

December 13, 2013

**MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE
CHARLOTTE - PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION JOINT MEETING**

Held on December 13, 2013

The following members were present for the joint meeting of the Charlotte County - Punta Gorda and the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization held on December 13, 2013 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Convention Center, Myakka River Room A and B, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida

Lee County MPO Board

Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass	Lee County Commissioner, District 2
Commissioner Brian Hamman	Lee County Commissioner, District 4
Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee County Commissioner, District 5
Mayor Randy Henderson	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Mike Flanders	City of Fort Myers
Mayor Alan Mandel	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Mayor Marni Sawicki	City of Cape Coral
Councilman John Carioscia	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Jim Burch	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Rick Williams	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Richard Leon (Alternate)	City of Cape Coral

Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO Board

Commissioner Christopher Constance(Chair)	Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner Ken Doherty	Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner William Truex (Alternate)	Charlotte County Commissioner
Vice-Mayor Carolyn Freeland	City of Punta Gorda
Commissioner James Herston	Charlotte County Airport Authority

Others Present

Donald Scott, Ranjit Gogoi, Johnny Limbaugh, with Lee MPO; Bekie Murrill, Eugene Klara, Lakshmi N. Gurram, Gary Harrell, and Robert Herrington with Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO; Dan Gallagher with the Charlotte County Attorney's Office; Billy Hattaway, Laura Lockwood, Russ Muller, Debbie Tower, Vitor Suguri, Carmen Monroy, Zac Burch, Suzanne Lex, Roxann Lake, Richard Shine, Debi Stevens, and Providence Nagy with FDOT; Frank Meares FDOT Consultant; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Tom Cavanaugh, Linda Sposito, Dennis Murphy and Mitchell Austin with the City of Punta Gorda, Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Lucilla Ayer and Sarah Layman with the Collier County MPO; Deborah Forester, Venkat Vattikuti and Brian Barnes with Charlotte County; Karen Seggerman of the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR); Steve Fabian, Naomi Manning, and John Burrage with the Charlotte County Citizens Advisory Committee; Carie Call and Dave Urich with the Lee County

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MPO Citizens Advisory Committee; Gary Roberts with the Charlotte Sun; Tess Canja with Team Parkside (Charlotte County); Darla Letourneau with Bike Walk Lee County; Stephen Leung with DPA; Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering; Alan Ayash with McMahon Associates; Mike McGee with TKW; Glenice Reed, as a public citizen.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:37 p.m. by Charlotte County MPO Board Chair Commissioner Christopher Constance.

2. Chairs' Comments

Charlotte County MPO Board Chair Board Christopher Constance welcomed the Lee County MPO Board members and all who were present. He then led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Constance then asked members to introduce themselves and state who they represent on their respective MPO Boards.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Darla Letourneau representing BikeWalk-Lee County thanked FDOT District 1 Secretary Billy Hattaway for his continuing efforts dedicated to improving bicycle and pedestrian safety in the District and statewide. Ms. Letourneau then related her concerns on funding reductions recently experienced by LeeTran. Wayne Gaither of LeeTran, addressed Ms. Letourneau's concerns noting that LeeTran continues to examine recent transit budget reductions.

Dave Urich of the Lee County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) stated that both the Lee and Charlotte MPOs need to consider the construction of a road connecting Burnt Store Rd. and Tuckers Grade for the Babcock Ranch proposed development.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA BOARD MEMBER VICE-MAYOR CAROLYN FREELAND TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 13, 2013 JOINT LEE/CHARLOTTE-PUNTA GORDA MPO MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY MPO BOARD MEMBER COMMISSIONER KEN DOHERTY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance suggested that Agenda Item 6-the review of MPO Long Range Transportation Plans presented by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) be moved forward to Agenda Item 5. Members by consent agreed with this Agenda change, with no dissension.

5. 2013 Review of MPO Long Range Transportation Plans

Karen Seggerman of the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) began her PowerPoint presentation by stating that at the request of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), CUTR began a comparative review of current MPO Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) in 2012 with the report finalized in April 2013. She noted that similar reviews were prepared in 1997, 2002 and 2008. Of note was the projected twenty-year funding shortfall from 2016 through 2035 estimated to be \$126.4 billion in 2009 dollars. This estimate is derived from needs costs minus anticipated revenue to arrive at the shortfall estimate. A number of suggestions were presented by Ms. Seggerman to help guide MPOs during the drafting of their next LRTPs. Suggestions included the determination of transit needs beyond the ten-year Transit Development Plan (TDP) horizon and without consideration of revenue; provide unified data throughout the LRTP's that include more than one county or more than one MPO; increase consideration of bicycle and pedestrian safety and the consideration of aging road user safety, access and mobility.

6. FY 2014/15 - 2018/19 Draft Tentative Work Program Presentations (FDOT)

A. Charlotte County

Ms. Carmen Monroy of FDOT introduced FDOT Community Liaison Roxann Lake who briefed members on the Charlotte County - Punta Gorda 2014/2015-2018/2019 FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program. She noted that the MPOs number one, two, and four highway project priorities are programmed including Harborview Road preliminary design and environmental phase to construct 4 divided lanes from Melbourne Street to I-75; US 41 at Carmalita Street extension now in the design phase to add turning lanes and the construction phase of decorative finish lighting on US 41 from Aqui Esta Drive to Airport Road. She also noted that three congestion management project priorities were programmed or advanced including US 41 intersection improvements at Hancock Blvd, Gardner Blvd. and Port Charlotte Blvd. MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance appealed to FDOT to further advance the project priority scheduling phase for completion of the Taylor Road Bike Path from North Jones Loop Road to Airport Road.

MOTION BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO BOARD MEMBER KEN DOHERTY TO ENDORSE THE FY 2014/2015-FY 2018/2019 FDOT DISTRICT ONE DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY. MOTION SECONDED BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO MEMBER COMMISSIONER KEN DOHERTY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Lee County

FDOT Community Liaison Russ Muller briefed members on the Lee County 2014/2015-2018/2019 FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program. He stated that the number one Lee County Regional project priority advanced was in the preliminary design and environmental phase for

the Harnes Marsh to Joel Blvd Bike Path/Trail completion. Mr. Muller noted that a transportation planning study centering on the design and potential locations for "roundabouts" is continuing, with Lee County MPO Director Don Scott noting that the MPO is working with FDOT in developing a scope and potential list of planned roundabout locations in Lee County. Discussion then centered on the restoration of recent funding cuts experienced by LeeTran, with FDOT's Richard Shine of the District One Modal Development Office stating that FDOT is working with Lee County to provide increased funding to the transit system in future work program allocations. Commissioner Mann and Commissioner Hamman asked about the staff comments as well as the transit funding and whether to approve the work program. Mr. Scott recommended approving the work program with the provision that FDOT address the staff comments.

MOTION BY LEE COUNTY MPO BOARD MEMBER COMMISSIONER FRANK MANN TO ENDORSE THE FY 2014/2015-FY 2018/2019 FDOT DISTRICT ONE DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR LEE COUNTY WITH THE PROVISION THAT FDOT ADDRESS THE STAFF COMMENTS. MOTION SECONDED BY LEE COUNTY MPO BOARD MEMBER COMMISSIONER BRIAN HAMMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Amendments to the Interlocal Agreement between the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and the Lee County MPOs

MPO Director Bob Herrington reviewed the FY 2012 submittal of the joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects list noting that FDOT was unable to fund the submitted projects. Discussion by both MPO Boards ensued in 2013 resulting in the suggestion that if no projects from either Lee or Charlotte County receive TRIP funding then that same list would be resubmitted for the next year. Mr. Herrington noted that this language be included in the Interlocal Agreement for Joint Regional Transportation Planning and Coordination between the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Lee County MPO's,

MOTION BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBER COMMISSIONER WILLIAM TRUOX TO APPROVE THE DRAFT REVISED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NOTED CHANGES AND AUTHORIZE EACH MPO BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN THE FINAL REVISED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY MPO BOARD MEMBER COMMISSIONER JAMES HERSTON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements Status Report

MPO Director Bob Herrington introduced Charlotte County Project Engineer Brian Barnes who stated that the Charlotte County portion of the Burnt Store Road Corridor is geographically segmented into three phases. He noted the first phase from Scham Road to US 41 is complete and was funded using gas tax, road impact fees, sales tax and Transportation Regional Improvement Program (TRIP) allocations.

Mr. Barnes noted that the second phase of the Charlotte County Burnt Store Road Corridor is from the Lee County line to the Zemel Road intersection. This segment, he noted was originally slated to be funded by developers including the now defunct Tern Bay Development project. Currently developers have halted all construction and related Corridor improvements, with Charlotte County recently committing funds for design and Right of Way (ROW) acquisition. He noted that FDOT in its 2014 Draft Tentative Work Program reflects TRIP funding for the design phase of this segment, but noted that currently there is still a need to identify funding for the construction phase of this segment.

Mr. Barnes noted the third phase of the Corridor is from the Lee County Line to a point north of Zemel Road and this section is scheduled for construction to begin in 2014.

Mr. Scott, of the Lee County MPO, talked from the map in the agenda packet and presented the current plans for the three segments of Burnt Store Road that are currently moving forward, the north segment from Diplomat Parkway to Van Buren Parkway which is programmed for construction in FY 2014/2015, the central section from Tropicana to Diplomat Parkway which is programmed for construction in FY 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 and the south section from SR 78 to Tropicana Parkway where construction is anticipated in FY 2018/2019. Mr. Scott noted that the section from Van Buren Parkway to the Charlotte County line has no phases funded in the TIP and is projected to be funded beyond 2025.

Lee County MPO Board Commissioner Jim Burch stated that he commends Charlotte County in its ongoing efforts to complete improvements for the Burnt Store Road Corridor. MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance acknowledged that Charlotte County will continue to seek advancement of funding schedules by FDOT to complete this Corridor, and noted that the current "hourglass" shape of the roadway reflects the need for completion of the Corridor improvements in light of the critical evacuation route this Corridor provides to both Lee and Charlotte County residents.

9. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

FDOT's District One Secretary Billy Hattaway stated that increased efforts and future funding will be centered on improving bicycle and pedestrian safety throughout the state. He noted that the agency has recently hired bicycle and pedestrian safety specialists who are currently "on board" and developing viable bicycle and pedestrian safety for the District and statewide including the development of future "complete street" and "context based" guidelines and policies. Mr. Hattaway noted that landscaping and streetscaping projects along the edges of state roadways are under review with preliminary findings expected in 2014. He also stated that FDOT is placing added emphasis on the development and construction of additional "roundabouts statewide, noting that after initial public concern and criticism these intersection congestion management solutions are being met with increased public acceptance.

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Lee County MPO Board Councilman Jim Burch thanked Mr. Hattaway for his efforts on behalf of the region with Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board Member Vice-Mayor Carolyn Freeland noting that the increased use of roundabouts throughout the state is a positive development.

Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance noted that with the increased use and acceptance by the motoring public of hybrid and electric vehicles that it may be time for the state to consider the levying of a vehicle use tax, rather than the current gas tax method to fund transportation projects. MPO Director Bob Herrington noted that that issue is addressed in the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPOs 2014 Legislative Policy Statement.

10. Staff Comments and Next Year's Joint Lee/Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO Board Meeting

MPO Director Bob Herrington suggested that the Lee County and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Boards consider the scheduling of the annual joint MPO Board meetings to coincide more to the mid-point of the calendar year, rather than at year end. Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board Member Vice-Mayor Carolyn Freeland noted that the MPO may also want to consider scheduling more than one joint meeting per calendar year depending on urgency the of joint regional issues and required approvals.

MOTION BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO BOARD MEMBER COMMISSIONER KEN DOHERTY TO DIRECT BOTH MPOs TO SCHEDULE FUTURE ANNUAL JOINT MEETINGS TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF THE CALENDAR YEAR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEE COUNTY MPO BOARD MEMBER COUNCILMAN JIM BURCH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Member Comments

MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance noted that preliminary discussions between the Seminole-Gulf Railway and Lee and Collier County have taken place on the possibility of acquiring Right of Way (ROW) land immediately adjoining the railway. Commissioner Constance asked that Charlotte County be included in these discussions, as these ROW's from the Railway could reduce construction costs and accelerate project completion along Railway controlled land.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m. by Charlotte County MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance.

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