

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

**Held on May 17, 2013**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on May 17, 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 John E. Manning	Lee County Commission, District 1
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Levon Simms	City of Fort Myers
Councilperson Rana Erbrick	City of Cape Coral
Mayor John Sullivan	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Kevin McGrail	City of Cape Coral
Councilman John Carioscia	City of Cape Coral
Mayor Alan Mandel	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Mayor Kevin Ruane	City of Sanibel
Vice-Mayor Stephen McIntosh	City of Bonita Springs
Councilman Peter Simmons	City of Bonita Springs

Those also in attendance included: Councilman Doug Congress with the City of Sanibel; Zac Burch, Chris Smith and Matt Weaver with FDOT; Rosalie Berlin as citizen; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; Steve Jansen with the BPCC; Steve Myers and Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Meghan Marion and Anna Bielawska of Lee County MPO.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 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 April 19, 2013 MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2013 MPO BOARD MEETING. SECONDED BY VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #2 – Citizen’s Advisory Board**

Mr. Scott gave an overview of the last Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The CAC discussed and approved the Long Range Transportation Plan amendments (LRTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments, and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments. The CAC also heard a presentation by another CAC member proposing a connection to SR 78 near I-75, and the CAC voted to have the MPO staff address the alternative as part of the next LRTP update. The CAC also talked about the 2040 SIS Cost Feasible Plan and wanted to stress that multimodal solutions were not stressed in FDOT’s SIS cost feasible plan.

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

Mr. Jansen of the BPCC gave the report. He said that the BPCC heard a presentation by the Cape Coral Bicycle Pedestrian Group asking for county support in increasing bicycle routing. The BPCC also heard an update on the bicycle pedestrian safety action plan, as well as an update on US 41 pedestrian improvements. There was also a discussion on the traffic crash data and some of the issues related to the data sources.

Councilman Leonardo said that he is looking for someone to be appointed to the City of Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Board. This person has to be a city resident.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item**

## **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

### **Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approval of the Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan**

Mr. Scott presented this item. The MPO staff is proposing several amendments to the 2035 LRTP based on recent project funding and status changes in FDOT’s Tentative Work Program, the status of current SIS projects and to match recent amendments by the Collier MPO regarding Old US 41.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL.**

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER MANNING – AYE  
COUNCILMAN LEONARDO – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMS – AYE  
MAYOR SULLIVAN – AYE  
COUNCILMAN CARIOSCIA – AYE  
COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL – AYE  
MAYOR RUANE – AYE  
VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH – AYE  
COUNCILPERSON ERBRICK – AYE  
MAYOR MANDEL – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMONS – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #6 – Review and Approval of Amendments to Add the Design for the US 41 Lighting Project and the FTA Section 5339 Transit Funding to the FY 2012/13 through FY 2016/17 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

**MOTION BY VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO ADD THE DESIGN FOR THE US 41 LIGHTING PROJECT AND THE FTA SECTION 5339 TRANSIT FUNDING TO THE FY 2012/13 THROUGH FY 2016/17 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SIMMONS.**

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER MANNING – AYE  
COUNCILMAN LEONARDO – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMS – AYE  
MAYOR SULLIVAN – AYE  
COUNCILMAN CARIOSCIA – AYE  
COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL – AYE**

**MAYOR RUANE – AYE  
VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH – AYE  
COUNCILPERSON ERBRICK – AYE  
MAYOR MANDEL – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMONS – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Review and Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Scott presented this item outlining the addition of carry-forward funds for FY 2013/2014, task language changes and the 5303 planning grant application.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL.**

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER MANNING – AYE  
COUNCILMAN LEONARDO – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMS – AYE  
MAYOR SULLIVAN – AYE  
COUNCILMAN CARIOSCIA – AYE  
COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL – AYE  
MAYOR RUANE – AYE  
VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH – AYE  
COUNCILPERSON ERBRICK – AYE  
MAYOR MANDEL – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMONS – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item #8 – Endorsement of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan**

Mr. Scott presented this item. The attached version of the TDSP includes all of the changes that have been made up to this point including revisions by the Local Coordinating Board (LCB).

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN SIMMONS TO APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #9 – Approval of a TIGER Grant Support Letter**

Mr. Scott presented this item. The Lee MPO is currently working on TIGER grant submittal.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE TIGER GRANT SUPPORT LETTER. SECONDED BY MAYOR SULLIVAN.**

Ms. Letourneau of BikeWalkLee had some public comments on this item. She spoke about the message of this grant. She thanked all of the jurisdictions for their support letters regarding this grant.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Presentation on the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan**

Mr. William Roll of Tindale Oliver provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item.

Councilman Simmons asked how bike traffic and width factors into road expansion. Mr. Roll said that agencies have standards that have to be included when planning roadways, especially on state roads. Councilman Simmons asked if 5 additional feet on either side of the road is ideal or a separate bike pathway is better in terms of safety. Mr. Roll responded that typically most bike crashes are on sidewalks or bike pathways.

Councilman Simmons also asked about the status of bike lanes on US 41 in Estero. Mr. Scott answered that it is 4 ft striped bike lanes with signage on each side of the road and a 6 ft sidewalk on each side.

Mayor Sullivan said that he still sees individuals riding their bike in the opposite direction. He asked about some ways that can be utilized to stop this behavior. Mr. Roll said that this is an excellent comment. He said that walking is supposed to be done in the opposite direction of ongoing traffic, but bicycles are classified as vehicles. Mr. Roll said that this issue is identified in the second action of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. He said that on the sidewalk you can ride your bike in the opposite direction, but you have to be very cautious and pay attention to both directions. Mr. Roll said that FDOT has kicked off a bicycle pedestrian safety initiative statewide.

Ms. Letourneau had some public comments. She said that BikeWalkLee has been working with MPO staff and the consultant on this plan. The next step is implementation, and this plan is going to be harder to implement than the bicycle pedestrian master plan. More accurate data are also needed.

#### **Agenda Item #11 – Review and Comment on the Draft SIS Cost Feasible Plan**

Mr. Scott presented this item. FDOT has completed the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan and the plan is attached in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Mann arrived at 9:43 a.m.

#### **Agenda Item #12 – Review and Comment on the Draft Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2013/2014 through FY 2017/2018**

Mr. Scott presented this item. He said that the draft TIP item is out for a 30 day public comment period. The final approval will be at the MPO Board meeting on June 21, 2013.

#### **Agenda Item #13 – MPOAC Meeting Update**

Mr. Scott presented this item. Some of the highlights from the MPOAC meeting last month were:

- Discussion of the 2040 Revenue Forecast.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) spoke about the federal sequester and how that affects their highway monitoring system and emergency relief system in the amount of \$1.6 million.
- The Nationwide Association of MPOs director spoke at the meeting and said that 36 new urbanized areas have been identified across the nation, and this has resulted in 22 new MPOs. Funding was also discussed. The director also said the federal legislation is being pushed that may put a transit employee on the MPO Board.
- The Florida Commission for the Disadvantaged director spoke about managed care and how that will impact the Transportation Disadvantaged program.
- There was a Safe for Life presentation at the MPOAC meeting.
- There was presentation on teaching more about transportation planning and civil engineering in schools to promote the transportation industry in the classroom.
- The FDOT secretary Ananth Prasad spoke about the regionalization of agencies.

#### **Other Business**

#### **Agenda Item #14 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

Ms. Letourneau had three comments.

1. The June 21st MPO meeting is very important as it will feature officials from Nashville, Tennessee. They will speak about their award winning Long Range Transportation Plan and the integration of land use and transportation planning.
2. The Naples Daily News featured a headline about possible Lee County budget cuts for transit routes including a Cape Coral route, the FGCU Route 60, and San Carlos Trolley. These cuts will result in a reduction of services. Ms. Letourneau said that she is concerned about this.
3. The Tour de Parks Audit is tomorrow on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #15 – LeeTran Report**

Mr. Myers of LeeTran gave the report. He responded to Ms. Letourneau's comments about the possible service reductions. This scenario will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a workshop on Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Myers said that ridership has increased by 8.8 % for the month of April. Route 5 has gone up 43% year over year; this is a relatively new route. Route 110 in Lehigh Acres continues to operate strongly and is up 40% year over year. The Lehigh Circulator is up by 30%. The VA Hospital circulator is up 49% year over year as well.

Councilman Leonardo asked about the status of a separate Transit Authority. The Transit Task Force has recommended moving forward with an independent Transit Authority. The Board of County Commissioners has chosen not to move forward with the recommendation. Councilman Leonardo emphasized the need for fewer layers of government and not more.

### **Agenda Item #16 – FDOT Report**

Mr. Chris Smith gave the FDOT report. He stated that Carmen Monroy is the new Director of SWAO. Ms. Monroy will start her position on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Providence Nayhee will start the bicycle pedestrian safety position in Fort Myers on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Another bike pedestrian position will be filled by David Jones up in Bartow.

Mr. Matt Weaver spoke on behalf of the statewide bicycle pedestrian safety coalition team and the Stay Alert, Alive Tomorrow Campaign. He said that Lee County is in the top 10 for fatalities and injuries. The coalition is working with every agency conceivable to develop a safety action plan statewide. Funding from the National Highway Transportation Agency has been received to address some of these issues. Mr. Weaver thanked the local government commission, everybody from Lee County government, Margaret Banyan from Florida Gulf Coast University, the City of Fort Myers, BikeWalkLee, the TICE community and other officials for putting together the Bike/Ped Plan TICE community event together at TICE elementary. Mr. Weaver emphasized that everybody plays a role in making roads safer.

### **Agenda Item #17 – MPO Member Comments**

Councilman Leonardo said that MPOs exist for very important reasons. He said that the MPO staff do some heavy lifting. He emphasized the significance of MPO Board meeting attendance. Commissioner Mann spoke about the conflicts with other meetings and that there is also an MPO Executive Committee with Commissioner Pendergrass as a designated chair. Mr. Scott said that there are conflicts with other meetings and we are trying to address/coordinate with the other agencies in regards to those meetings and see what flexibility there is to change these.

Chairman Ruane encouraged attendance at the June 21st MPO meeting. Officials from Nashville are coming to do a presentation.

### **Agenda Item #18 – Announcements**

None.

### **Agenda Item #19 – Topics for next MPO meeting**

Mr. Scott presented this item. He said that officials from Nashville are coming to do a presentation at the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item #20 – Information and Distribution Items**

Mr. Scott noted that he included two pages that show the short falls in the MPO Long Range Transportation Plans from the CUTR study in the information items.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.



