

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**October 11, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**  
Cape Coral Public Works Building  
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL  
Green Room/A200



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## Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brian Hamman at 2:02 p.m.

The Roll was called by Johnny Limbaugh, Lee County MPO. A quorum was met.

### New Business

#### Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

None, no public present.

#### Agenda Item #2 - Update on the 2016 Sales Tax Referendums in other Florida Communities and Committee Discussion on Transportation Needs

Don Scott, Lee County MPO, reported on the status of the transportation related ballot measures that are currently being discussed/worked on in other communities in Florida. Mr. Scott also provided additional information on these ballot measures at the meeting:

- **Broward County** – There are two separate measures that will be on the November ballot, one is for .5 percent sales tax for the County that will be used for transportation projects, enhanced bus service, light rail, traffic signal timing over thirty years. The other is for .5 percent sales tax for the Cities that will be split by population for twenty years that will be used to buy land, City Hall construction, fire trucks, improve drainage and repave roads. The final ten years will be shared with the County receiving forty percent (for a total of 70%) of the revenues with the Cities splitting 20% for the last ten years. This is expected to raise \$12.6 billion over thirty years but both sales tax referendums have to pass or both fail.

The Broward MPO has developed a website describing the issues, providing project information, educational videos etc. and it is located at [www.apennyatwork.com](http://www.apennyatwork.com) The MEC watched one of the short videos on the proposed tax. This will be voted on at the November 8<sup>th</sup> election and we will discuss the results at the next meeting.

- **Duval County** – Extension and repurposing of the current infrastructure sales tax to cover pension costs. The extension proposes .5 percent to pay down a pension deficit of \$2.7 billion which could go through 2060. This ballot measure was approved on August 30<sup>th</sup> with 65% voting for it.
- **Palm Beach** – Working on a ten year 1% sales tax increase to be used on infrastructure split between the School Board, County and the Cities. This is projected to raise \$2.7 billion over a decade with 20% of the funding going to the Cities, 30% to the County and 50% to the School Board. The funding will be used for parks, road resurfacing, drainage improvements, bridges, pathways, lighting, buildings and low income housing improvements. The School Board is working on a list of projects and costs after pressure on the media requesting transparency.

This referendum will also be voted on at the November 8<sup>th</sup> election and the results will be reported at the next meeting.

- **Highlands County** – A .5 percent sales tax referendum was approved at the August 30<sup>th</sup> election by a vote of 60% to 40%. This referendum was for schools and it will be used for capital projects including school construction and renovations, vehicles, technology etc. The sales tax is for a twenty year period.

The question was raised on how the Broward videos were funded. The bottom of the website indicated they were funded by the local governments.

Mr. Scott stated that based on the outcomes of the referendums in those communities, a more specific needs list should be formulated for Lee County. Maintenance issues/needs would be a big part of this focus.

A comment was made on the duration or period of the referendums since some were 30 years and others were four. Mr. Scott said a more reasonable time would be ten years and then results could be shown for possible future extensions.

The Broward MPO said they would speak with us about their referendum process after it is all done.

### **Agenda Item #3 - Update and Discussion on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform**

Don Scott, Lee County MPO, reviewed the subject of the re-opened FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed rulemaking for MPO coordination and planning area reform. He also passed out a letter written by the MPO and signed by Commissioner Hamman opposing the combining of the MPOs.

At the August Executive Committee meeting, we reviewed the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for MPO coordination and planning area reform and provided comments by the closing date. He noted that the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration have reopened the comment period to allow the opportunity to provide more detailed comments on two specific areas and those are listed below:

- Specific and detailed comments on the expected costs of implementing the proposed rule.
- Specific and detailed comments that contribute to the understanding of the impact of the proposed requirements for unified planning products where multiple MPOs serve the same urbanized area, potential exceptions that should be included in the final rule, and criteria for applying such exceptions.

The updated notification was attached to the agenda. The new comments are due by October 24<sup>th</sup> but the questions being asked are difficult to answer since they are extremely vague and they have not answered the previous questions that would provide clarity of this issue. It is especially difficult to provide costs as you don't know your attachment agreements. The costs may be predicted based on that but they would still be inaccurate.

The MPOs met earlier in the day at the CUTS meeting and discussed this topic.

This topic is a Joint meeting agenda item for the October 21<sup>st</sup> Lee/Collier meeting.

The FDOT was opposed to this and local MPOs are opposed to this. It takes away the original intent of the MPOs. A new president may influence the outcome of this and the challenge period is 90 days.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - Review of the new MPO Website**

Johnny Limbaugh, provided an overview of the new MPO website that was launched recently. It has been converted to WordPress to provide an easier platform to add/edit. Old documents were updated. Videos will be posted on the MPO YouTube channel. A Sound Cloud will be used to host the audio. The costs for these services are minimal. The calendar function works better and will provide links to the meeting agendas, minutes, maps and videos (when available). The electronic procurement site is still there and everything can still be reviewed and filed electronically. New pictures were added and Councilman Flanders will send drone photographs. Another part of the website is the analytical side with number of hits, pages viewed, and how long pages are viewed being listed. It is hosted by GoDaddy. There is also a page in Spanish. The new website has a color change from green to blue. Media Relations helped develop the website. Rosters for each committee are also on the website with contact information. There are links to supporting documents including the work program (when it becomes available).

A suggestion was made to add links to municipalities in the MPO area. Another suggestion was made to add the city government website in the left hand column of the committee roster. A question was asked about whether the meeting can be watched live and response was made that the MPO meetings can be watched live on the local TV and the internet (Cape Coral TV and Lee County TV depending on where we are meeting).

The Lee County MPO has a survey monkey account and will post surveys on hot topics to the website. The contact us page has a way visitors could enter information and they will automatically be surveyed. It may be possible to send surveys to other groups like the Horizon Council or larger Chambers of Commerce. Each city may be able to share their email lists to survey. Sanibel has 11,000 on their email list.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Update on FDOT Staff Changes and Requests**

Don Scott provided an update on recent and upcoming FDOT staff changes. The impact the changes will have on our local office is uncertain. The first of these staff changes discussed was the resignation of FDOT Secretary Billy Hattaway. He will stay on through November 23<sup>rd</sup> and a replacement has not been announced. Derek Burr was FDOT Southwest area office director but was let go in September. The Bike/Ped coordinator resigned and left the area. The Transit Administrator retired. The Collier liaison is moving to the Bartow office. There are three open liaison positions advertised for either the Fort Myers/Bartow office.

The second point discussed was the reoccurring issue of who is responsible for maintaining planned multi-use pathways along State roads. The issue was resolved under Secretary Hattaway and FDOT said they would maintain the pathway but any additional amenities above that would be the responsibility of counties. Regarding SR82, Dave Loveland recently received an email from L.K. with FDOT asking Lee County to maintain. Not all districts treat this issue the same as some are automatically required to maintain their own pathways. This may have to do with materials, asphalt or concrete, and the size of pathway. These pathways are part of the Complete Streets Initiative that FDOT has adopted.

A comment was made regarding the closure of the FDOT centers and the possible effect that may have on these projects. Another comment was made about FDOT adding up all the miles they are required to maintain and scaling back due to that number. A request was made for the MEC to be notified when FDOT staff is announced. A meet and greet was proposed once new staff is in office.

### **Agenda Item #6 - MPO Projects Update**

Don Scott gave an update on the current projects that include the TIGER project, the Cape Coral Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan study and the Round-a-bout study.

He noted that the Daniels segment from the Interstate to Treeline is complete. F.G.C.U. has some punch list items. The two bus shelters and stops have remaining punch list items. The Daniels segment from Six Mile Cypress to I75 has gravity walls completed, 90% of the drainage pipe has been installed, two bridges are set, and bridge decking has been added. Ninety one percent of the contract time has elapsed with eighty seven percent of the money spent. The contract expires on December 5, 2016. There are pictures and video on the website.

The wayfinding group met in September to go over the sign packages. The next step is to determine the number, cost, and maintenance agreements with local jurisdictions. The MPO is spending a portion of the remaining money on signs.

A round-a-bout study is nearing completion of the design plans. Additional documentation including aerials of existing conditions still needs to be added.

The Cape Coral Bike/Ped Master Plan is in review and they are working on documents for finalization of the plan and presentation in the late fall.

The Fort Myers Beach Bike/Ped Master Plan will begin in the next few months. A question was asked about what FDOT is presenting on the San Carlos PD&E at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and the response is we don't know.

The Lee County MPO is asking for an extension on the line of credit to complete the TIGER project. This will need Board approval and if it is ready it could be an agenda item for the next MPO meeting.

### **Other Business**

### **Agenda Item #7 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None, no public present.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Announcements**

There is a Joint Lee/Collier MPO meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in Bonita Springs.

There was a short discussion on the cracking of pavers on Fort Myers Beach after recent rains.

A comment was made about how to retrofit the Caloosahatchee Bridge that connects North Fort Myers to Fort Myers with pedestrian/bicycle facilities. Suggestions were made about how to pursue this and options to achieve this. Adding facilities to the old bridge may not work as it is fairly old though replacement is pretty far off as it is currently being repaired through a rehab project. A feasibility/PD&E study looking at all of the options was suggested. Enlisting the help of F.G.C.U. engineering students was another idea. Applying for a TIGER grant to fund this was brought up. This issue was decided to be worthy of discussion at a regular MPO meeting. It would benefit both sides of the river and eliminate the current safety risks of pedestrians and bicyclists on the bridge.

## **Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items**

Commissioner Hamman's letter to USDOT Administrators Nadeau and Flowers

**The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Brian Hamman at 3:10 p.m.**

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\* Action Items    + May Require Action

All meetings of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Mr. Johnny Limbaugh at the Lee MPO 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (239) 330-2242; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. Or, e-mail [jlimbaugh@leempo.com](mailto:jlimbaugh@leempo.com).

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator Johnny Limbaugh at (293) 330-2242 or by writing him at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.