

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND
LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Held on March 22, 2013

The following members were present for the Joint Board Meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Collier MPO on March 22, 2013 at the Bonita Springs City Hall, Council Chambers, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, Florida.

Lee County MPO Board Members Present:

Commissioner John Manning	Lee County District 1
Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass	Lee County District 2
Commissioner Larry Kiker	Lee County District 3
Councilman Kevin McGrail	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Mike Flanders	City of Fort Myers
Mayor Ben Nelson	City of Bonita Springs
Vice-Mayor Stephen McIntosh	City of Bonita Springs
Councilman Chris Chulakes-Leetz	City of Cape Coral
Mayor John Sullivan	City of Cape Coral
Mayor Kevin Ruane	City of Sanibel

Collier MPO Board Members Present:

Commissioner Donna Fiala	Collier County District 1
Commissioner Thomas Henning	Collier County District 3
Commissioner Tim Nance	Collier County District 5
Councilwoman Dee Sulick	City of Naples
Councilman Sam Saad, III	City of Naples

Non-Voting Members Present:

Secretary Billy Hattaway, FDOT
Russ Muller, FDOT

Those also in attendance included: Mr. Zac Burch, Chris Smith, Ms. Jennifer Stults, Ms. Sarah Baker, Mr. Richard Shine and Mr. Lawrence Massey with FDOT; Mr. David Loveland with Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT); Ms. Pamela Keyes with Lee County Utilities; Ms. Lucilla Ayer, Ms. Sarah Layman, Ms. Sue Faulkner, Ms. Lorraine Lantz and Ms. Kristin Campos with the Collier MPO; Mr. Scott Teach with the Collier County Attorney's Office; Mr. Don Scott, Mr. Ron Gogoi and Ms. Meghan Marion with the Lee County MPO; Mr. Steve Myers and Mr. Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Ms. Casey McKinney with CDM Smith; Ms. Darla Letourneau and Ms. Ann Pierce with BikeWalkLee; Mr. Reed Jarvi with Collier County Growth Management Division, Transportation Planning Department; Mr. Wayne Sherman with the Collier CAC; Ms. Trinity Scott with the Collier County Alternative Transportation Modes (ATM) Department; Mr. Michael Griffin and Mr. James Mclevy with SFWL Transportation; Ms. Julia Davis with Omnibus Innovations Group, Inc; Ms. Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Mr. Michael Jacob with the Lee County Attorney's Office; Mr. Mike Curly with Seminole Gulf Railway; Ms. Nicole Johnson with the Southwest Florida Conservancy; Mr. Dan Moser with the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC); Mr. Alexander Grantt, private citizen; Ms. Margaret Banyan, private citizen; Mr. Roger Strelow, private citizen; Ms. Maryann Battle with the Naples Daily News;

Agenda Item 1– Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Ms. Campos of the Collier MPO called the roll for the Collier MPO Board and announced that a quorum was not present but had been attained at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Councilwoman Sulick - present
Councilman Saad - present
Commissioner Fiala - present
Commissioner Henning - present
Commissioner Coyle - absent
Commissioner Hiller - absent
Commissioner Nance - present
Councilman Kiester - absent
Mayor Hamilton - absent

Ms. Marion of the Lee County MPO called the roll for the Lee County MPO Board and announced that a quorum was attained.

Commissioner Mann - absent
Commissioner Hall- absent
Commissioner Kiker- present
Commissioner Pendergrass- present
Commissioner Manning- present
Mayor Nelson- present
Councilman Simmons- absent
Councilman McGrail- present
Councilman Carioscia - absent
Councilman Leonardo- present
Councilman Simms- absent
Councilman Flanders- present
Councilwoman Erbrick - absent
Mayor Ruane - present
Mayor Raymond- absent
Councilman Chulakes-Leetz- present
Mayor Sullivan- present
Vice-Mayor McIntosh- present
Councilperson Watkins-Brown- absent
Councilperson List- absent
Vice-Mayor Denham- absent
Councilman Congress- absent
Councilperson Kosinki - absent

Agenda Item 2– Election of a Chairperson

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN LEONARDO TO ELECT MAYOR RUANE AS CHAIR. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCGRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 3 - Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ruane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4 – Joint CAC Report

Collier MPO Principal Planner, Ms. Lorraine Lantz reported on the following:

- The joint committee met on March 7th in Estero and a quorum was attained and elected Mr. Gary Shirk from the Collier CAC to act as Chairman.

The Joint Committee endorsed the Joint Regional Pathways Priorities.

The Joint Committee also discussed the following:

- Funding of the Lee in Collier (LinC) transit connection. The Service Development Grant will expire in 2014 and the CAC began discussing continuing the service. Although not related to the LinC funding issue, the committee recommended that the Lee BCC and the MPO continue working with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) regarding funding the LeeTran Route 60 – which currently services FGCU and San Carlos Park.
- Lee and Collier reapportionment letters and future regional activity suggestions. The committee recommends to the Joint MPO Board that the MPOs remain separate but continue to coordinate with each other and update the Interlocal Agreement as necessary.
- Update on the Long Range Transportation Plan, especially regarding Old US 41;
- The US41 / Bonita Beach Road Interchange ETDM Project;
- The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Projects and plans. The Joint CAC elected to add 4 members to the joint subcommittee to discuss the FDOT SIS Plan. The subcommittee would consist of Fred Thomas and Wayne Sherman from Collier and Bill Williams and Al O'Donnell from Lee MPO. The Joint CAC also recommended that FDOT fund SR82 through as many phases as possible in the FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan.
- The Development of the Transportation Regional Incentive Priorities (TRIP).
- The status of the River of Grass Greenway Project.

The Joint Committee also received updates from FDOT and LeeTran and CAT.

Agenda Item 5 – Joint TAC Report

Ms. Trinity Scott, Public Transit Manager, reported on the following:

- The joint committee met on March 7th in Estero and elected Ms. Michelle Arnold to act as Chairwoman.

The Joint Committee endorsed the Joint Regional Pathways Priorities and received a presentation of the River Of Grass Greenway Project.

The Joint Committee discussed the following:

- Funding of the Lee in Collier (LinC) transit connection because the grant currently funding the service will expire in 2014;
- Lee and Collier reapportionment letters and future regional activity suggestions. The committee recommends to the Joint MPO Board that the MPOs remain separate but continue to coordinate with each other and update the Interlocal Agreement as necessary;
- Update on the Long Range Transportation Plan, especially regarding Old US 41;
- The US41 / Bonita Beach Road Interchange ETDM Project;

- The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Projects and plans. The Joint TAC requested to form a joint subcommittee to discuss the FDOT SIS Plan. The subcommittee would consist of – Michelle Arnold and Reed Jarvi from Collier, Andy Getch and Wayne Gaither from Lee County and Margaret Wuerstale from the RPC. Volunteers from the CAC would also be part of the subcommittee;
- The Development of the Transportation Regional Incentive Priorities (TRIP).

The Joint Committee also received updates from FDOT and LeeTran and CAT.

Agenda Item 6 – Joint PAC Report

Mr. Dan Moser, Lee BPCC Chairman, reported that the joint committee met on February 26th in Estero and a quorum was attained.

The joint committee elected Mr. Dan Moser of the Lee BPCC to act as Chairman.

The Committee endorsed the Joint Regional Pathways Priorities with the Design phase of the US 41 River of Grass Greenway Project from CR 92 to the Marsh Trail Trailhead as the number one project. This project was number one last year as well, but remained unfunded.

The Committee also received three presentations including:

- Update on the status of the Naples Rookery Bay Greenway presented by Deborah McCormick of the Naples Pathways Coalition;
- Update on the River of Grass Greenway project presented by Maureen Bonness; and
- Status of the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan presented by Don Scott.

Agenda Item 7 – Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LEONDARDO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 8 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ms. Campos announced that there were registered speakers.

The first registered speaker was Mr. Alexander Grantt. Mr. Grantt read aloud a letter discussing AMTRAK passenger rail services. Mr. Grantt stated that during the last year of the late Governor Lawton Chiles' administration, the state legislature established that a small portion of a state-wide gas tax approximating some \$70,000,000 per year be placed in a special trust fund solely for improving passenger rail service in Florida. Mr. Grantt stated that this tax is for 25 years expiring in 2023. Mr. Grantt further stated that Southwest Florida makes up 10% of the population of Florida and is a donor area to all other sections of Florida as far as passenger rail improvement is concerned.

Mr. Grantt noted that CSX owned right-of-way train tracks in Southwest Florida which includes 20 miles of track from Oneco to Clark Road in Sarasota and 104 miles of railroad tracks from Fort Green in Hardee County to just south of the Bonita Springs City limits. Mr. Grantt stated that the cost to transform the present railroad tracks in Southwest Florida to AMTRAK compatible tracks would be \$150,000 per mile for newly installed railroad ties, \$325,000 per mile for new 111 pound per yard welded rail plus \$20,000 per mile for Positive Train Control for a total of \$495,000 per mile. He stated that this could transform the present railroad tracks in Southwest Florida to an AMTRAK 80 mph railroad track and extend the AMTRAK passenger service from the Sanford Florida AMTRAK station to south of Bonita Springs.

Mr. Grantt discussed the history of the AMTRAK passenger rail services. Mr. Grantt stated that when AMTRAK was established by Congress the requirements were to provide service to “a population of one million or more using the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, with route options between the points touching a large number of intermediate population centers.” Mr. Grantt stated that Southwest Florida meets both the population requirement since the combined population of Lee County and Collier County is presently 980,000 with a growth rate of approximately 1% a year. He further stated that Southwest Florida is the railroad end point.

Mr. Grantt stated that government funds and subsidies in Southwest Florida have totaled hundreds of millions of dollars for road and airline infrastructure, but no money has been allocated towards passenger railway improvements. Mr. Grantt recommended applying \$60,000,000 in the state transportation funds for restoring passenger rail service. Mr. Grantt explained that passenger rail service is a cheap and quick way to provide a safe and energy efficient transportation system in Southwest Florida.

Councilman Leonardo thanked Mr. Grantt for reading his letter aloud. Councilman Leonardo stated that based on the 2010 Census, the population for Lee County and Collier County would be 980,000 for full-time residents. Councilman Leonardo stated that the population for Southwest Florida in-season is approximately 1.4 million.

Councilman Leonardo stated that he supports the idea of an AMTRAK railroad system in Southwest Florida.

Councilman Leonardo questioned what the cost would be for a station or terminal at the end of the railway line. Councilman Leonardo stated that the cost of maintenance and terminals needs to be reviewed.

Mr. Grantt stated that he estimated approximately \$1 million for a passenger train station. Mr. Grantt suggested building the AMTRAK railroad system on the present railroad system.

Councilman Leonardo stated that Mr. Grantt's presentation regarding the AMTRAK railroad service warrants further review.

Mr. Scott stated that Lee MPO is currently conducting a Rail Feasibility Study which covers the CSX/Seminole Gulf rail line from the Charlotte County line through Lee County to northern Collier County. Mr. Scott explained that the Rail Feasibility Study will examine existing and projected freight service on the rail line, the width and condition of the right-of-way, track and equipment, and the feasibility of using the rail line for commuter rail, light rail and dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) passenger service within the 35-mile corridor.

Mayor Sullivan stated that freight needed to be considered because he felt that freight will make money and help subsidize the cost to the passengers.

The second registered speaker was Ms. Julia Davis. Ms. Davis stated that she was concerned with the Transportation Disadvantaged program in Florida which is funded with federal, state and local funds. Ms. Davis stated that coordinators provide cost effective trips to disabled and elderly riders. She stated that coordinators make use of 5311 funds for the purchase of vehicles which are used to provide transportation services to residents in rural communities.

Ms. Davis explained that she was concerned because next July, Medicaid funds will be removed from the coordinated system as the funding goes to HMO's. Ms. Davis explained that when Medicaid is removed from the coordinated system, coordinators will lose 30% of their budget.

Ms. Davis stated that a study was authorized over 2 years ago to review the fiscal impact of taking Medicaid out of the coordinated system. Ms. Davis noted that as of today that study has not been done.

The third registered speaker was Mr. Dan Moser. Mr. Moser presented the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) Annual Award to the Lee County MPO Director, Mr. Scott. Mr. Moser stated that the FBA presents its annual award to worthy recipients for their contributions to bicycling. He stated that the purpose of the award is to bring attention to efforts and achievements of groups, organizations and individuals that help deliver FBS's mission to inspire people and communities to enjoy greater freedom and well being through bicycling. Mr. Moser stated that Mr. Scott has managed to make bike/ped access a priority. He further stated that the completion of a bike/ped master plan and getting 2 of the 3 pilot projects off the ground is a huge accomplishment. Mr. Moser noted that the Lee MPO was among the first MPOs in the country to approve a resolution to develop a "complete streets" policy. He stated that the resolution has been taken to the next level by 2 of the Lee MPO jurisdictions and 1 jurisdiction has implemented the resolution. Mr. Moser thanked Mr. Scott for his accomplishments in the community and complimented the Lee MPO staff for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Scott accepted his award and thanked the FBA.

Mr. Moser stated that Secretary Hattaway was presented an award for Professional of the Year by the FBA. Secretary Hattaway accepted his award in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ms. Campos stated that there were no additional registered speakers.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item 9A – Approval of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Regional Pathways Priorities

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE TAP REGIONAL PRIORITIES. SECONDED BY VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Letourneau spoke in support of the proposed 2013 Joint Regional Pathways Priorities for TAP. Ms. Letourneau stated hopefully FDOT will fund the 3 Joint Regional Pathways Priorities in July.

Ms. Letourneau stated that the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) was initiated under the leadership of Ms. Maureen Bonness and the Naples Pathway Coalition (NPC). Ms. Letourneau stated that Southwest Florida is fortunate to have the dedication and leadership of citizens to put forth a project that will have a major economic impact for Southwest Florida.

Ms. Letourneau stated that the Abel Canal PD&E and the Winkler Canal Feasibility Study were initiated by Lee County and are excellent projects. She stated that the Abel Canal PD&E Corridor could potentially connect residents who live within a quarter mile to multiple parks, schools, churches and medical offices.

Ms. Letourneau stated that the Winkler Canal Feasibility Study would connect major pathways and sidewalks which is important to the Lee County's citizens.

Agenda Item 9B – Review and Approval of a Joint Resolution Stating that the Lee County and Collier MPO's are Pursuing Re-Designation as Individual MPO's

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE JOINT RESOLUTION STATING THAT LEE COUNTY AND COLLIER MPO'S ARE PURSUING RE-DESIGNATION AS INDIVIDUAL MPO'S. SECONDED BY VICE-MAYOR MCINTOSH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councilman Leonardo stated that he supported the Joint Resolution. Councilman Leonardo stated he was apprehensive that Lee County MPO and Collier MPO might be postponing the redesignation process. Councilman Leonardo questioned if Lee MPO and Collier MPO should consider combining before FDOT compels both MPO's to combine. Councilman Leonardo clarified that if Lee County MPO and Collier MPO are to remain individual MPO's, then the coordinated planning processes need to be enhanced.

Agenda Item 9C – Presentation on the I-75 Transportation Alternatives Study and Draft SIS Plans

Mr. Scott stated that FDOT is working on the FY2014 Tentative SIS Plan which contains candidate projects that will be presented in the Cost Feasible Plan. Mr. Scott explained that additional documentation regarding the I-75 Status was placed at Board Members' seats. Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Massey.

Mr. Massey discussed future Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) plans. Mr. Massey stated that currently, I-75 and SR 80 are part of the Florida SIS network. Mr. Massey noted that SR 29 and SR 82 have been identified as emerging SIS facilities.

Mr. Massey stated that FDOT was able to fund 5 projects on I-75. Mr. Massey explained that the projects on the FY2014 SIS Plan are in the 2040 Needs Plan along with additional capacity issues.

Mr. Massey stated that candidate projects may or may not be included when the list is finalized in June. Mr. Massey stated that a Draft SIS Plan with candidate projects would be available for review in April before the Draft SIS Plan goes out for public comment. Mr. Massey noted that the Joint TAC and Joint CAC have also requested to form a subcommittee to review the SIS projects, criteria and ranking.

Mr. Massey stated that based on a FDOT recommended growth rate of 2%; there are no foreseen issues with the Levels of Service (LOS) on I-75 in Lee County and Collier County until the 2029-2030 timeframe. Mr. Massey stated that 2% is a fairly conservative growth projection.

Mayor Nelson questioned if the FY2014 SIS Plan used the 2011 traffic counts. Mr. Massey stated that is correct and that the 2012 traffic counts would be coming out in the next month.

Mayor Nelson stated that when the 2012 traffic counts come out, the FY2014 SIS Plan may change. Mayor Nelson noted that as for now, 2% is a fair projection.

Mr. Scott stated that he had reviewed the traffic counts on I-75 and that they do fluctuate. Mr. Scott stated that the 2011 traffic counts were much like the 2004 traffic counts.

Ms. Ayer stated that in the attached FY2014 SIS Plan, SR 82 in Collier County has a total of \$950,569 programmed for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase in FY 2014 and FY 2016 but no subsequent phases during the next 10 years. Ms. Ayer stated that staff is recommending that the Joint MPO's pass a Motion to request that FDOT advance the right-of-way and construction phases of SR 82 from the candidate column (unfunded) to the Cost Feasible Columns (funded) in the first 10 years of the plan.

Mr. Massey introduced Ms. McKinney, CDM Smith. Ms. McKinney presented an overview on the I-75 Transportation Alternatives Study in a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. McKinney stated that the I-75 Transportation Alternatives Study was done in conjunction with CDM Smith.

Ms. McKinney stated that the overall Corridor Transportation Alternatives Study analyzed 15 counties that connect with I-75. She stated that 24% of the population of Florida is within that area. Ms. McKinney stated that the study purpose was to make an assessment of the travel demand and freight movement over four measures which were:

- Transportation
- Emergency management
- Homeland security
- Economic development

Ms. McKinney discussed the demographics of the 15 counties that were analyzed along I-75. Ms. McKinney stated that 2 of the 10 most populated counties in Florida are located along I-75 which are Lee County and Hillsborough County. Ms. McKinney further stated that Sumter County, Lee County and Pasco County are among the fastest growing counties along I-75 over the past 10 years.

Ms. McKinney discussed Existing Conditions that were analyzed along I-75 which were:

- Existing number of lanes
- Traffic volumes
- Future traffic
- Trip patterns
- SIS Intermodal facilities
- Freight Mobility
- Need for improvements

Ms. McKinney stated that every county in Florida must have an Emergency Management Plan since Florida is susceptible to natural disasters. Ms. McKinney stated that I-75 is heavily used by passenger and commercial traffic and alternate routes need to be evaluated. Ms. McKinney stated that freight and goods need to be able to be moved across the I-75 corridor during natural disasters.

Ms. McKinney discussed Adding Capacity to Parallel Corridors and Developing New Corridors.

Ms. McKinney explained the existing parallel corridors which were:

- US 17
- US 19
- US 41
- US 301

Ms. McKinney explained the new potential corridors which were:

- Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida
- Central Florida – Tampa Bay (I-4)
- US 27 Multimodal Corridor
- Orange County to Duval County

Ms. McKinney stated that managed lanes is an operational practice utilized to address congestion by controlling traffic movement on the highway. Ms. McKinney stated that express lanes are used for vehicle eligibility requirement which can be based on occupancy or vehicle type. Ms. McKinney noted that High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (HOV) is a traffic management strategy to promote and encourage carpooling; thereby alleviating congestion and maximizing

the people-carrying capacity. Ms. McKinney further discussed High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, Value Priced Lanes, Dedicated Bus Lanes and Truck Only Lanes. Ms. McKinney noted that Truck Only Lanes are used to separate trucks from other mixed-flow traffic to enhance safety and/or stabilize traffic flow.

Ms. McKinney explained that an Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC), also known as an Inland Port, is a physical site located away from traditional land, air and coastal borders with the vision to facilitate and process international trade through strategic investment in multi-modal transportation assets and by promoting value-added services as goods move through the supply chain.

Ms. McKinney discussed Marine Highways and stated that are navigable waterways that have been designated by the Secretary of Transportation and have demonstrated the ability to provide additional capacity to relieve congested landside routes serving freight and passenger movement. She stated that Jacksonville and Port of Everglades are currently the only cities that have Marine Highways.

Ms. McKinney discussed the Existing Parallel Railroads which were:

- CSX
- Norfolk Southern
- Florida Northern
- Seminole Gulf Railway

Ms. McKinney discussed the Passenger Rail Service and stated that currently there is a service between Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa. Ms. McKinney stated that Tampa, Orlando and Miami has a federally designated high speed corridor that is being funded as well as a commuter rail service.

Ms. McKinney discussed Intra-Regional Transit Services which were:

- Collier Area Transit (CAT)
- LeeTran
- Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)
- Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT)
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)
- Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT)
- TransHernando Express (THE) Bus
- SunTran
- Regional Transit System (RTS)
- Paratransit Service Only
 - Charlotte County
 - Sumter County
 - Colombia County
 - Suwannee County
 - Hamilton County

Ms. McKinney discussed adding capacity to I-75 and presented a description of the number of lanes needed on I-75 by 2035. Ms. McKinney noted that Collier County and Lee County are listed as the top priorities for widening the lanes on I-75.

Description	2011 No. of Lanes*	Lanes Needed by 2035
West of Everglades Boulevard, Collier County	4	4
North of CR 896, Collier County	6	8
South of Alico Road, Lee County	6	8
South of SR 82/Immokalee Road, Lee County	4	8
Northwest of SR 78/Bayshore Road, Lee County	4	6
At Airport Road/Punta Gorda, Charlotte County	4	6
East of Sumter Boulevard/North Port, Sarasota County	4	8
South of SR 681/Venice Connector, Sarasota County	4	10
North of SR 780/Fruitville Road, Sarasota County	6	12
North of SR 70, Manatee County	6	10
Southwest of Mocassin Wallow Road, Manatee County	8	8

Ms. McKinney stated that anytime a roadway is changed there is going to be policy implications such as:

- Land use decisions
- Modal options
- Safety and security considerations
- Implementation and coordination
- Funding

Councilman Leonardo recommended that FDOT begin testing on segments of I-75 to review automated guided vehicles (AGVs). Councilman Leonardo stated that (AGVs) increase efficiency and reduce costs by helping to automate a manufacturing facility or warehouse. Councilman Leonardo suggested using greater technology to improve the highway system.

Commissioner Henning questioned if the HARTline (Hillsborough Area Regional Transit) was included in the presentation. Mr. Scott stated that it was a new facility from Orlando to Northern Collier County. Mr. Scott explained that CDM Smith focused their study on the central corridor of I-75.

Agenda Item 9D – Review and Approval of a Joint CAC Recommended Joint MPO Letter Requesting FGCU to Continue Providing Funding for Transit Service to the Campus

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO APPROVE THE CAC RECOMMENDED JOINT MPO LETTER REQUESTING FGCU TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSIT SERVICES TO THE CAMPUS. MAYOR NELSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Councilman Leonardo asked the following questions regarding LeeTran Route 60. How many riders are there total? How many of the riders are students? How does the use vary by time of year during season? What is the current subsidy per ride on LeeTran? What is the cost per subsidy on LeeTran Route 60?

Mr. Myers stated that FDOT provided a Service Development Agreement that helps fund the LinC connection, which has a three year time frame. He further stated that the LinC issue is a separate issue from the FGCU and Route 60 funding issue.

Mr. Myers explained that LeeTran has indicated that FGCU's 50% share of the funding for Route 60 this year was \$250,000. Mr. Myers stated that FGCU notified LeeTran that the University would no longer be funding Route 60 which provides access to the FGCU campus. LeeTran has no funds to continue a Monday-Sunday service on the route and is looking for alternative funding sources.

Mr. Myers provided statistics concerning LeeTran Route 60. He stated that there were 40,000 trips throughout Route 60 and provided approximately 40 trips per day to and from FGCU on the fixed-route system. He explained that there were 273 ADA trips to FGCU. He noted that there is a low service frequency within the route due to a 2 hour headway between buses. He stated that there are approximately 8.73 riders per hour on Route 60.

Mr. Myers explained that LeeTran Route 60 runs from US 41 through San Carlos Park over to FGCU and back which is approximately 10 square miles. He stated that Route 60 provides service to a exceedingly wide area.

Councilman Leonardo questioned if Route 60 carried approximately 2/3 less than the average route on LeeTran. Mr. Myers stated that was correct.

Mr. Myers stated that the Lee County Board of County Commissioners will be discussing this at an upcoming meeting.

Discussion ensued. Councilman Leonardo recommended that the Lee County Board of Commissioners review this issue at their upcoming meeting.

Councilman Flanders stated that he had worked with FGCU and the University has monetary issues. Councilman Flanders stated that the University is on a tight budget. Councilman Flanders explained that FGCU would prefer that LeeTran fund Route 60. Councilman Flanders recommended that the Joint Lee/Collier MPO Board uphold the recommendation letter and request FGCU to participate.

Mr. Myers stated that in the Transit Development Plan, there is an approach to provide better service to the University by increasing the frequency of the buses on Route 60. Mr. Myers explained that LeeTran did not envision that this component of the plan would take place.

Commissioner Nance stated that he supports Councilman Leonardo's comments.

Chairman Ruane announced that there were several registered speakers.

Ms. Pierce, BikeWalkLee, stated that in her opinion, FGCU has been absent from the dialogue regarding the Lee County Comprehensive Plan Update. Ms. Pierce stated that FGCU plays a vital role in Lee County and Collier County and could affect the quality of life and growth in both counties if FGCU decided to take a proactive approach in long term transportation planning and comprehensive planning.

Mr. Strelow stated that most students attending FGCU drive a car and park in the many parking garages designated for students. Mr. Strelow stated that he supports reviewing options to increase LeeTran's Route 60 frequency. He stated that in his opinion, more students at the University would utilize the service if the service was more frequent. Mr. Strelow noted that FGCU and LeeTran should discuss alternative funding opportunities.

Councilman Saad departed at 10:30 a.m.

Collier MPO lost a quorum.

Mr. Mclevy, SWFL Transportation, discussed mass transit and stated that at Indiana University, 100% of the shuttle service on the campus is deducted out of student fees and therefore students have the ability to ride the shuttle service and public transit at no cost.

Ms. Banyan stated that there have been meetings between faculty and students to restore the funding with LeeTran. Ms. Banyan stated the faculty at FGCU is concerned that all options have not been vetted.

Chairman Ruane stated that since Collier MPO Board no longer has a quorum the motion on the floor should be withdrawn. Commissioner Manning revised his motion.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANNING TO REVISE THE LETTER REQUESTING FGCU CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSIT SERVICES TO THE CAMPUS BE SENT FROM THE LEE COUNTY MPO TO LEE COUNTY BCC. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Leonardo recommended reconstructing the letterhead since Collier MPO Board does not have a quorum.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item 10A – Presentation on the River of Grass Greenway

Ms. Ayer presented this item and stated that this project was envisioned as a multiuse pathway along the Everglades between Naples and Miami. Ms. Ayer noted that the speaker had a family emergency and was not able to provide the PowerPoint presentation at this time. She stated that Collier MPO would invite the speaker back to the next Joint Lee/Collier MPO Board meeting. Ms. Ayer further stated that this pathway will be roughly parallel to US 41. Ms. Ayer stated that Collier is fully supportive of the US 41 River of Grass Greenway Project.

Agenda Item 10B – Update on the Long Range Transportation Plans for Old US 41 in Collier County to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County

Ms. Ayer presented this item and stated that the Collier MPO has been working on a Minor Update to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan which was adopted on March 8th by the Collier MPO Board. Collier has added the Old US 41 project (from Collier County to the Lee County line) into the Cost Feasible Plan. She said that the future implications of this action need to be discussed.

Mr. Scott added that there are some State/other arterial funds available to Lee County to fund this project so it has similar time frames as the Collier project. Mr. Scott stated that there will be draft changes to the PD&E and ROW which is based on the amount of revenue that is available. Mr. Scott explained that there is not enough revenue to fund the construction phase of the project.

Agenda Item 10C – Discussion on the Development of Transportation Regional Incentive (TRIP) Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item. The entire list of previous joint TRIP priorities is attached in the agenda packet. None of TRIP projects in the District were funded last year due to a lack of available TRIP funds. Mr. Scott said the list will be re-submitted. The Lee and the Collier MPO

staffs asked the jurisdictions for project applications by mid-April. The Collier and Lee MPO Boards will prioritize them in June.

Agenda Item 11 – Florida Department of Transportation Report

Secretary Hattaway reported on the progress on the statewide campaign “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow”. Secretary Hattaway explained that the campaign’s specific tips for reducing pedestrian fatalities include:

- Always use the crosswalk
- Stop before turning right on red
- Look before crossing
- Yield to pedestrians
- Pay attention to the road, every time, every trip

Secretary Hattaway reported that pedestrian and fatality rates are twice the national average in Florida. Secretary Hattaway reported that since November 2012, FDOT has made a great deal of progress in the campaign. Secretary Hattaway explained that the bike/ped program had been redefined at the District and State level. Secretary Hattaway noted that the website for “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow” is [**www.AlertTodayFlorida.com**](http://www.AlertTodayFlorida.com)

Secretary Hattaway reported that FDOT is training over 75 people to perform Road Safety Audits (RSA). Secretary Hattaway noted that when the training is complete, troubled corridors will be identified for a bike/ped accessibility standpoint.

Commissioner Fiala suggested that it would be safer for bicyclists if there were a dedicated pathway or a separation between traffic and the bike paths. Commissioner Fiala recommended designating a specific corridor for bike paths. Secretary Hattaway explained that FDOT is reviewing all issues concerning bike/ped and FDOT is going to evaluate all options to advance bike/ped safety. Secretary Hattaway explained that education and enforcement is part of the evaluation.

Agenda Item 12 – Transit Update

Mr. Myers of LeeTran invited Board Members to groundbreaking for the LeeTran Headquarters on March 25th at 3251 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers.

Mr. Myers provided the report for Lee County Transit. He said that LeeTran also has increased ridership. The October-December quarter had over 1 million riders which was a milestone for LeeTran. Mr. Myers stated that LeeTran has experienced 28 consecutive months of record-breaking ridership, with the most recent fiscal year up 17%. Mr. Myers noted that ridership is on track to exceed 4 million passengers this year.

Ms. Trinity Scott of CAT provided a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the Collier County Transit System. She said that there has been a continuous increase in ridership over the last three years on Collier’s fixed route. There were over 1.2 million riders last year.

Commissioner Fiala suggested taking a virtual bus tour on the CAT bus and publish the virtual tour on Collier County Government Channel 97.

Agenda Item 13 – Members Comments

None.

Agenda Item 14 – Information Items

Ms. Ayer stated that Collier MPO has provided Collier County Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Map on the information table.

Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment of Meeting

Having no further business, the Joint Lee County-Collier MPO Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:03 a.m.