that the Fort Myers Urban Office was created in 1986 and was originally approved for 24 positions. He explained that the language was essentially the same from the beginning. However, in 1997 background documentation in Tallahassee included a flow chart that indicated the chain of command for Urban office staff through Bartow. Mr. Scott explained that not all FDOT staff in the Fort Myers Urban Office reported to the District Director of Planning and Programs.

Mr. Scott explained that Lee County MPO began discussions regarding a loss of service and attention to local priorities from FDOT. He stated that this turned into a request for the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to look into the issues raised that included fiscal equity of the area compared to the rest of Florida. The RPC covered the 5 counties served by the Fort Myers Urban Office. The request resulted in discussions regarding the 5 counties becoming its own FDOT District. He noted that aside from fair share and input into priorities, the driving force behind establishing the 5 county area into one district, was the economic development.

Mr. Scott stated that there have been different responsibilities in the past and staff has fluctuated over the years. He noted that the end result is that the office structure has been consistent with the state Statute since 2008.

Secretary Hattaway explained that when FDOT decentralized in the 1980's, there was no direction provided to the districts on organizational structure. Secretary Hattaway reported that FDOT Secretary launched "HRCPR" which was to provide guidance on working titles, responsibilities, duties, and direction throughout the district. Secretary Hattaway noted that currently there are 2 Directors reporting to him within his District which include the Director of Transportation Development and the Director of Transportation Production. He reported that the statute was not providing any authority.

Secretary Hattaway stated that he discussed with the FDOT Secretary about eliminating the statutory requirement for a title for the Fort Myers Urban Office. He noted that he put this request in approximately 2 years ago and it has not been in the legislation for 2 years. Secretary Hattaway stated that he was not made aware that FDOT staff placed it on the legislation for this year.

Secretary Hattaway stated that he took notice that Southwest Florida was not receiving adequate attention and he has been attempting to recruit people to fill key positions. Secretary Hattaway that Ms. Carmen Monroy's responsibility is to manage and direct all positions within the Southwest Area Office (SWAO). Secretary Hattaway stated that Ms. Monroy was actively engaged in the performance standpoint of employees that have direct reports in Bartow. He noted that Ms. Monroy was actively participating in the development of the 5-Year Work Program. Secretary Hattaway reported that FDOT has advertised key positions that can be located district-wide including the addition of 3 full-time positions to SWAO.

Secretary Hattaway explained that has put in budget requests to expand SWAO and build out the planned expansion.

Chairman Leonardo stated that the Joint Lee County/Collier TAC and CAC voted recommend that the Joint MPO Board oppose SB 1554. Chairman Leonardo questioned if the Joint MPO Board should oppose SB 1554. Secretary Hattaway stated that SB 1554 was only to modify the language.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HENNING TO TAKE NO ACTION ON SB 1554.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item 8B – Update on Regional Aspect of CR 951 (re-ordered by Joint MPO Board)

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Nick Casalanguida, Deputy County Manager of Collier County. Mr. Casalanguida stated that in 2002, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, in association with the Collier County Board of County Commissioners and FDOT, initiated a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study for the proposed northward extension of CR 951. The study area was east of I-75 from Immokalee Road in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County. Mr. Casalanguida explained that numerous corridor improvements have been developed and analyzed which has resulted in many alternatives being eliminated from consideration, while some alternatives have been refined and retained for further study. He explained that in 2005, a preferred alternative was selected and a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed.

Mr. Casalanguida stated that there is a Developer Contribution Agreement (DCA) with Parkland Associates for Collier Boulevard Extension. Mr. Casalanguida discussed the Logan Boulevard Extension to Bonita Beach Road and stated that Logan Boulevard would be constructed in two phases; the first phase would be from Immokalee Road to the southern entrance of the future Parkland's residential community. He stated that Phase 2 would be from the Parkland's entrance to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County.

Mr. Casalanguida stated that Collier Boulevard Extension was on Collier MPO's Needs portion of the 2035 LRTP however, Lee County did not have the CR 951 Extension on their plan. He noted that there is no other facility east of I-75 that links SR 82 and connects Lee and Collier County. Mr. Casalanguida recommended that the Collier Boulevard Extension should be considered when updating the Needs Plan for Lee County MPO.

Mr. Casalanguida stated that both Collier and Lee counties are among the fastest growing in the state and with that growth, the interstate would continue to become more stressed. He noted that I-75 was the only viable option for drivers to get from Collier and Lee county. Mr. Casalanguida reported that the road would also ease traffic congestion created by population increase, meet hurricane evacuation needs and enhance overall safety in the area.

Councilman Burch stated that the project has been a controversy in Collier County and the public has stated that they do not want the project. Councilman Burch concurred with Mr. Casalanguida and stated that there was a definite need for the project. Commissioner Henning stated that the controversy among Collier County residents was a misconception and it was Lee County residents.

Ms. Campos announced that there were several registered speakers. The first public speaker was Mr. Brad Cornell with the Audubon of western Everglades. Mr. Cornell stated that the Audubon has been actively engaged in the status of this project for many years. Mr. Cornell reported that the Audubon of western Everglades does not support extending Collier Boulevard into Lee County. He noted that it was more important to maximize the current infrastructure and the project was in conflict with natural resources. Mr. Cornell stated that Collier Boulevard should be used to maximize mass transit and support existing infrastructure that supports mass transit.

The second registered speaker was Ms. Gladys Delgadillo with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Mr. Delgadillo stated that the Conservancy of Southwest Florida appreciates Mr. Casalanguida's report on how to improve infrastructure and connectivity between Lee and Collier County. She noted that staff from both Lee County and Collier MPO should continue to be proactive in finding solutions to improve transportation infrastructure. Ms. Delgadillo explained that there are limited transportation dollars available and from the Conservancy's

perspective, it would not be realistic to bring back an alignment that was taken off Lee County MPOs LRTP. She explained that the construction of the roadway would most likely cost millions of dollars in mitigation on top of the cost for the construction of the project. She further stated that the Collier Boulevard Extension was environmentally unsuitable, economically unfeasible and any permits received are likely to be challenged, assuming permits would be issued.

The third registered speaker was Ms. Patty Whitehead with the RGMC. Ms. Whitehead stated that the RGMC was categorically against the extension of Collier Boulevard. She noted that the project would be environmentally destructive and it would jeopardize water resources. Ms. Whitehead recommended that the Joint MPO Board table all future discussions regarding this project. Ms. Whitehead stated that the CSX rail line was an incredible asset that was not being utilized which could move people across Lee and Collier County.

The fourth registered speaker was Ms. Martha Simons. Ms. Simons concurred with the unutilized CSX rail line and stated that the rail line should be brought back for public use. Ms. Simons stated that the Collier Boulevard Extension would obstruct existing habitat and would take away economic development.

The fifth registered speaker was Ms. Linda Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz stated that she has been a resident of Bonita Springs for many years and that she concurred with those who strongly opposed the Collier Boulevard Extension.

The sixth registered speaker was Mr. Fred Forbes. Mr. Forbes stated that the alignment for the Collier Boulevard Extension should be revisited.

The seventh registered speaker was Ms. Deborah Maclain. Ms. Maclain stated that she was opposed to the Collier Boulevard Extension and opposed to sprawl. She noted that if the road were to be constructed, property values would change. Ms. Maclain stated that growth needs to be controlled.

Chairman Leonardo questioned if there was any public comment on non-Agenda items.

Mr. Cornell stated that mitigation costs should be taken into consideration as the MPOs update their respective 2040 LRTP. He recommended that the permits that support existing infrastructure should be consolidated to plan for the future.

Agenda Item 9 – Florida Department of Transportation

Secretary Hattaway reported that the Smart Growth Coalition was assisting in the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy. He noted that the draft implementation plan would be complete in September.

Secretary Hattaway congratulated the city of Cape Coral and Bonita Springs for accepting the Mayors Challenge.

Mr. Harris, FDOT Liaison, reported that the I-75 Direct Connect route was officially open as of March 6, 2015.

Agenda Item 10 – Transit Update

Ms. Arnold reported that CAT applied for grant funding for a trip planning application for the next bus for smart phones which would be beneficial to the passengers.

Mr. Meyers with Lee Tran reported that a ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted for the opening of the new LeeTran Headquarters located at 3401 Metro Parkway.

Mr. Meyers reported that LinC Route 600 is experiencing great ridership. Mr. Meyers reported that LeeTran has experienced a 3% drop in ridership due to a fare increase for base fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Agenda Item 11 – Members Comments

Councilman Williams congratulated the City of Naples for their efforts on becoming a Blue Zone.

Agenda Item 12 – Information Items

A. October 17, 2014 Joint MPO Board Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment of Meeting

Having no further business, the Joint Lee-Collier County MPO Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:46 a.m.