

**MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
BOARD**

**Held on April 16, 2014**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on April 16, 2014 at the City of Cape Coral Council Chambers, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, Florida.

<b>LEE COUNTY</b>	<b>Present</b>		
COMMISSIONER FRANK MANN	x		
COMMISSIONER BRIAN HAMMAN	x		
COMMISSIONER LARRY KIKER			
COMMISSIONER CECIL PENDERGRASS	x		
COMMISSIONER JOHN E. MANNING			
<b>CITY OF FORT MYERS</b>		<b>ALTERNATES:</b>	<b>Present</b>
COUNCILMAN THOMAS LEONARDO	x	COUNCILMAN JOHNNY STREETS JR	
MAYOR RANDY HENDERSON	x		
COUNCILMAN MIKE FLANDERS	x		
<b>CITY OF CAPE CORAL</b>			
MAYOR MARNI SAWICKI	x	COUNCILMAN RICHARD LEON	
COUNCILMAN JOHN CARIOSCIA	x		
COUNCILMAN JIM BURCH	x		
COUNCILMAN RICK WILLIAMS	x		
<b>TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH</b>			
COUNCILMAN ALAN MANDEL	x	COUNCILWOMAN REXANN HOSAFROS	
<b>CITY OF SANIBEL</b>			
MAYOR KEVIN RUANE	x	VICE-MAYOR MICK DENHAM	
<b>CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS</b>			
MAYOR BEN NELSON	x		
VICE-MAYOR STEPHEN MCINTOSH	x	COUNCILMAN PETER SIMMONS	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Limbaugh called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Agenda Item #1 – Minutes from the Joint March 21, 2014 Meeting**

**MOTION BY MAYOR RUANE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 21, 2014 MPO BOARD MEETING. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LEONARDO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #3 – Citizen’s Advisory Committee Report**

Don Scott provided the report and touched on the CAC agenda items that included the review of the LRTP amendments, approval of the Joint TRIP priorities, a discussion on the functional classification analysis, a spirited discussion on the bicycle pedestrian priorities, review of the draft Public Involvement Plan and to table the Continuity of Operations Plan.

### **Agenda Item #3 –Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Report**

Don Scott provided the report from the end of March meeting that included a discussion on the bicycle pedestrian priorities, a presentation on the enforcement details by FHP and update on bicycle pedestrian projects by County parks and recreation staff.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Public Comments on New Business Items**

No Public Comments – comments taken at agenda items.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item #5 – Approval of the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Certification**

Mr. Scott presented this item. This is a Board approval item to approve the latest LCB membership, adding a voting member and alternate for children at-risk and also getting a signed certification showing Councilman Mandel as the Chair. In addition, we have been discussing bringing the Director of the Community Transportation Coordinator, Goodwheels, to the next MPO Board meeting to provide an update on the transition of about 70% of the Medicaid trips to other separate providers per recent changes to Medicaid.

**MOTION BY MAYOR RUANE TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councilman Burch asked about membership requirements. Mr. Scott explained the process.

**Agenda Item #6 – Approval of a Resolution Designating the Collier BOCC as the Recipient of the 5307 Funds for the Bonita Springs Urbanized Area**

Don Scott presented this item. This is a Board approval item for a resolution documenting the designated recipient for the Bonita Springs Urbanized area (the Collier urbanized area that includes Bonita and a portion of Estero). The expenditure of these funds have been divided by agreement since 2004 and he noted that the two resolutions that were done at that time are attached to the agenda item but nobody can find documentation that the two MPO's ever did resolutions consistent with the Lee and Collier Board actions and FTA is now asking for documentation.

**MOTION BY MAYOR NELSON TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Review of the Proposed Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan**

Darla Letourneau spoke on the amendment and concerns that funding will not be there for the projects in the future and the need to take a hard look as we move forward with the 2040 plan.

Mr. Scott presented the Item. This is a discussion and review item prior to taking official action next month. The amendments are being done to address project schedule changes that have occurred over the last year (the LRTP was last amended in May of 2013) and to add two Lee County projects (Big Carlos Bridge Replacement and Burnt Store Road) to allow for the possibility of funding them with Federal and State funding in future years. To come up with the necessary funding (from a planning perspective of comparing the cost versus the revenues), two sections of US 41 in North Fort Myers from Victoria Avenue to Diplomat Parkway are being removed from the cost feasible plan. The US 41 projects were in the Plan previously due to the future planning in preparation of when the Caloosahatchee Bridge gets replaced, answering the question of whether it is four or six lane bridge, but now FDOT is rehabbing the Bridge which is extending the life. Also there were previous plans to widen US 41 in North Fort Myers that is now inconsistent with their community plan in this area (we are still leaving it on the Needs Plan and will address the future of the project during the 2040 LRTP). One

of the other issues that has come up, since we started circulating the draft amendments, is the need for Plantation Gardens Drive in the Needs Plan (there were no immediate plans for the roadway but this has been raised due to an annexation process that was currently going on in the City of Fort Myers) and analyzing the projected traffic with and without the roadway connection from where it currently terminates just north of Commerce Lakes Drive to Gateway Boulevard. Since the agenda packet was distributed, staff has run the model with and without the road connection (2 lane, 4 lane & no build) and it carries a very low volume and does not have a big impact to the surrounding network.

**No action on the item, Informational only**

**Agenda Item #8 - Review and Approval of the Local Dues Assessment**

Mr. Scott presented the item. This is a Board approval item for the assessment of local dues. The assessment of local dues has been set by the Board over the years with changes every few year to reflect new rates based on population changes. The last update was two years ago and we are now bringing it through for another two year period.

**MOTION BY MAYOR RUANE TO APPROVE THE LOCAL DUES ASSESSMENT LIST. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PENDERGRASS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #9 – Approval of the Joint Lee and Charlotte Punta Gorda MPO’s TRIP Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this item. This list was updated to be consistent with how the Charlotte MPO constructs their list with the Sarasota Manatee MPO but also consistent with the priority order we show for projects with the Collier MPO.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PENDERGRASS TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRIP PRIORITIES. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Approval of the Transit Bus Pull-outs and Transit Bus Queue Jump Selection Committee Rankings**

Mr. Scott presented this item. This is for MPO Board approval of the selection committee (made up of a member from the TAC, CAC, LeeTran and the MPO) approved rankings of the consultants to conduct the transit bus pullout and queue jump studies. Kittelson and Associates was selected as the number one firm for both of the projects and we are now seeking MPO Board concurrence on the selection with the direction to negotiate a contract with the number one firm.

**MOTION BY MAYOR NELSON TO APPROVE THE SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PENDERGRASS MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #11 – Review of the Draft Public Involvement Plan Prior to Opening the Public Comment Period**

This is a Board discussion item to get any input that the Board members may have on the draft Public Involvement Plan that will now be put out for public comment prior to final approval at the June MPO Board meeting. We are required to update the plan every year and have made a few changes to it based on the comments we have received so far (updating acronyms, including online engagement survey activities during the LRTP update and removing expired/old project references).

No action on the item, Informational only

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Chairman McIntosh noted the MPO had received a letter from the City of Bonita Springs. Mayor Nelson asked Don Scott to read Councilman Simmons letter opposing the Overpass a US 41 and Bonita Beach road into the record. Mayor Nelson asked for an update from FDOT on the Status of the Study. Ms. Monroy with FDOT provide an overview of the process and committed to keeping the City in the loop as things move forward. Ms. Monroy stressed that there is no alternative selected or preferred and all options must be on the table. The board discussed the need to gather the information before making a decision.

**Agenda Item #13 – Update on the TIGER Grant**

Don Scott gave the report on TIGER grant and also provided an update on the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

Darla Letourneau spoke about the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and the next step reviewing the crash data and identifying countermeasures but also spoke about the local communities getting involved in outreach and moving forward solutions.

**Agenda Item #14 – LeeTran Report**

Mr. Wayne Gaither of LeeTran provided the report. Wayne thanked FDOT for additional funding that they have received the US 41 corridor approx. \$400,000 and noted the for the month of March ridership was down around 4% for last year for the same time period

### **Agenda Item #15 – FDOT Report**

Russ Muller provided the FDOT report. He updated the MPO on the Departments participation in the Safe Kids event that was held last weekend that was attended by 700 to 800 people.

Councilman Williams asked about the status of the Burnt Store road project. Dave Loveland with Lee County DOT responded to the question and provided an update on the project.

### **Agenda Item #16 – Announcements**

Mr. Scott announced that Federal Highway will be here next month to conduct the Federal Certification. Commissioner Pendergrass talked about the safety training and bike helmet event that will be held next Thursday from 9:00am to noon.

### **Agenda Item #17 – Topics for next meeting**

Mr. Scott noted that we will be approving the LRTP amendments, the UPWP, will also have the certification and will also have Goodwheels attend the next meeting to talk about the changes to the TD program based on Medicaid changes.

### **Agenda Item #18 – Information and Distribution Items**

Mr. Scott noted that the MPOAC summary on state transportation legislation status was included in the packet.

**ADJOURNMENT**