

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COLLIER & LEE COUNTY MPO CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on March 7, 2013

The following members were present for the joint meeting of the Collier & Lee County MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee on March 7, 2013 at the Estero Community Park & Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, 103A, Estero, Florida 33928.

Collier CAC

Carl Bressan	City of Marco Island
Karen Homiak	Collier County District I
Fred Thomas	Collier County District V
Joyce Graham	Persons with Disabilities
Wayne Sherman	Collier County District IV
Gary Shirk	At-Large

Lee CAC

Margaret Banyan	Lee County District I
Carie Call	Lee County District I
Bill Williams	Lee County District 2
Albert O'Donnell	Lee County District 3
Marion Briggs	Lee County District 4
James Boesch	Lee County District 5
Edward Tryka	City of Bonita Springs
Daniel Wagner	City of Bonita Springs
John Pohland	Town of Fort Myers Beach

Those also in attendance included: Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Trinity Scott with CAT; Russ Muller with FDOT; Lauren Brooks with URS Corporation (FDOT); Tammy Vrana with Vrana Consulting (FDOT); Maureen Bonness with River of Grass Greenway; Lucie Ayer and Lorraine Lantz with Collier County MPO; Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Meghan Marion and Anna Bielawska with Lee County MPO.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Mr. Scott.

Ms. Marion called the roll for Lee County CAC and announced that a quorum was present.

Ms. Lantz called the roll for Collier County CAC and announced that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item #2 – Election of a Chairperson

MOTION BY MR. THOMAS TO NOMINATE MR. SHIRK AS THE JOINT COLLIER/LEE CAC CHAIRMAN. SECONDED BY MS. HOMIAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments

None.

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Agenda

Mr. Scott indicated that staff would like to move **Agenda Item #6B - Discussion of the Lee and Collier Reapportionment Letters and any Changes to Future Regional Activities** up to **ACTION ITEMS**. The Joint Collier/Lee TAC decided to vote on this item this morning.

MOTION BY MR. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2013 JOINT COLLIER/LEE CAC MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED, MOVING AGENDA ITEM #6B UP TO ACTION ITEMS. SECONDED BY MR. WAGNER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item #5A – Prioritization and Approval of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Regional Pathways Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item. There was no money received last year for regional enhancement projects. FDOT has now indicated that it will consider programming these projects in the future using the State Portion of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds allocated for District 1. This list is similar to last year's, except that Lee County has removed the SR 78 project.

Mr. Scott said that the major change from this morning was under Priority #1, the US 41 River of Grass Greenway. The Joint Collier/Lee TAC voted to remove the description of the north side of the 12' pathway (the side of the pathway should not be determined at this time).

MOTION BY MR. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) REGIONAL PATHWAYS PRIORITIES LIST AS AMENDED, EXCLUDING THE LISTED SIDE OF THE US 41 RIVER OF GRASS GREENWAY PROJECT. SECONDED BY MS. HOMIAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #6B – Discussion of the Lee and Collier Reapportionment Letters and any Changes to Future Regional Activities

Mr. Scott presented this item. He said that the Collier and Lee MPOs go further than most other MPOs in regional coordination activities, including having a formal interlocal agreement and joint committee meetings.

The motion made by the Joint Collier/Lee TAC this morning was to recommend that each MPO remain separate but continue with further regional coordination activities.

Ms. Ayer stated that there will be a joint resolution brought to the Joint Collier/Lee MPO Board at the March 22nd meeting justifying the reasons for staying as separate MPOs.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for clarification on what will happen with the two MPOs in the next several years. Mr. Scott replied that, in the past, there was a stricter emphasis on the combining of the MPOs. Ms. Ayer added that there are several groups who would like to see a fewer number of MPOs.

MOTION BY MR. BILL WILLIAMS TO ENDORSE SEPARATE COLLIER AND LEE MPOS AND UPDATING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR JOINT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE COLLIER AND LEE COUNTY MPOS AS NEEDED. SECONDED BY MR. THOMAS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item #6A – Discussion on the Future Funding Opportunities for the Lee Collier (LinC) Transit Connection

Mr. Scott presented this item. LeeTran has asked to bring this item forth for discussion in identifying the future funding opportunities for the Lee Collier transit connection, also known as LinC. This morning it was clarified that the funding will go through September 30th, 2014. This is an issue to be discussed in the near future. LeeTran and CAT will discuss this route at a joint meeting tomorrow, March 8th.

Mr. Gaither provided some statistics concerning the LinC route. There are 9,000/month consistent riders. If you combine LinC with route 150, which complements it, the ridership is at 11,000 riders/month. LinC is a route that is well received by citizens both in Lee and Collier county.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Gaither if he wants to speak about the issues concerning Route 60 and Florida Gulf Coast University. Mr. Gaither explained that FGCU has decided to pull money for Route 60 that provides access to campus. LeeTran has no funds to continue a Monday-Sunday service out there and is looking for alternative funding sources.

There have been meetings between faculty and students who want to continue working with LeeTran.

Mr. Thomas asked about the ridership on Route 60. Mr. Gaither responded that it is quite low averaging about 6,000 trips per month.

FGCU was contributing \$250,000 to the cost of running Route 60.

Ms. Banyan said that the ridership today does not reflect the importance of the route. There will be a future high density development at Miromar, which will house students and faculty. She also said that there will be an I-Hub (Innovation Hub) development, which will increase ridership. This is a big concern for faculty at FGCU.

Ms. Call asked why FGCU pulled the funds from Route 60. Ms. Banyan answered that FGCU is struggling financially.

Mr. Scott asked if this will impact the FGCU master plan in any way. Ms. Banyan that there was great emphasis on public transit in the master plan and alternative transportation modes.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that there is a similar situation with Ave Maria University in Collier County.

Mr. O'Donnell would like to see a more specific financial analysis concerning this route.

Ms. Banyan specified that the new mixed use development will be on Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy south of the university. There will also be a lot of students traveling between the I-Hub and campus.

Mr. Bill Williams asked to make a motion to have FGCU reconsider their decision of termination with Lee County and to look at alternative funding opportunities. This should be discussed with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, FGCU, and LeeTran.

Mr. Gaither said that the Board of County Commissioners will be discussing this at an upcoming meeting.

MOTION BY MR. BILL WILLIAMS TO HAVE THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISCUSS THE RECONSIDERATION OF FGCU'S DECISION TO TERMINATE FUNDING FOR ROUTE 60 AND TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES. SECONDED BY MS. CALL.

Mr. Bill Williams said this will send a positive message about mass transit, and this is not always a cost-benefit situation.

Mr. Thomas recommended a solution in terms of Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Ms. Banyan emphasized that it would help if an external body would pressure the university as faculty have limited sources.

Mr. Wagner said that this entire discussion is dealing with a lot of guesswork, and it would help to have an FGCU representative contribute to the discussion.

MOTION CARRIED WITH MR. DANIEL WAGNER OPPOSED.

Agenda Item #6C – Update on the Long Range Transportation Plans for Old US 41 from US 41 in Collier County to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County

Ms. Lantz presented this item. Collier MPO has been working on a Minor Update to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and is expected to adopt it on March 8th before the Collier MPO Board. Collier has added the Old US 41 project (from Collier County to Bonita Beach Rd in Lee County) into the cost feasible plan. She said that the future implications of this action need to be discussed.

Mr. Scott that Lee County will do an amendment to match the Collier time frame of this project in the next few months.

Agenda Item #6D – Presentation on the US 41/Bonita Beach Road Interchange ETDM Project

Ms. Lauren Brooks from the URS Corporation provided a PowerPoint on this project. They are assisting FDOT with the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (ETDM) for this project, a precursor to the PD&E phase.

Ms. Ayer asked which road will cross over the other road. Ms. Brooks replied that the PD&E study will assess that. Mr. Scott said that it has not been determined yet, but it makes more sense for US 41 to go over Bonita Beach Rd because of the spacing of the intersections. Ms. Ayer also asked how transit will be enhanced. Ms. Brooks said it will reduce delays at the intersection.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested having additional Right-of-Way to improve the aesthetics of the project.

Ms. Banyan said that the economic impact of this project should not be discounted.

Agenda Item #6E – Update of Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Projects and Plans

Mr. Massey of FDOT presented this item.

Mr. Thomas asked when the SR 82 to Hendry County project will be completed. Mr. Massey answered that the project is currently unfunded. It is proposed to be in the cost feasible plan.

Mr. Scott mentioned that a sub-committee was formed this morning at the Collier/Lee Joint TAC meeting.

Mr. Massey pointed out to Mr. Thomas that FDOT is introducing a PD&E for SR 29 from I-75 to Oil Well Rd for possible expansion.

The **Sub-Committee** members from the CAC are:

Lee County CAC: Bill Williams and Al O'Donnell

Collier County CAC: Fred Thomas and Wayne Sherman

Mr. Thomas asked about having SR 29 go north of 858. Mr. Massey said that this is an ongoing PD&E, and they will see what alternatives are available.

Ms. Ayer asked Mr. Scott if they are going to do a joint recommendation for the Collier/Lee MPO Board meeting on March 22nd concerning SR 82. Mr. Scott responded that a resolution was discussed this morning to fund SR 82 as far as possible. SR 82 has no funding for a Right-of-Way until the next second 10 years on many segments.

Agenda Item #6F – Discussion on the Development of Transportation Regional Incentive (TRIP) Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item. None of TRIP projects in the District were funded due to a lack of available TRIP funds. Mr. Scott said the list will be re-submitted. He asked the jurisdictions for project applications by mid-April. The Collier and Lee MPO Boards will prioritize them in June.

Agenda Item #6G – Presentation on the River of Grass Greenway Project

Ms. Bonness gave a PowerPoint presentation on the US 41 River of Grass Greenway project. This project was envisioned as a multiuse pathway along the Everglades between Naples and Miami. This pathway will be roughly parallel to US 41. The public involvement MindMixer website for this project is at www.riverofgrassgreenway.org.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how the motorized traffic will be kept off the pathway. Ms. Bonness said these issues are still being addressed with the public.

Other Business

Agenda Item #7 – Florida Department of Transportation Report

None.

Agenda Item #8 – Transit Update

Ms. Trinity Scott of CAT provided a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the Collier County Transit System. She said that there has been a continuous increase in ridership over the last three years on Collier’s fixed route. There were over 1.2 million riders last year.

Agenda Item #9 – Members’ Comments

Mr. Thomas emphasized the tourist appeal of the Seminole Casino in Immokalee and that most tourist destinations are a 2 hour distance from that location.

Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

Mr. Scott said that there is a Summary of the FDOT 2013 Legislative Package in the agenda packet. The noise mitigation component was highlighted to the local jurisdictions.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.