



**JOINT COLLIER AND LEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD MEETING**

**Center for Performing Arts  
10150 Bonita Beach Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135**

**October 21, 2016, 9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

---

**1. Meeting Called to Order /Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Penny Taylor, Collier County Commissioner.

Ms. Gabrielle Gonzalez, Collier MPO Administrative Secretary, called the roll for Collier MPO. She announced that Collier MPO did not attain a quorum.

Ms. Calandra Baraco, Lee MPO Administrative Assistant, called the roll for Lee MPO. She announced that Lee MPO did have a quorum present.

Collier County MPO Executive Director and Chair consulted with their attorney, Mr. Scott Teach, to decide how the meeting should proceed as Collier County did not have a quorum. Mr. Teach suggested taking the presentation items first to allow time for another Collier MPO Board member to arrive.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioners Penny Taylor and Brian Hamman led the meeting body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Election of Chair Person**

**Commissioner Brian Hamman:** I move to nominate Commissioner Penny Taylor as Chair.

**Commissioner Jim Burch:** I second the motion.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Commissioner Penny Taylor:** I move to nominate Commissioner Brian Hamman as my vice-chair.

**Commissioner Frank Mann:** I second the motion.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Public Comments will be taken at each item**

Commissioner Penny Taylor stated that public comments would be taken after each item. She stated that each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak. Commissioner Taylor stated that since the Approval of the Agenda required a vote the meeting would move to item eight (8), Florida Department of Transportation.

**8. Florida Department of Transportation**

Secretary Billy Hattaway stated that this would be his last meeting with either MPO as he was retiring from his current position and taking a position as the Director of Transportation for the City of Orlando. He thanked all members for their support.

Several Board Members expressed sentiments towards Secretary Hattaway, thanking him for all of his work.

Secretary Hattaway added that FDOT's Complete Streets Initiative and Safety Initiative would continue in his absence. He went on to state that the Complete Streets handbook would be completed around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year for external review, and would be fully complete in April of 2017.

Commissioner Penny Taylor stated that she was advised that the Board could proceed to item seven (7) on the agenda.

Mr. Don Scott stated that he wanted to add that at some point the Board needed to take comment for items not on the agenda, and that Lee County staff had a walk on item concerning Lee County's TIGER grant line of credit extension. The walk on item would become 7.E.

**7. Reports and Presentations (May Require Board Action)**

**A. Traffic Incident Management Presentation**

Mr. Rory Howe discussed this item and gave a brief background of his experience in the field. Mr. Rory stated that twenty percent of crashes on the interstate were secondary crashes and that half of those ended in fatalities. He also discussed issues like cost, stating that the cost associated with lane closure in Metro-Atlanta was \$344,000 per one (1) hour of lane closure. Mr. Rory also stated that nationally for every one (1) minute of lane closure there were four-seven (4-7) minutes of recovery in order to get traffic moving again. He went on to discuss how the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program was developed, the level of involvement in the program, and how it worked. Mr. Howe opened up the presentation for comments/questions.

Councilwoman Linda Penniman asked if Florida's response time fell in line with the rest of the country. Mr. Howe stated that from a response time standpoint Florida was doing fine, however he stated that he'd like to see the RISC Program expand throughout the state and the standards tightened up.

Commissioner Taylor stated that it seemed Collier MPO would not attain a quorum and that the Board should move to number five (5) Approval of the Agenda.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Don Scott with the Lee County MPO stated that Lee MPO had a walk on item regarding the reduction from \$1 million to \$400,000 and extension of their TIGER grant line of credit. This would be a resolution that would require action from the Lee County MPO members.

Commissioner Penny Taylor stated that public comment for items not on the agenda would be taken at the end of the meeting and each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak. Commissioner Taylor consulted Collier County attorney Mr. Scott Teach as to how the meeting should proceed.

Mr. Scott Teach stated that only Lee County MPO was able to vote on items, and all motions had to come from Lee MPO. He further stated that Collier MPO could participate in discussion however could not vote. Mr. Teach went on to state that Lee MPO could vote on resolutions and sign at the end of the meeting, and Collier MPO could subsequently consider resolutions at their next Collier MPO Board meeting, and sign them at that time.

It was agreed upon that the agenda would be changed to hear Lee MPO's walk on item first as Lee Board members needed to be at another meeting at 11 a.m.

**Councilman Rick Williams: I move to approve the agenda.**

**Councilman Jim Burch: I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Penny Taylor suggested Commissioner Brian Hamman to Chair the meeting as Collier MPO did not have a quorum present. Commissioner Brian Hamman accepted and suggested Commissioner Penny Taylor as the Vice-Chair. The motion was made without objection and approved unanimously by Lee County MPO members.

**7. Reports and Presentations**

**E. Lee MPO Walk on Item Concerning TIGER Grant**

Mr. Don Scott stated that last year Lee MPO took out a line of credit to complete construction on the TIGER grant project. He stated that the project was 85 percent complete and should be done in March. Mr. Scott stated that he was asking for the current line of credit to be extended through that time. He also stated that they were reducing the amount to \$400,000.

**Councilman Johnny Streets: I move to approve.**

**Commissioner Frank Mann: I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the Revised Regional Roadway Network and Joint Resolutions**

Mr. Don Scott presented the item. He stated that the map had not changed much from the original only updated and cleaned up.

There was public comment taken at this item, comments are summarized as follows:

Patti Whitehead – Lee County MPOs Citizens Advisory Committee, concerned about the impact the proposed interchange for I-75 will have on panther habitat.

Betty Osceola – Miccosukee tribe member, stated this was the first time she was hearing about the proposed interchange. She requested that Collier and Lee County’s attorneys consult the Miccosukee Tribe before proceeding.

Ms. Anne McLaughlin stated that there was recently an amendment done changing the language of the project description to state “in the vicinity of” Everglades Blvd. instead of “at” Everglades Blvd. She also stated that this project was only in the needs analysis of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and not in the cost feasible as of yet.

Mr. Zach Burch, Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT), clarified that report presented by Ms. Whitehead was outdated and that there was already panther exclusionary fencing along the interstate from the toll booth up to the Broward County line. He stated that there was another project that would complete the fencing from the toll booth to 951, and that there were two panther crossings under I-75 built in the last year.

Secretary Billy Hattaway stated that there would be a PD&E study done to assess the best location for the project, which would include consulting that would look at what the impacts are to endangered species.

A discussion ensued amongst Board members and staff as to how they should proceed with the item.

Commissioner Brian Hamman suggested that this item be taken to each individual Board meeting where they can then vote on the item.

Lee MPO’s attorney suggested that Collier MPO vote on this item first and consult the Miccosukee tribe, then send their recommendations to Lee County MPO Board for their approval. He also suggested that there be no action taken at this meeting, simply presentations and discussions, and both Boards’ can vote subsequently at their normal separate meetings.

Commissioner Brian Hamman stated that all items from then on should be presentations only. He also suggested that they move directly to public comment.

#### B. Approval of the Revised Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network and Joint Resolution

There was public comment taken at this item, comments are summarized as follows:

Mr. Dave Urich - wrote formal letter, project is too expensive, stay with original alignment/redesign ROGG to avoid Everglades, expressed a deep concern for the Everglades.

Mr. Joe Bonness – Collier PAC- believes public should have input in design, stated that the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) could not be put anywhere else, suggests to approve but keep alignment with US41.

Mr. Bobby C. Billie – independent - urges to stop creating concrete planet, think of future, think of children’s future, opposes ROGG.

Ms. Dona Knap – greenways are wonderful in urban settings, the historical and burial sites in the proposed area should prevent any development, plenty of bike trails already, suggested that projects shouldn’t have to be on map to receive funding, opposes ROGG.

Mr. Tom Ward – Walk for Mother Earth – Ochopee resident, wildlife impacted, money could be spent in urban areas within Lee and Collier Counties, opposes ROGG.

Mr. Trevor Sorbo – investment is not worth it since there are no guaranteed returns, estimated \$140 million to build plus yearly maintenance, money could be used to raise Trail so Everglades can flow, luxury item not good for everyone, Miccosukee lands will be upset, opposes ROGG.

Dr. Karen Dwyer – Stone Crab Alliance – remove ROGG from map, it will destroy wetlands, fragment wildlife, and encroach on indigenous lands, ample opportunities already exist for bikers, opposes ROGG.

Dr. John Dwyer – Stone Crab Alliance – Miccosukee Tribe is opposed and they have marched and posted banners, the ROGG is not a pleasant route for cyclists, opposes ROGG.

Miss Megan Sorbo – 5<sup>th</sup> Grader – restoration of Everglades must prevail, the ROGG is not good stewardship of land, already many other choices for bike riders, opposes ROGG.

Ms. Betty Osceola – Walk for Mother Earth, Indigenous People, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians – started the petition against ROGG with over 5,000 signatures, started Sierra Club business letter list to oppose ROGG, violates tribal rights under Federal law, hardly anyone would use the trail, opposes ROGG.

Mr. Frank Denninger – Everglades Coordinating Council – works with governments to gain access to public lands, requests modification of map, believes it's condescending to have two separate maps one for public use and one for staff use, businesses along corridor opposed.

Ms. Patty Huff – Friends of the River of Grass Greenway – corridor no longer a safe place to hike or bike, no lights or additional facilities proposed, have included all comments in final document, cycling is part of a healthy lifestyle, map is only step one there will be additional studies done, approves the ROGG.

Commissioner Penny Taylor pointed out that Ms. Patty Huff went on record at the Collier MPO Board meeting misrepresenting the opinion of the Miccosukee Tribe.

Ms. Dayna Fendrick – Pathways Advisory Committee, FROGG – majority of ROGG can be accommodated on existing right of way on US 41, adding the pathway makes it safer for all users, no lights, low impact, environmentally friendly design, will be constructed in water management easements, will be built in segments and each segment will go through environmental reviews, approves the ROGG.

Ms. Patty Whitehead – Responsible Growth Management Coalition – ROGG is a misplacement of funds, need connectivity in urban areas and not trail through Everglades, opposes ROGG.

Ms. Monica Clay – walks corridor everyday and already sees garbage along trail, concerned about extra garbage issues the ROGG would bring to tribal lands, opposes ROGG.

Seeing no more public comments, Commissioner Brian Hamman closed the public comment portion of this item.

#### C. Approval of the Resolution Supporting the Request to Add SR 82 to the National Highway System

Ms. Anne McLaughlin stated that Collier MPO reviewed this item at their Board meeting and voted to continue this item in order to allow staff time to come back with more information. She stated that the Collier MPO Board had questions on what the ramifications might be of adding SR 82 to the NHS, and if the designation would delay projects currently going on. Ms. McLaughlin stated that FDOT would get back to Collier MPO with more information.

Commissioner Brian Hamman stated that expediting the funding to move up the construction of SR 80 would save lives. He stated that this was a great example of how governments should work together.

## **7. Reports and Presentations**

### **B. Update and Discussion on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform**

Mr. Don Scott gave a brief background on the item stating that FHWA was pushing to combine MPO's that shared urbanized areas. He stated that 22 of the 27 MPOs in Florida would be impacted and that the comment period was reopened this month. Mr. Don Scott discussed how this would affect Lee and Collier MPOs and explained the options given to MPOs should the proposed rule pass.

A discussion ensued amongst Board members regarding their concerns with the proposed rulemaking. Commissioner Donna Fiala expressed her concerns stating that the vote will never be fair, and Collier County will be at a loss.

Mr. Don Scott proposed other ways that votes could be tallied up and suggested revisiting the current regional agreement.

Ms. Anne McLaughlin stated that both Collier and Lee staff can review the current agreements and come up with some suggestions for the consideration of both Boards.

The joint body agreed to have staff work on that.

### **C. Regional Transit Discussion**

Ms. Michelle Arnold, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement Department of Collier County presented this item. She stated that the department was in the process of evaluating two routes that run in the Immokalee area. Ms. Arnold also spoke about other things the department was doing to improve on regional service, to include exploring service on SR 82.

### **D. Update on the District One MPO Chair Summit and Coastal MPO Alliance**

Mr. Don Scott gave the update on this item. He stated that the MPOs were looking to hold the Chair Summit in January of 2017.

## **Comments on Items not on the Agenda (Added)**

Mr. Robert King, East Corkscrew Alliance, stated that there was a group of communities along Corkscrew Road that were concerned about a project beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup> for beach replenishment. He stated that the project called for 6,000 truck loads of sand. Mr. King stated that they were concerned for the residents as they might not be able to enter or exit Corkscrew Road, and asked that they find an alternate route for the trucks (such as Alico Rd.).

Mayor Batos responded to Mr. Robert King saying that he recently became aware of a plan that was in place to relieve that traffic and reroute those trucks to another route.

## **12. Adjournment of Meeting**

Seeing no further comments, Commissioner Brian Hammon adjourned the meeting.

