

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on November 7, 2013

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on November 7, 2013 at the City of Cape Coral Annex/Public Works Building, 815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL.

Member Agency	Representative		Alternate		Alternate	
Lee County						
Department of Community Development	Mat Noble	X	Rick Burris			
Department of Transportation	Andy Getch	X	Lili Wu		Mike Tisch	
Lee County Port Authority	Josh Philpott	X	Ellen Lindblad			
Lee Tran	Steve Myers		Wayne Gaither	X		
Lee County School Board	Dawn Huff	X	Elisa Yanes			
City of Cape Coral						
Department of Community Development	Wyatt Daltry		Rick Sosnowski			
Department of Public Works	Persides Zambrano*	X	Stephanie Smith			
Cape Coral Mini Bus Service	Kitty Sayers		Mildred Hammer			
City of Fort Myers						
Department of Planning	Nicole DeVaughn		Lynee Rodriguez			
Department of Engineering	Ben Bullert	X	Saeed Kazemi			
Town of Fort Myers Beach						
	Walter Fluegel		Josh Overmyer			
City of Sanibel						
Department of Planning	Jimmy Jordan		Ben Pople	X	Roy Gibson	
Department of Public Works	Keith Williams		Scott Krawczuk			
City of Bonita Springs						
Department of Public Works	Matt Feeney		John Gucciardo	X		
Collier MPO						
	Lorain Lantz	X	Sue Faulkner			
Charlotte MPO						
	Bob Herrington	X	Gary Harrel	X		
SWFL Regional Planning Council						
	Margaret Wuerstle		Jennifer Pellechio		Dave Crawford	X

Those also in attendance included: Russ Muller FDOT; Bill Spikowski, Spikowski Planning Assoc.; Ron Talone, David Plummer and Assoc.; Ned Baier Jacobs; Varo Suguri, FGCU; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; and Don Scott, Johnny Limbaugh, Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo of the Lee County MPO.

Chairperson Zambrano called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Mr. Limbaugh called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes from the Joint Lee/Collier October 3, 2013 TAC Meeting

MOTION BY Ms. LANTZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCT 3, 2013 JOINT TAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MR. GETCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #3 – Recommend MPO endorsement of the Amendments to the 2013/2014 through FY 2017/2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Scott presented this item. The proposed Transportation Improvement Program Amendments that include the addition of the Tiger grant funds, revised project limits for the SR 80 pathway project, the addition of a Federal Lands project at Ding Darling National Wildlife and the addition of an environmental phase for an ongoing SR 82 project:

- Add TIGER grant funding for Lee County Complete Streets Initiative
- Change project from Design/Build to conventional Design Bid Build and shorten project limits for 429823-1 SR 80 from Shoreland Drive to CR 80 (Buckingham Road)
- Add new section XVII - This section of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) consists of the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) developed a for transportation projects within Federal Lands. Lee County has one project on the list - **Rehab of Tarpon Bay Rd. in the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in fiscal year 2016.**
- Add Environmental phase (ENV) to 425841-1 SR 82 from CR 884 (Lee Blvd.) to Shawnee Road. \$70,000 SU in FY 2013/14 and 130,000 SU beyond FY 2018

MOTION BY MR. NOBLE TO APPROVE THE FY 2013/2014 THROUGH FY 2017/2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS. SECONDED BY MS. LANTZ. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #4 – Presentation and Approval of Rail Feasibility Study Recommendations

Mr. Scott introduced the item. Since September of last year, a consulting team headed by David Plummer and Associates has been working on the MPO Rail Feasibility Study of the CSX/Seminole Gulf Corridor. The Study has assessed the long term feasibility of implementing public multi-modal transportation options within the corridor through Lee and northern Collier County, while maintaining and possibly expanding freight service in the corridor. The multimodal options include running commuter rail transit, light rail transit, bus rapid transit and/or a multiuse path from the Charlotte County line through Lee County into northern Collier County.

Mr. Ron Talone with David Plummer & Associates presented the item. The study is now complete and attached is the draft final report highlighting the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The technical reports that were done as part of this project are available on our website www.leemppo.com.

The TAC endorsed the report recommendations directing staff to move forward with the preservation of the corridor in the comprehensive and MPO plans and to further pursue with FDOT the options for purchasing the corridor.

**MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDATIONS.
SECONDED BY MS. HUFF. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approval of the Bus Pull Out Study Joint Participation Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this item. Back in August, the MPO authorized the Chairman to sign the LAP agreement for completion of this project. Prior to the FDOT's execution of the agreement it was determined that the project should be completed as a JPA. The Scope of the project has not changed. Staff is now bringing the JPA to the Board for approval with the intent on advertising for Letters of Interest (LOI's) from consultants by November 29, 2013.

MOTION BY MR. GAITHER TO APPROVE THE BUS PULL OUT STUDY JPA. SECONDED BY MR. GETCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item #6 – Review and Approval of the Bus Queue Jump Study Joint Participation Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this item. As with the previous item in August, the MPO authorized the Chairman to sign the LAP agreement for completion of this project. Prior to the FDOT's execution of the agreement it was determined that the project should be completed as a JPA. The Scope of the project has not changed. Staff is now bringing the JPA to the Board for approval with the intent on advertising for Letters of Interest (LOI's) from consultants by November 29, 2013.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE BUS QUEUE JUMP STUDY JPA. SECONDED BY MR. GAITHER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item #7 – Update on the Transit Task Force

Mr. Gaither presented this item. The Transit Task Force met on June 17th and Oct. 7th of this year. At the June 17th meeting, the discussion involved the initial operating budget model that LeeTran was asked to prepare which reflected an annual savings of \$3 million. The task force did not support the proposed level of service reduction, but it was explained by staff that the proposal was a first draft that County Administration would be recommending to the Lee County BOCC.

At the October 7th meeting, the group discussed the final operating budget passed by the Board, and the proposal to increase fares. The group did not support the reductions in evening service, feeling that it would hurt both ridership and the local economy. They did support the proposed increase in bus fares, hoping that the resulting revenue could be used to fund needed services.

Agenda Item #8 – Presentation and Committee Input on the Land Use Scenario

Mr. Scott introduced this item. The MPO is currently undertaking an intensive effort to explore alternative ways the county could grow that would reduce or shorten vehicle trips and increase other travel options. Identifying future land use patterns as alternative scenarios will allow the MPO and citizens of Lee County to evaluate the costs and benefits of different patterns. At the end of this process, the MPO will select a preferred land use scenario, which will become the basis of the future transportation vision in the MPO's forthcoming 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Understanding the potential locations of future concentrations of housing and jobs will help create the alternative scenarios. This will be done using the INDEX land use model which has an integrated database that can assess key indicators such as vehicle miles traveled, densities, and energy consumption. Throughout the process of formulating alternative growth scenarios, the MPO staff and the consultant team will work closely with all the local government staffs in Lee County to understand recent planning efforts.

The MPO has retained Jacobs Engineering Group for the Land Use Scenarios Project. Jacobs is being assisted by Spikowski Planning Associates. Coordination among various stakeholders, local government and agency planners, the general public, the MPO Committees, and the MPO Board is occurring throughout scenario development, comparison of alternatives, and selection of the preferred scenario. This will include presentation of documents, assumptions and projections for review.

An important component of this project will be an interactive "planners workshop" in December 2013, to identify potential future concentrations of housing and jobs and help create the alternative scenarios. Public engagement on the scenarios is planned to begin in early 2014. Scenario selection by the Committee's and MPO Board is anticipated for late spring or summer 2014. The selected scenario will be used as the 2040 socioeconomic data for the development of the 2040 LRTP, which must be adopted by December 2015.

Ned Baier and Bill Spikowski presented an over view of the process. Power point



attached.

**Lee County MPO
Land Use Scenarios Project
Goals and Objectives**

This draft document is based in large part on the Lee Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report with input from local government and agency planners. These goals and objectives are presented for formal review by the MPO's Committees and Board.

VISION STATEMENT: Lee County will be a highly desirable place to live, work, and visit—recognized for its commitment to a sustainable future characterized by a healthy economy, environment, and community. Lee County will be a community of choice—valued for its quality of life; varied natural environment; unique sense of history and place; distinct urban, suburban, and rural communities; diverse economy and workforce; and varied travel options.

1. **SCENARIOS GOAL FOR COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES:** To improve the quality of Lee County's unique mix of diverse vibrant communities, affordable pre-platted subdivisions, coastal waterways, and interior wetlands.
 - a) Increase employment and shopping opportunities in areas such as Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres, and North Fort Myers to minimize the need for residents to drive long distances for daily needs.
 - b) Provide convenient public transportation between Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres and the regional jobs centers between them.
 - c) Minimize haphazard building on remote pre-platted lots by focusing infrastructure improvements in clearly designated growth areas.
 - d) Recognize the differences and similarities between urban and suburban neighborhoods.
 - e) Discourage further development in vulnerable low-lying areas that are threatened by intense tropical storms and rising sea levels.
 - f) Limit new development in rural areas.
 - g) Link conservation areas together to restore natural water flows, allow wildlife movement, and improve the ability to manage and restore natural patterns.

2. SCENARIOS GOAL FOR NEW MIXED-USE PLACES: To introduce mixed-use activity centers to serve existing and planned residential neighborhoods.

a) Provide a wider range of options for housing types, shopping and dining, employment, transportation alternatives, and recreation/social venues to attract residents and jobs and create unique lively destinations throughout the county.

b) Focus on livability priorities such as walkable blocks, public transit, civic spaces, public services, and multiple street connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

c) Promote mixed-use activity centers at five different scales: regional, community, neighborhood, rural, and infill/redevelopment corridors.

i. Regional mixed-use centers serve county residents, visitors, businesses, institutions, and the surrounding region. These centers are larger and more intense than the others and often serve as transit hubs.

Land Use Scenarios Project DRAFT October 24, 2013 Goals and Objectives Page 2 of 2

- ii. Community mixed-use centers serve nearby neighborhoods or an entire community. They may include a grocery store and a compact mix of housing, offices, and services and are typically served by public transit.
- iii. Neighborhood mixed-use centers serve one or more neighborhoods and provide small-scale services and housing. They are compact and pedestrian-friendly and may be at the edge of a neighborhood or within it.
- iv. Rural mixed-use centers provide services and some housing in rural or natural areas to reduce the need for rural residents or visitors to travel longer distances to meet their daily needs.
- v. Mixed-use infill/redevelopment corridors can revitalize existing commercial strips over time. Enhanced pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections are supplemented with on-street parking.

3. SCENARIOS GOAL FOR NEIGHBORHOODS AND STREETS: To maintain Lee County’s healthy neighborhoods and revitalize or build others to higher standards of connectivity and convenience.

- a) Promote a more compact pattern of development in new and revitalized neighborhoods, with a greater variety of housing types for all income levels, ages, and preferences.
- b) Provide additional services, jobs, transit, and other amenities in or near these neighborhoods.
- c) Provide interconnected “Complete Street” networks in new neighborhoods that accommodate all users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

4. SCENARIOS GOAL FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK: To optimize the existing regional transportation network to improve existing shortcomings and respond to evolving preferences in living and travel patterns.

- a) Vary the physical characteristics of arterial and collector roads to match the surrounding context, which often includes urban, suburban, and/or rural areas along a single road.
- b) Today’s arterial and collector network is too sparse to provide optimal regional connectivity. There is little opportunity to further widen roadways to provide additional capacity on this network. New road links in urban areas could improve connectivity, provide redundancy in potential travel routes, and shorten travel distances to many destinations.
- c) Consider costs of maintaining existing roads and bridges when evaluating potential growth patterns and when considering new or wider roads.
- d) Reduce the number and length of automobile trips and vehicle-miles traveled and avoid planning new roads that draw development away from existing urban areas.

5. SCENARIOS GOAL FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT AND OTHER TRAVEL MODES: To provide a wider variety of transportation choices for Lee County’s diverse population.

- a) Create “Complete Streets” to accommodate all travel modes, including walking, bicycling, and transit use, along all roadway types (except for Interstate 75).
- b) Improve public transportation in response to rising fuel prices, which are making longer trips less practical even for those owning cars.

MOTION BY MR NOBLE TO APPROVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LAND USE SENARIO PROJECT. SECONDED BY MR. GETCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 – Approval of the 2012 Congestion Monitoring Report n

Mr. Scott presented this item. Last year the MPO staff developed a preliminary version of the 2012 Congestion Monitoring Report which was presented at its September 6, 2012 meeting for review and comments. That document was complete except for a section on performance measures which evaluated the condition of the Lee County

transportation network and reported system trends. This section called *the State of the System (SOS)* Report was completed in August this year, and presented to all the MPO committees and the Board.

With this section now complete, staff is asking the TAC and CAC to recommend MPO approval of the 2012 Congestion Monitoring Report. The document was approved by the Traffic Management Operations Committee at its October 9, 2013 meeting and will be presented to the BPC at its October 29, 2013 meeting.

MOTION BY MR. GAITHER TO APPROVE THE 2012 CONGESTION MONITORING REPORT. SECONDED BY MR. POPLE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

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

Ms. Letorneau encouraged everybody to come to the STREETS ALIVE EVENT in Downtown Fort Myers on Nov 10th.

Agenda Item #11 – Member Comments and Discussion on Having a TAC Report at the MPO Board

None.

Agenda Item #12 – LeeTran Report

Mr. Gaither provided the LeeTran report.

Agenda Item #15 – FDOT Report

Mr. Muller said that FDOT has a Transit coordinator Debbie Stevens and a new Liaison Susan Lex.

Agenda Item #16 – Announcements

Agenda Item #17 – Topics for next meeting

None.

Agenda Item #18 – Information and Distribution Items

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.