

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

**Held on January 18, 2013**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on January 18, 2013 at the City of Cape Coral Council Chambers, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, Florida.

Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee County Commission, District 5
Commissioner Tammy Hall	Lee County Commission, District 4
Commissioner Larry Kiker	Lee County Commission, District 3
Councilperson Teresa Watkins-Brown	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Councilperson Rena Erbrick	City of Cape Coral
Mayor John Sullivan	City of Cape Coral
Councilman John Carioscia	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Kevin McGrail	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Chulakes-Leetz	City of Cape Coral
Mayor Kevin Ruane	City of Sanibel
Councilman Peter Simmons	City of Bonita Springs
Vice-Mayor Stephen McIntosh	City of Bonita Springs
Councilman Joe Kosinski	Town of Fort Myers Beach

Those also in attendance included: Councilman Doug Congress with the City of Sanibel; Johnny Limbaugh, Russ Muller, Debbie Tower and Billy Hattaway with FDOT; Michael Jacob with the Lee County Attorney's Office; Rosalie Berlin as citizen; Bill Spikowski with Spikowski Planning Associates; Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering; Darla Letourneau, Margaret Banyan and Anne Pierce with BikeWalkLee; David Loveland with Lee County DOT; Wayne Gaither and Steve Myers with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Dan Moser with the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee; Bill Williams, Heather Mazurkiewicz and John Pohland with the Citizen's Advisory Committee; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Meghan Marion and Anna Bielawska of Lee County MPO.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Ruane.

Chairman Ruane led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Marion called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Agenda Item #1 – Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2012 MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 14, 2012 MPO BOARD MEETING. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #2 – Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Report**

Mr. Dan Moser of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) provided the report. He said the BPCC looks forward to working with the Lee County MPO, FDOT, and the consultant on the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

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

Mr. Bill Williams of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) provided the report. At the January 3, 2013 meeting, the CAC voted to re-elect Mr. Rick Anglickis as Chair of the CAC and himself, Bill Williams, as Vice-Chair of the CAC. He also stated that the CAC voted to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) revisions and voted to approve the Congestion Management Scope, Traffic Video Detection Scope, and the 2010 Base Year Hotel/Motel and School Data. The CAC also decided on having alternate members to and come present before the MPO Board in the future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Darla Letourneau of BikeWalkLee had some public comments. She said that BikeWalkLee is pleased that Secretary Billy Hattaway and FDOT have a lead role in coming up with a plan to improve the road user safety situation in Florida. Ms. Letourneau thanked Secretary Hattaway for coming in today to do a presentation on the FDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan & Bicycle Pedestrian Focused Initiative. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, BikeWalkLee will be presenting before the Lee Legislative Delegation to ask them to enact a ban on texting while driving. She asked the Board for support regarding this issue.

Councilman Leonardo asked if the Board could approve and provide Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto with a letter mentioning the issues Ms. Letourneau discussed.

Councilman Leonardo also requested a new agenda item where MPO members can make comments and put forth topics they are concerned about. It should be placed after the NEW BUSINESS section.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN LEONARDO TO ADD A NEW COMMENTS SECTION FOR MPO MEMBERS TO THE NEXT AGENDA AND ANY FUTURE AGENDA. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5 – Adoption of Amendments to the FY 2012/2013 and FY 2013/14 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2012/2013 AND FY 2013/14 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL.**

Councilman Leonardo asked how the reductions were made for each line item. Mr. Scott answered that they were reduced by a percentage based on what we have spent so far. Councilman Leonardo also asked if the some of the items were prioritized, and whether some items could have been reduced or eliminated in their entirety. Mr. Scott answered that some money in tasks would remain because this is a 2 year budget for tasks that have been identified with FDOT and FHWA.

Councilman Leonardo also expressed his concern over whether the MPO staff has some flexibility regarding the prioritization of certain tasks.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #6 – Review and Approval of CAC Appointments**

Ms. Marion presented this item.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE CAC APPOINTMENTS. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Review and Approval of the Congestion Management Scope of Work**

Mr. Gogoi presented this item.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL TO APPROVE THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT SCOPE OF WORK. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #8 – Presentation on the FDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan & Bicycle Pedestrian Focused Initiative (FDOT)**

Mr. Billy Hattaway of FDOT made a PowerPoint presentation on this item.

Councilman Leonardo thanked Commissioner Hall for pointing out the importance of having land use planning being coordinated with transportation planning to her colleagues at a past Lee County Commission workshop.

Councilman Leonardo addressed some concerns over pedestrian and bicycle safety, such as the possible need for the improved design of bicycle lanes and medians to help pedestrians cross roads safely. Secretary Hattaway responded that having medians is something FDOT advocates. Medians provide a refuge for pedestrians and help reduce vehicle crashes. Secretary Hattaway said the challenge is that businesses typically do not want medians because they think medians will have a negative impact. As far as bike lanes, Secretary Hattaway said that cyclists are supposed to follow the same laws as drivers. Putting a bicycle lane left of the turn lane helps minimize conflict.

Mayor Sullivan commented on planning for tree growth in the medians. He said the trees often block visibility on the road. Secretary Hattaway said that the growth patterns are included in their designs of roadways. Trees should not be blocking visibility.

Councilperson Watkins-Brown expressed her concern over the speed and pedestrian safety on Palm Beach Boulevard. Secretary Hattaway responded that Palm Beach Boulevard is one of the hotspots in Lee County, and FDOT will be working with the local community to make improvements.

Commissioner Mann commented that there is a need for coordination with law enforcement and their traffic division when it comes to overall safety. He asked if FDOT has an annual dialogue with local law enforcement concerning accident locations. Secretary Hattaway said that there are Community Traffic Safety Teams in place.

**Agenda Item #9 – Review of the MPOAC-FDOT Regional Cooperation & Governance Workshop Summary**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Councilman Leonardo commented on the extra layers of government and costs that would accrue if more tolls and user fees are created as expressed in the Florida Transportation Commission Report. The goal of the MPOAC should be to put the burden back on the state.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### **Agenda Item #10 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

None.

### **Agenda Item #11 – LeeTran Report**

Mr. Steve Myers of LeeTran provided the report. He commended Secretary Hattaway's presentation and looks forward to working with FDOT on pedestrian and bicycle safety issues. LeeTran is also supportive of the Support Distracted Driving Initiative and encourages the support of the MPO Board. In the first quarter of 2013, LeeTran had a new ridership record carrying over 1 million passenger trips, a 14% increase from last year. The Board of County Commissioners directed staff to bring forward a blue sheet to appoint a Transit Special Management Committee, which was a recommendation from the Transit Task Force. A draft of the charter will be brought before the MPO Board in the future.

### **Agenda Item #12 – FDOT Report**

Mr. Johnny Limbaugh of FDOT provided the report. He said that in December there were two Revenue Estimating Conferences. Mr. Limbaugh said that the gas tax revenue is showing a decline and the FDOT estimate was adjusted down by about \$ 188 million dollars over the 5 year work program. The Doc Stamp Revenue increased by \$207 million. The work program presented in December will remain intact.

Councilman Chulakes-Leetz brought to the attention of the other Board members the banks' corrupt electronic mortgage registration system that has caused the state of Florida to lose hundreds of millions of dollars. He asked if there is any attempt on the part of FDOT to potentially file a lawsuit for losses. Secretary Hattaway answered that something like this would come from the state and not FDOT, and he has not heard any discussion about this.

Secretary Hattaway also responded to Councilman Leonardo's previous comments on growth revenue and state organizations. Secretary Hattaway said that the increase in transportation agencies is related to increase in total agencies in various states. The state of Florida has reduced its employees from 12,000 employees to 1,690 employees. He also said that the issue of the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax and revenue privacy is a national concern and should be addressed in the near future. Councilman Leonardo stated that a couple of states have done reports, like the Portland VMT, where the VMT is not a privacy issue.

Mayor Sullivan asked if a study could be done to see how much money FDOT lost due to the banks' electronic mortgage system transfers. Secretary Hattaway said absolutely.

Councilman McGrail requested that FDOT evaluates traffic counts at the Diplomat & US 41 intersection with the VA Clinic during the season. Mayor Sullivan added that the New Reserve Center by the VA Clinic will be finished by the end of the year.

**Agenda Item #13 – Announcements**

None.

**Agenda Item #14 – Topics for next meeting**

Mr. Scott presented this item. Topics discussed at the next meeting will be the LeeTran Agreement, identifying Joint meeting items with Collier in March and scopes for projects that have been moved up.

Councilman McGrail requested a public presentation of flight patterns for the residents of Cape Coral to dispel any misconceptions. A local newspaper article showed every flight track over the City of Cape Coral. Mr. Scott said that the map only showed the tracks going west. In reality, 65 % of them actually go to the east.

**Agenda Item #15 – Information and Distribution Items**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.