

MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on April 4, 2013

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on April 4, 2013 at the City of Cape Coral Annex/Public Works Building, 815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL.

Margaret Banyan	Lee County District 1
Carie Call	Lee County District 1
Bill Williams	Lee County District 2
Tony Cardinale	Lee County District 3
Marion Briggs	Lee County District 4
Heather Mazurkiewicz	Lee County District 4
James Boesch	Lee County District 5
Phillip Boller	City of Cape Coral
Steven Hook	City of Cape Coral
David Urich	City of Fort Myers
Edward Tryka	City of Bonita Springs
John Pohland	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Linda Carter	At-Large- Transportation Disadvantaged

Those also in attendance included: Russ Muller and Kellie Spurgeon with FDOT; Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Josh Philpott with Lee County Port Authority; William Roll with Tindale Oliver; Don Scott, Meghan Marion, Ron Gogoi and Anna Bielawska of the Lee County MPO.

Chairman Bill Williams called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Ms. Marion called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes from the February 7, 2013 CAC Meeting

MOTION BY MS. CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013 CAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MR. BOLLER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Minutes from the March 7, 2013 Joint Lee and Collier CAC Meeting

MOTION BY MR. POHLAND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 7, 2013 JOINT LEE AND COLLIER CAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MS. CARTER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #8 – Presentation on the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Mr. William Roll with Tindale Oliver and Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item. The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in conjunction with local stakeholders and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 is developing and implementing a Lee Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (BPSAP). The main purpose of this plan is to reduce bicycle and pedestrian crashes, especially emphasizing a reduction in fatal and incapacitating injury crashes.

The main vision of this plan is a zero fatality transportation system for pedestrians and cyclists throughout Lee County.

Ms. Carter brought up her concern about safety due to the length of time it takes to cross an 8-lane intersection. Mr. Roll answered that one of the later action items in the PowerPoint deals with signal timing and pedestrian crossing.

Mr. Roll finished his PowerPoint and asked if there are any questions.

Ms. Carter mentioned that there were 12 fatalities for the first quarter of 2013 (page 4); this means that there are about 50 fatalities that will occur for the entire year. She said that not enough is being done to immediately address pedestrian safety, while the action items of the plan are being worked on. She also said that law enforcement should be enforcing pedestrian and bicycle violations. Ms. Carter also stated that if designers did the right job in the first place, there would be no need to go back and do retrofitting. It is important to place Action Item #7: Adopt pedestrian design standards for the design and use of right-turn channelization further up on the short-term list so it gets completed now. The same should be done for Action Items 8, 9 and 11 in the plan. According to Ms. Carter, all of these items can be done sooner and should be moved over to the short-term list to ensure pedestrian safety. Mr. Roll responded to some of Ms. Carter's concerns. He said that the community has to be behind law enforcement in order for them to go out and aggressively enforce pedestrian and bicycle violations. Mr. Roll also stated that there are many agencies involved in the planning process which makes pushing the design standards forward impractical.

Ms. Call agreed with Ms. Carter's earlier statement about having law enforcement do what they are being paid to do already and that is enforcing pedestrian safety, whether they have grant money or not. Ms. Call also pointed out that the long range plan should correlate with Action Item 8 in the BPSAP, when it comes to timing of resurfacing projects. Mr. Roll responded to these statements. He said there is already grant money present for law enforcement regarding pedestrian safety with the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding. It is not a matter of where to look for grant money. Providing additional funding has been successful in other communities. Mr. Roll also said that as far as the coordination of resurfacing projects, it is a matter of how the flow of funding is organized.

Ms. Banyan thanked the Lee MPO and Tindale Oliver for putting this presentation together. It is an important step for Lee County. She also brought attention for the need of identifying preemptive road diets in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Banyan also mentioned that Lee County has a complete streets working group that has been identifying candidates as they are doing resurfacing projects that are most likely to have

the greatest effect including sidewalks. It would be nice to have other jurisdictions take on this strategy. Another example of coordination is the Pace Community coordinating their Bicycle Pedestrian Plan with the Lee MPO Bicycle Pedestrian for resurfacing projects in the area by knowing what streets are prioritized for bike lanes or sidewalks.

Mr. Roll thanked everybody for their input and comments.

Mr. Hook said that there has to be a paradigm shift when it comes to educating kids in schools about safe walking and biking. Safe habits have to be created from the ground up, and schools should be involved in this. Mr. Roll stated that it is also important to change driver behavior.

There will be a BPSAP workshop on April 17th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the United Way Building in Ft. Myers off of Gladiolus Dr on Concourse Dr.

Agenda Item #4 – Review and Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. The revisions to the plan include the changes that were recommended by the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) at their March 1, 2013 meeting. All of the changes are listed in the agenda packet. This item was tabled at this morning's TAC meeting to give LeeTran more time to review the plan.

MOTION BY MS. CARTER TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN. SECONDED BY MR. BOESCH.

Mr. Gaither said that the only concern LeeTran had with the document was that there were a series of categories that were not being addressed concerning medical service trips.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approval of the MAP-21 Bicycle Pedestrian Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Mr. Tryka said there are some tasks there for additional fee particularly Task A Grant writing and suggested that the Lee MPO pursue that opportunity.

Mr. Scott said that the Lee MPO has not worked with ALTA before and wants to see their performance first.

Ms. Banyan added that ALTA is the premier consultant for bike and pedestrian planning, and she is excited by this contract.

MOTION BY MR HOOK TO APPROVE THE MAP-21 BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN. SECONDED BY MR. URICH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #6 – Endorsement of Good Wheels 5310 Grant Application

Mr. Scott presented this item. FDOT will be selecting the grantees by the end of May.

MOTION BY MS. MAZURKIEWICZ TO APPROVE ENDORSEMENT OF GOOD WHEELS 5310 GRANT APPLICATION. SECONDED BY MR. BOLLER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #7 – Presentation and Provide Input on the Proposed US 41 Pedestrian Refuge Islands

Ms. Spurgeon of FDOT presented a PowerPoint on this item.

Mr. Pohland asked where the actual crossing is from the actual sidewalk to the island; this was not shown in the surfboard diagram. He believes it is one way on one side and one way on the other side. Ms. Spurgeon answered that the intent is to have that. They just received the design at the end of March.

Mr. Scott mentioned that the TAC had a lengthy discussion about this at the morning meeting. The City of Fort Myers would like to put a median where the proposed refuge islands are, and others felt that there needs to be a more immediate solution.

Mr. Cardinale asked if there is a study that has looked at how these refuge islands affect traffic flow. Ms. Spurgeon said previous analysis helped with identifying the locations and is one of the reasons the islands will not be put in the left turn lane.

Ms. Banyan pointed out that the proposed islands are next to a high school, and there needs to be a solution now. Mr. Scott said that the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) has voted in favor of this except Ms. Carter due to an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issue.

Ms. Carter said that she voted against this because it was not ADA compliant for people with disabilities and seniors needing to enter the hospital safely. She thanked the MPO for listening to the input regarding this issue.

MOTION BY MS. CARTER TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED US 41 PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLANDS WITH MODIFICATIONS REGARDING ADA COMPLAINE. SECONDED BY MS. BANYAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 – Review of the Public Involvement Evaluation Report

Ms. Marion presented this item. This report contains everything the Lee MPO has done with the public from January to December of last year, meetings attended, plans adopted and amended, and recommendations for a facebook page and a better relationship with Florida Gulf Coast University.

Ms. Banyan recommended looking at MindMixer which the county is doing. Mr. Scott said they are looking at doing this. Ms. Banyan said that she makes her students use MindMixer to get more involved in the government process.

Agenda Item #10 – Review of the Proposed Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. This will be brought in next month for discussion after a 30 day public comment period.

Mr. Scott asked if there are any comments on the changes they are making.

Mr. Scott said that the MPO Board had a discussion at the February meeting about doing a more in depth analysis of the revenues. The Board also discussed if all of the maintenance costs were covered throughout the county, and whether they are truly reflecting the complete cost of the project. There will be more upcoming analysis regarding these issues in the future.

Ms. Banyan said there needs to be a more careful look at interim options and decide whether this is cheaper in the long run.

Agenda Item #11 – Update on the MPO Apportionment Letter and Response to FDOT

Mr. Scott presented this item. The Collier MPO Board and Lee MPO Board approved the resolution at their joint session last month.

Ms. Mazurkiewicz asked what their current urbanized area is for funding purposes. Mr. Scott replied that Bonita is part of the Collier urbanized area. Ms. Mazurkiewicz also asked what the reasoning was for the two Boards to remain as separate MPOs. Mr. Scott answered that the main focus was their differences and the possibility of outvoting.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

None.

Agenda Item #13 – LeeTran Report

Mr. Gaither of LeeTran provided the report. LeeTran reached a milestone ridership in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013 with 1 million riders. The preliminary numbers for the second quarter also showed another milestone by reporting 400,000 trips for the month of March. Mr. Gaither said that the groundbreaking process for the new LeeTran facility was complete. He also said that FGCU has issued a statement about discontinuing funds for Route 60. LeeTran is continuing to work with FGCU.

Chairman Williams asked if there had been any discussion regarding other revenue sources for Route 60. Mr. Gaither answered no.

Mr. Boller emphasized working with businesses along that route. Mr. Scott said that this is happening right now.

Ms. Banyan said there are some things that are going on internally at FGCU that may bring about a positive result concerning Route 60.

Agenda Item #14 – FDOT Report

None.

Agenda Item #14A – Lee County Port Authority

Mr. Philpott of the Lee County Port Authority provided the report. This year passenger numbers are up by 6.5% and this upward trend should continue for the rest of the year. At Page Field, operations are down, but there has been a significant amount of flight training activity. This has caused an uptake in fuel sales. The result of building the new Page Field facility has caused an interest of aviation groups to come use the facility for training. The noise study has been sent to the FAA and is currently in review by their district office in Orlando. The webpage for the flight tracking system concerning the noise study is <http://www.flylcpa.com/noise>. Mr. Philpott said they are tracking the effects of the sequester.

Chairman Williams asked which commercial flights are affected by the regional cuts. Mr. Philpott said Page Field does not have any commercial services.

Ms. Call brought up that the new Page Field Terminal and new Arc Facility are LEED certified buildings.

Agenda Item #15 – Announcements

None.

Agenda Item #16 – Topics for next meeting

Mr. Urich would like to bring up the Del Prado Extension Blvd Plan for formal discussion at the next CAC meeting.

Agenda Item #17 – Information and Distribution Items

The attendance record is included in the packet. Ms. Marion also said that there are also a lot of current vacancies on the CAC.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.