

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT COLLIER & LEE COUNTY MPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held on October 3, 2013

The following members were present for the joint meeting of the Collier & Lee County MPO Technical Advisory Committee on October 3, 2013 at the Estero Community Park & Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, 103A, Estero, Florida 33928.

Collier TAC

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| George Archibald | City of Naples |
| Reed Jarvi | Collier County Transportation Planning |
| Dale Bathon | Collier County Traffic Operations |
| Michelle Arnold | Collier County ATM |
| Jeremy Frantz | Non-Voting |

Lee TAC

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| Matt Noble | Lee Department of Community Development |
| Andy Getch | Lee Department of Transportation |
| Josh Philpott | Lee County Port Authority |
| Wayne Gaither | LeeTran |
| Dawn Huff | Lee County School Board |
| Persides Zambrano | City of Cape Coral Public Works |
| Ben Bullert | City of Fort Myers Engineering |
| John Gucciardo | City of Bonita Springs Public Works |
| Jennifer Pellechio | Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council |

Those also in attendance included: Russ Muller and Lawrence Massey with FDOT; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; Lorraine Lantz with Collier MPO; Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Johnny Limbaugh with Lee County MPO. Estero Community Citizen's Kevin Hill and Mr. Staggner

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Ms. Zambrano.

Ms. Lantz called the roll for the Collier TAC and announced that a quorum was not present.

Mr. Limbaugh called the roll for Lee County TAC and announced that a quorum was not present.

Agenda Item #2 – Election of a Chairperson

Ms. Zambrano was elected as chairperson of the October 3, 2013 Joint Lee and Collier Technical Advisory Committee Meeting.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments

Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee commented on three items,

6a Ms. Letourneau Stated that BikeWalk Lee is very supportive of the LinC route and expressed the importance that the two counties work together to continue the funding especially now that Lee has received a TIGER grant that will enhance the connection in the Bonita Springs area and Collier County.

Item 6b the LRTP 2040 is very important and she hopes that Collier County understands that this will be a major redo given the changes in available funding and the two counties can work together to have a more realistic plans. Darla expressed how successful the Lee MPO's peer reviews with the MPO have been.

Item 6f, Ms. Letourneau raised concerns about the proposed truck route and the potential bike safety concerns along Corkscrew Road and that there should have been more opportunity for input from Lee County before the route was approved.

Kevin Hill – Estero resident, spoke about his concerns about safety with the number of Trucks that are projected to go down Corkscrew Road. Corkscrew Road was not built to handle heavy truck traffic and would like to see increased enforcement if the route is not changed.

Joe Staggner – Resident of Estero expressed his concerns with the proposed route.

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved with no objection.

Both MPO's were short one person for a quorum so the committee moved on to reports and presentations.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item #6A – Discussion on the Future Funding Opportunities for the Lee Collier (LinC) Transit Connection

Mr. Scott introduced this item. Mr. Scott asked LeeTran to provide an update of what has happened since the last meeting given the budget the budget changes and to discuss the future funding opportunities for the Lee Collier transit connection, also known as LinC.

Mr. Scott asked LeeTran what this service route costs them per year. Mr. Gaither answered that it costs around \$515,000 annually (Monday – Sunday) with the current ridership. Ms. Zambrano asked about the ridership and the response was that it was about 9,000/month consistent riders. If you combine LinC with route 150, which complements it, the ridership is 11,000 riders/month. LinC is a route that is well received by citizens both in Lee and Collier County. Ms. Zambrano asked what Collier was doing to assist. Ms. Arnold responded that they had purchased a bus and have added bus shelters at the transfer location.

Because there was not a quorum the committee agreed to move forward as a committee of the whole.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item #5A – Review and Approve TRIP Funding Change in Collier

Mr. Scott presented the item, due to funding changes and priorities; Collier County Transportation is requesting that the \$1,236,285 million in TRIP funding that is currently programmed for a portion of the right-of-way phase for the Collier Boulevard Golden Gate Main Canal to Green Boulevard project be moved and added to the TRIP funds that are being used for the construction phase of the Collier Boulevard from Green Boulevard to Golden Gate Boulevard project.

**MOTION BY MR. JARVI TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES
SECONDED BY MS. HUFF. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Item #6B – Update on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plans for Collier MPO and Lee County MPO

Ms. Lantz presented an overview of their current efforts, the Collier MPO is considering conducting a Visioning Workshop to look at the County and discuss how the MPO Board anticipates the area will grow. This workshop may look at the existing highway, transit and bicycle/pedestrian facilities and the level of financial resources available for them in the future. Ms. Lantz also went into other activities such as Collier providing data to FDOT for development of the District wide model. She also stated that the Collier MPO will be issuing a task to their general planning consultants for the various elements of the plan development.

Mr. Scott presented a power point on this item. The Lee County MPO has begun a land use scenario project that will be looking at land use alternatives that would help reduce

vehicle trips, trip lengths and increase the viability of transit options. The MPO is projecting the completion of this project by next June, and the end result will be an approved 2040 land use scenario that can then be used for the 2040 land use projections in the LRTP travel model. (Presentation attached).

The committee discussed the need to have a high level of coordination and recommended joint committee meetings throughout the plan update. Both MPO staffs committed to looking into the schedule and bringing back a recommendation on when those opportunities would occur.

Agenda Item #6C – Presentation on the Adopted Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan

Mr. Massey presented an overview on the development and funding of the SIS work program.

Agenda Item #6D Review and Input on the SIS Evaluation Criteria for Joint MPO prioritization

Mr. Gogoi presented the proposed criterion which was developed to be a multimodal evaluation. The committee discussed the need to test the use of the criteria and come back with the results of the process to see how the criterion compares to the current SIS criteria and priorities. Ron committed to continue the testing and bring the results back to the Joint TAC.

Agenda Item #6E Discussion on the Old US 41 from US 41 to Bonita Beach Road Project Coordination

Mr. Scott presented the item. The two MPO's have amended their Long Range Plans to include the reconstruction of Old US 41 between US41 in Collier County to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County. Back in June, the two MPO's (separate action by both MPO's) included the prioritization of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) phase in each of their Federal/State priority lists. Also, the City of Bonita Springs is considering moving forward with paved shoulders on Old US 41 south of Bonita Beach Road down to the County line (in response to safety issues) and is seeking to coordinate these efforts. It was the consensus to see what happens with the PD&E study to see if we should move forward with the paved shoulder project for safety reasons given the time it will take to complete a large scale widening project.

Agenda Item #6F – Discussion on the Corkscrew Road Truck Routing Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. This is a very dynamic issue as the information is changing daily particularly since the two counties continue to meet and discuss the issue. Ms. Huff

with Lee County School District provided school bus information that showed that very high numbers of school buses use Corkscrew Road and that the increased trucks are a major safety concern. Matt Noble shared some photos that highlighted Lee County's concerns with the additional truck traffic and how it mixes with existing residential traffic.

Other Business

Agenda Item #7 – Florida Department of Transportation Report

Mr. Muller presented an update on the District wide model.

Agenda Item #8 – Transit Update

Mr. Gaither of LeeTran provided the report for Lee County Transit. He said that LeeTran had just completed the budget development process and several routes will see an increase in headways as a result of decreased funding. At the same time LeeTran also has seen an increased ridership. Currently there are over 4 million Trips thru Sept 23rd for this year.

Ms. Arnold of CAT provided an overview of the new Collier County Transit Transfer Facility. There have been 47,000 boarding's since the opening in March. She said that there has been a continuous increase in ridership over the last three years on Collier's fixed route system. There were over 1.2 million riders last year.

Agenda Item #9 – Members' Comments

None.

Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.