

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, August 4, 2016

City of Cape Coral Public Works Building

815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990

3:00 p.m.



Meeting Summary

Call to Order

Roll Call – roll was called, quorum was present

1. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

New Business

2. **Approval of the Roll Forward Report (Johnny Limbaugh)**

Johnny Limbaugh presented amendments to the FY 2016/2017 through FY 2020/2021 TIP to add the roll forward report.

Each year there are projects that are scheduled to be authorized prior to June 30th (when the previous TIP is in effect) but for various reasons they do not get authorized. These projects will automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program but should be accounted for in the TIP. This amendment is being done to account for the roll forward projects within the TIP.

A motion was made by Margaret Banyan and seconded by Bev Larson to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Fiscal Year 2016 Roll Forward projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Endorsement of the Aviation Priorities (Ron Gogoi)**

Ron Gogoi presented the Lee County Port Authority's latest priorities for aviation projects at Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field for endorsement by the MPO.

A motion was made by Randy Krise and seconded by Carie Call to recommend that the MPO endorse the Lee County Port Authority's priorities for aviation projects at the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Presentation and Update on the Babcock Development (Babcock/DPA)**

Alexis Crespo with Waldrop Engineering and Gary Nelson of Babcock Ranch provided an update on their development activities along with a status of the SR 31 Project Development and Environmental studies. Additional information on the development can be found on their website at www.babcockranchflorida.com. This was an information item and no action was taken by the committee.

5. **Presentation on the SR 82 Widening Projects in Lee County (FDOT)**

The FDOT lead project manager for the SR 82 widening projects provided a presentation on the four project segments in Lee County. The current schedule for the four segments is: SR 82 from Lee Boulevard to Shawnee Road (just east of Daniels/Gunnery) – Construction is programmed for this fiscal year (widening from 2 to 6 lanes), SR 82 from Shawnee Road to Alabama Road – Construction is not programmed in the five-year adopted work program but is planned for FY 2021/2022 in the SIS Cost Feasible Plan (widening from 2 to 6 lanes), SR 82 from Alabama Road to Homestead Road – Right-of-way is programmed for this fiscal year and construction is programmed for FY 2017/2018 (widening from 2 to 4 lanes), SR 82 from Homestead Road to the Hendry County line – Construction is programmed for FY 2017/2018 (widening from 2 to 4 lanes).

During the presentation a question was asked about the bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Al O'Donnell questioned the benefit and safety of having 6.5 foot buffered bike lanes, he stated that having bike lanes did not make sense and the money would be better spent building a dedicated bike facility and separate sidewalk on both sides of the roadway outside of the roadway. The FDOT presenters explained that the current design met the current adopted design standards and the buffered bike lanes are actually an enhancement compared to the previous bike lane standards. The committee discussed the placement of the shared use path on the south side of the roadway when most for the development will be on the north side. MPO staff explained that the pathway is on the south side based on previous planning documents and to ultimately connect up with a Collier County trails.

Al O'Donnell made a motion to ask the MPO to request that FDOT eliminate the on road bike lanes and provide 5 foot sidewalks and off road bike facilities on both sides of the road. Bev Larson seconded. The motion was approved 10 to 4.

6. Presentation on the Transit Development Plan (LeeTran)

A presentation was given on the draft LeeTran Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update and endorsement of the plan will be requested. The TDP document is available on the LeeTran website for review at <http://www.leegov.com/leetrans/tdp>.

The State of Florida Public Transit Block Grant Program requires public transit service providers to develop and adopt a 10-year comprehensive planning document in accordance with Rule Chapter 14-73, Florida Administrative Code.

Major updates are required every 5 years with annual progress reports during the interim years. LeeTran has drafted the 2016 Major Update to its Transit Development Plan for 2017 – 2026. This plan sets forth an improvement plan for transit service in Lee County, which is consistent with local plans and the Lee County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan and will serve as the guiding document for the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program as well as the FDOT's Five-Year Work Program covering public transit projects in Lee County.

The Transit Development Plan was developed with input from various stakeholders and interviews with elected officials representing the County and all municipalities. Public participation workshops were conducted and public comment was solicited through various means. The plan was vetted through the Review Committee, which was comprised of representatives from County Departments as well as local stakeholders.

The TDP document contains ten primary sections reviewing existing services, the operating environment, future conditions, transit needs, and proposed improvements to meet those needs. A financial plan is also included in the TDP, identifying the costs of existing and proposed services and resources necessary to fund the transit ten-year plan. All identified plan improvements beyond those currently funded with existing federal, state, and/or local sources are proposed to move forward only if and when an adequate funding mechanism can be secured.

A motion was made to endorse the TDP by Carrie Call and was seconded by Ann Pierce. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Review and Provide Input on the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform (Don Scott)

Don Scott presented the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed rulemaking for MPO coordination and planning area reform and discussed some of the potential impacts to the current Lee County MPO boundary.

8. Overview of the Panther Recovery Team Activities (Don Scott)

Moved to next meeting due to the length of the meeting.

9. Discuss Potential Agenda Items for the Upcoming Lee/Collier MPO Meetings (Don Scott)

Moved to next meeting due to the length of the meeting.

Other Business – due to time constraints the following items were not presented

10. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda
11. LeeTran Report
12. FDOT Report
13. Announcements
14. Topics for next meeting
15. Information and Distribution Items

Adjournment

Public participation is solicited 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 translation services (free of charge) should contact Mr. Johnny Limbaugh at the Lee MPO at 239-330-2242 or by email at jlimbaugh@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. 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 (239) 330-2242 or by writing him at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.