

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on June 6, 2013

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on June 6, 2013 at the City of Cape Coral Annex/Public Works Building, 815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL.

Matt Noble	Lee County Community Development
Andy Getch	Lee DOT
Josh Philpott	Lee County Port Authority
Wayne Gaither	LeeTran
Dawn Huff	Lee County School Board
Persides Zambrano	City of Cape Coral Public Works
Kitty Sayers	Cape Coral Mini Bus Service
Ben Bullert	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Josh Overmyer	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Ben Pople	City of Sanibel Planning Department
Jennifer Pellechio	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Gary Harrell	Charlotte County Punta Gorda MPO

Those also in attendance included: Carmen Monroy, Russ Muller and Bill Fuller with FDOT; David Urich with the Citizen's Advisory Committee; Todd Graves as citizen; Lark Campasano as citizen; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; Shane Marit with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; and Don Scott, Meghan Marion, Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo of the Lee County MPO.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes from the May 2, 2013 TAC Meeting

MOTION BY MR. GAITHER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2, 2013 TAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MR. POPLER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Mr. Todd Graves of North Fort Myers had some public comments. He said he lives across from the Prairie Pines Preserve and is concerned about the ramp onto I-75 near the evacuation which according to the plans will just be on the outside of the driveway of his house. This will drastically impact his family's future and the natural preserve of the area and stated that this is bad planning. He suggested alternatives should be looked at in the future.

Mr. Lark Campasano also of North Fort Myers had some comments about the Prairie Pines Preserve area and the I-75 interchange. She said that when they bought property there she had no idea there would be an I-75 interchange. This will affect the area's way

of life. She asked for consideration of alternative routes that will save taxpayers money and will leave the area intact.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #3 – Review and Approval of the FY 2013/2014 through FY 2017/2018 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Scott presented this item. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requested the addition of maintenance projects so those have been added. He said that he has received some comments from FDOT. Comments received mentioned that the Safe Route to Schools (SRTS) projects have the wrong managed by reference. Mr. Scott stated that he thought the SRTS projects are managed by FDOT. He asked Russ Muller to find out about those projects.

Chairperson Zambrano said that there is a project missing for Cape Coral. She said it was the one the city deferred on 20th Ave.

Mr. Gogoi said that it has been approved, but it is not showing on the FDOT Work Program. He said he is trying to get information from Bartow to see if this Cape Coral project will be part of a future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment. He suggested including this particular project as an upcoming amendment.

Mr. Scott said that percentages of money spent on each category have been calculated and he went through the results.

**MOTION BY MS. HUFF TO APPROVE THE FY 2013/2014 THROUGH
FY 2017/2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.
SECONDED BY MR. PHILPOTT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Item #4 – Review and Approval of TA, Multi-Modal and SRTS Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this item. The first table is about MPO allocated Transportation Alternative (TA) Funds. The first two projects on the list are unfunded projects that were pushed through as Regional Enhancement priorities and did not receive funding. The Abel Canal project might come off the list due to possible funding from the funding that is identified for the Sanibel Lighthouse project.

Mr. Gogoi pointed out that the SRTS project for Bonita Elementary is incorrect; the actual cost should be \$129,761 and not half a million dollars. He said that the BPCC made changes to the priority order.

Mr. Gogoi also said that staff changed the ranking for the Gator Circle project due to its requested \$1 million cost. Requested TA funds cannot go over \$600,000. The City of Cape Coral will probably stage the Gator Circle into two separate parts to keep funding below the threshold.

Chairperson Zambrano stated that she does not understand why SRTS is done if there is no funding for it.

Mr. Scott said that staff has the exact same question.

Mr. Muller mentioned that the SRTS program is a very long process.

Mr. Scott said that he is holding hope that there will be other funding sources identified to be used for the SRTS projects.

Mr. Harrell said that Charlotte did not do any SRTS projects this cycle.

Ms. Huff said the requirements for SRTS projects are arduous.

Mr. Gogoi proposed making comments and a recommendation on Table 1 and Table 1A first before moving onto Table 2.

Mr. Noble stated that to complete things that are on the ground already should be considered instead of some of the projects on the list.

Mr. Philpott mentioned that it is important not to take money away from projects that could be funded and constructed and can benefit SRTS versus doing a study for a pathway project.

Mr. Getch said that there are schools on both sides of the Abel Canal Pathway. This will have benefits for schools. Only a small percentage of funds go to actual construction on the ground.

Mr. Gogoi said to remember that the Abel Canal and Winkler Extension projects are projects with a high priority on the bike pedestrian master plan.

Ms. Letourneau stated that the BPCCC had an extensive discussion on these two projects, and these are on top of the list due to safety issues.

**MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO SUPPORT THE BPCCC AND TMOC
RECOMMENDATIONS ON ATTACHMENT A. SECONDED BY MR.
OVERMYER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion moves to Attachment B.

Mr. Gogoi said that the staff proposes that the Six Mile Cypress Blvd project be built in the FY 2016/2017, which corresponds with the county funding timeframe for the Heritage Palm to Winkler Extension segment. It is proposed that Priority #9 - the Six Mile Cypress Blvd project should be switched with Priority #5 – Shared Use Pathway for SR 80. The priority of the projects should remain the same.

Mr. Philpott asked if there already is a programmed local match for the Six Mile Cypress pathway. Mr. Gogoi said that there is for the Heritage Palm to Winkler Extension project.

Mr. Bullert said that he likes tying in the original project with both the pathway and the sidewalk to complete the loop.

Mr. Philpott said that there is no continuation of a sidewalk on Six Mile Cypress to Winkler Extension.

Mr. Gaither said that transit will also benefit as well.

MOTION BY MR. PHILPOTT TO APPROVE ATTACHMENT B WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: PRIORITY #9 WILL BE SWAPPED WITH PRIORITY #5. SECONDED BY MR. GAITHER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approval of Federal and State Funded Project Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item. The CAC made a recommendation to remove #10 from the list the Bridge IMS project phase II, and the BPCC made the same recommendation as well.

Chairperson Zambrano said that it is important to look into retrofitting sidewalks on SR 78 in the future.

Mr. Scott said the CAC had a discussion concerning Priority #10, the Caloosahatchee Bridge Incident Management System (IMS) project. They said that the current phase does not work the way it should so there is no reason to start another phase of the project.

Chairperson Zambrano suggested keeping Priority #10 as a reminder that there is a phase II for this item.

Mr. Pople said that this priority is so far down the list that the odds of having it funded are very low.

MOTION BY MR. PHILPOTT TO APPROVE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED PROJECT PRIORITIES. SECONDED BY MR. POPLER. MOTION CARRIED WITH MR. GETCH AND MR. OVERMYER OPPOSED.

Agenda Item #6 – Approval of the Lee and Collier TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item.

MOTION BY MR. GAITHER TO APPROVE THE LEE AND COLLIER TRIP PRIORITIES. SECONDED BY MR. GETCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #7 – Approval of the Lee and Charlotte TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Mr. Harrell said that the Burnt Store Rd (at the Lee County line) project money was increased due to it being on the TRIP priorities list.

MOTION BY MR. NOBLE TO APPROVE THE LEE AND CHARLOTTE TRIP PRIORITIES. SECONDED BY MR. OVERMYER.

Mr. Getch said that there should be a correction for Chiquita Blvd. The sponsor is the City of Cape Coral and not Lee County.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #8 – Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this item.

MOTION BY MS HUFF TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLAN GRANT AGREEMENT. SECONDED BY MS. PELLECHIO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 – Review of the Draft Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. Mr. Scott asked for comments on this plan. He also went through some of the suggestions received so far. There is also a need for the process of data analysis and reporting to be addressed.

Chairperson Zambrano asked about education in the plan which is crucial for pedestrian safety.

Mr. Scott answered that it is part of the implementation side.

Ms. Letourneau said that this plan is a very important plan in terms of safety.

Chairperson Zambrano mentioned that there are clips online for pedestrian and bicycle safety. These sources should be made available.

Mr. Gogoi said that the design of bike lanes is very important and should be addressed by the BPCC.

Agenda Item #10 – Review and Recommend Approval of the Traffic Incident Management Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Raimondo presented this item. He said that Mr. Scott will sign for the MPO with the MPO Board approval. The Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) does not require any funding or staff from MPO.

Mr. Bill Fuller with FDOT added that the MOU asks for understanding from the MPO. Incident Management is a national objective, and it is important to be aware of these efforts.

Mr. Scott said that it is important to note that one of the objectives is to reduce crashes after a crash or an event has occurred. Public outreach is also crucial.

MOTION BY MR. NOBLE TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. SECONDED BY MR. PHILPOTT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #11 – Review of the Proposed Connection to SR 78

Mr. Scott said that the CAC voted to look at the proposed connection as part of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update.

Mr. Urich of the CAC made a presentation on this item. He said that the current proposed extension goes along land that used to belong to 20/20 Conservation and the Prairie Pines Preserve. Mr. Urich said he came up with an alternative for the extension which utilizes an already existing Bayshore Interchange. The possible alternative bypass is marked in red on the map provided in the agenda packet. Mr. Urich asked the MPO staff to study and find out how much an alternative to the proposed Del Prado extension would actually cost.

Chairperson Zambrano said that the City of Cape Coral has invested a lot of money on Del Prado geared toward the I-75 connection.

Mr. Noble commented that there is a series of approvals for the area and has to be taken into account in this study.

Chairperson Zambrano said that Cape Coral is welcome to new ideas, but it will be hard to do anything else at this point.

Mr. Getch said that this proposal would affect residents living on Mellow Dr. This proposal is not something that can go forward quickly.

Mr. Scott said that there is not much money to spend on doing something else as there are many other needs to be addressed first.

Chairperson Zambrano said that the county bought the 20/20 land on the condition that a connector will pass through it. There is nothing illegal about this.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ms. Letorneau encourage everybody to come to the June 21st MPO Board meeting. Officials from Nashville will be at the meeting to discuss their award winning LRTP.

Agenda Item #13 – Member Comments and Discussion on Having a TAC Report at the MPO Board

None.

Agenda Item #14 – LeeTran Report

Mr. Gaither provided the LeeTran report.

Agenda Item #15 – FDOT Report

Mr. Muller said that FDOT has a new bike ped coordinator.

Agenda Item #16 – Announcements

Ms. Marion announced that she is leaving the MPO and will start a new position with a local consultant.

Chairperson Zambrano thanked Ms. Marion for her hard work at the MPO.

The TAC July meeting will be canceled.

Agenda Item #17 – Topics for next meeting

The new 2013/2014 meeting calendar will be presented at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #18 – Information and Distribution Items

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.