

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on April 4, 2013

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on April 4, 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
Lorraine Lantz	Collier County MPO
Jennifer Pellechio	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Bob Herrington	Charlotte County Punta Gorda MPO

Those also in attendance included: Russ Muller and Kellie Spurgeon with FDOT; Gary Harrell with Charlotte County Punta Gorda MPO; Saeed Kazemi with City of Fort Myers Engineering; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; William Roll with Tindale Oliver; Bill Spikowski with Spikowski Planning Associates; Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering; Julia Davis with Omnibus Innovations Group and Don Scott, Meghan Marion, Ron Gogoi and Anna Bielawska of the Lee County MPO.

Chairperson Zambrano called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes from the February 7, 2013 TAC Meeting

Mr. Noble had some comments on the minutes. He clarified that on pg. 2 (second to the last paragraph) his main point was that these improvements might be eligible for some type of credit whether it's an impact fee credit vs. the mobility fee. On pg. 3, Mr. Noble explained that his main point in bringing this up was to inquire whether the study should be extended to Shell Factory in that lot. On pg. 4, the FDOT response was important and should be included. FDOT responded that at the time, this was the extent of the improvement and currently improvements will be extended to the county line.

MOTION BY MR. NOBLE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013 TAC MEETING AS AMENDED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- **PG. 2 (SECOND TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH) – IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN IMPACT FEE CREDIT VS. MOBILITY FEE.**

- **PG. 3 (AGENDA ITEM #5) - MR. NOBLE ASKED WHETHER THE TRANSIT BUS QUEUE STUDY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE SHELL FACTORY LOT.**
- **PG. 4 (AGENDA ITEM #8) – FDOT RESPONSE SHOULD BE INCLUDED; AT THE TIME, THIS WAS THE EXTENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT.**

Ms. Huff said that she was present at the last meeting but was not listed.

- **MS. HUFF WILL BE ADDED TO THE ATTENDANCE LIST.**

SECONDED BY MR. POPLE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Minutes from the March 7, 2013 Joint Lee and Collier TAC Meeting

Ms. Lantz said that on pg. 4, second paragraph, Ms. Arnold actually said that the LinC route was originally funded for two years, but the third year was funded when Collier County turned down the service development grant, and those funds were rolled into what was allocated. This statement should be edited to reflect that.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 7, 2013 JOINT LEE AND COLLIER TAC MEETING AS AMENDED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: LINC ROUTE IS NOT FUNDED BY COLLIER COUNTY BUT THROUGH THE COLLIER SERVICE DEVELOPMENT GRANT. SECONDED BY MR. OVERMYER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

Chairperson Zambrano asked if the committee is fine with having Ms. Letourneau making public comments during discussion of Agenda Item #5, #6 and #7.

Ms. Davis asked when a major update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan will be done by Lee MPO staff. Mr. Scott answered that the recommendation for the new CTC coordinator is going in front of the LCB tomorrow then the MPO Board. It will go in front of the Transportation Commission by May 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #4 – Review and Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Raimondo presented this item.

Mr. Gaither brought attention to pg. 67 (second to the last item) where prioritized trips are discussed as only being medical. LeeTran has concerns about this. Mr. Raimondo replied that for the last several years only medical trips have been funded by the CTC. The LCB decides what the priorities are.

Mr. Raimondo said that the next major TDSP update will be due 180 days after July 1st of this year.

Ms. Pellechio brought attention to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan on pg. 31. This was actually an EAR update only on September 15th 2011 and not a revision of the plan. There should be a note made to reflect that.

MOTION BY MS. HUFF TO TABLE THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLAN. SECONDED BY MR. GAITHER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approval of the MAP-21 Bicycle Pedestrian Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. The scope was approved unanimously by the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC).

Chairperson Zambrano asked about ALTA. Ms. Letourneau answered that ALTA is the best bicycle pedestrian planning firm in the country.

Ms. Lantz has asked if this is being updated. There is no budget associated with this. Mr. Scott answered that he wants to get comments first to see if there are any changes. Then, the budget will be negotiated. The previous budget sheet that was shared with the Board showed \$45,000.

Mr. Gaither asked if this will be tied into transit.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE MAP-21 BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN. SECONDED BY MR. NOBLE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #6 – Endorsement of Good Wheels 5310 Grant Application

Mr. Scott presented this item.

MOTION BY MR. OVERMYER TO APPROVE THE GOOD WHEELS 5310 APPLICATION. SECONDED BY MS. HUFF. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #7 – Presentation and Provide Input on the Proposed US 41 Pedestrian Refuge Islands

Ms. Spurgeon of FDOT presented a PowerPoint on this item.

Chairperson Zambrano suggested that the branding of the project should be pedestrian safety.

Mr. Kazemi said that the City of Fort Myers has been talking about this project for a while. He said that this is one of the highest crash areas in the city. Refuge islands will not be a safe solution according to his engineering experience. This is a very high volume and high speed road. The City of Fort Myers has been looking at this project for

the last ten years. They have a plan that calls for a median. A full median reduces crashes, provides for pedestrian safety, slows down traffic, etc. The whole idea should be to create safety. The city is working with the state on this and is willing to work on this median with the public. Mr. Kazemi said that their plan has gone through a public hearing, workshop, and has been adopted by the city as opposed to the proposed pedestrian refuge islands. The state had a plan for a median there seven years ago. Mr. Kazemi respectfully asked for this item to be tabled in order to bring back a solution that the public, state, city, and agencies are happy with.

Chairperson Zambrano said that she hopes the jurisdictions can work together on this to arrive at a solution.

Ms. Spurgeon said that her department has a follow up meeting with the secretary before the MPO Board meeting.

Chairperson Zambrano asked if this is ready to go before the Board. Mr. Kazemi said that he does not think so. There is still a lot of homework that needs to be done. There need to be more public hearings.

Mr. Philpott asked where the city is with the median plan implementation and whether these refuge pedestrian islands will prohibit future work on the median in those locations. Mr. Kazemi said that there is funding becoming available and should be used toward the median. Ms. Spurgeon said that this funding is safety funds and cannot go to other projects. Mr. Kazemi said he is not talking about a beautification median but a safety one and the funds should be used for this.

Chairperson Zambrano asked if FDOT is not aware of the city's median plans. Mr. Kazemi said they are aware of this. They wanted to put a median there seven years ago. Ms. Spurgeon mentioned that there was a Right-Of-Way issue.

Mr. Philpott said that the fundamental question is whether this project prohibits a future median in that area. Mr. Kazemi answered no it does not, but you will have to go back to take out the pedestrian refuge islands; the median should be put in with the money that is available today. Mr. Scott said that this is not just a funding issue. A representative from FDOT at the BPCC meeting said that it does not fit putting in a median at that location.

Mr. Philpott mentioned that this could be a short term solution for pedestrian safety as there are obvious issues with the median.

Mr. Kazemi wanted to see more engineering data on the safety of the pedestrian refuge islands.

Mr. Getch said there are bigger issues with US 41. These pedestrian refuge islands only cover a small stretch of US 41. He was in agreement with Mr. Kazemi, and a better solution is needed to fix what is wrong with US 41.

Mr. Kazemi said the median standards can be modified if there is not enough room.

Mr. Kazemi asked to do the median project now with the current Right-of-Way.

Ms. Huff asked when the median could actually be completed with what is available. Mr. Kazemi answered that the construction can begin in a year.

Ms. Huff asked if the timeframe for the median construction vs. the pedestrian refuge islands is the same.

Mr. Gogoi asked whether the \$7.3 million available will be able to do what Mr. Kazemi would like regarding the median. Mr. Kazemi answered yes it can.

Mr. Muller said that the main focus is to ensure pedestrian safety. A landscape median can be put in later in between the pedestrian refuge islands.

Ms. Letourneau emphasized the need for an immediate solution. She said that inaction to the problem should not be tolerated, and improvements can be continued to be made.

Mr. Spikowski emphasized that the median here has been an issue that has been discussed for a long time. This is a very unsafe corridor. He said he is happy to see an immediate solution to the problem.

Mr. Scott asked how long it took for SR 80 to implement a median from when it was first brought up. Mr. Kazemi responded that it was about 5-6 years.

Mr. Kazemi said that the funding is currently available for this median. Mr. Scott replied that the funds available will not cover the stretch of median needed from Hanson to Martin Luther King.

Ms. Sayers asked if the surfboard shaped pedestrian refuge island has been used safely in other areas. Ms. Spurgeon said that the pedestrian refuge islands will work to break up traffic.

Mr. Getch stated that the Lee County MPO sets the priorities for how FDOT programs its TIP, and this issue should definitely be discussed.

Mr. Kazemi said people will not stop to cross at a pedestrian refuge island; they will cross where there is availability.

Ms. Spurgeon said the schedule for the pedestrian refuge island project is as follows:
Letting – January 2014
Specifications and Production – November 2013
Between now and then, there needs to be a public hearing and completion of Phase IV plans.

Mr. Noble asked FDOT whether they believe there will be money available to install a median as well as do a resurfacing in this timeframe. Mr. Noble also asked Mr. Kazemi how much money there is for landscaping. Mr. Kazemi said there is enough money (between \$500,000-\$700,000) to do landscaping from Hanson to SR 82.

Mr. Muller answered that he feels the resurfacing funding won't pay for the median.

Mr. Noble asked if this can be delayed till next month. Ms. Spurgeon answered that this is just for comments.

Ms. Huff asked the latest date this can go in front of the MPO Board. Ms. Spurgeon replied that this project is already slightly delayed.

Mr. Kazemi recommended bringing this project before the committee in two months and the MPO Board in June.

Ms. Spurgeon said she needs 180 days due to the public hearing.

Mr. Getch also emphasized that this stretch of road is not seasonal.

Mr. Muller explained what the Bennett Bill is.

Chairperson Zambrano recommended adding the access management plan information to the pedestrian refuge island presentation.

Mr. Gogoi said there also needs to be a better cost estimate of the project.

Ms. Spurgeon said that it would be better if this went to the Board at the April meeting for production purposes.

MOTION BY MR. KAZEMI FOR THE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND US 41 PROJECT TO BE TABLED UNTIL THE CITY OF FORT MYERS AND STATE COME UP WITH A UNIFIED PLAN BEFORE THE JUNE MPO BOARD MEETING.

Ms. Huff asked if this is enough time. Ms. Spurgeon answered no because of the public hearing requirement.

MR. KAZEMI AMENDED HIS MOTION TO HAVING THE PLAN COME BEFORE THE MAY MPO BOARD MEETING.

Mr. Scott asked if anyone wants to make a TAC report regarding this issue in front of the MPO Board. Chairperson Zambrano said that the time frames need to be clarified. Mr. Noble said to also take into consideration that you are not sacrificing pedestrian safety in lieu of what could be a very lengthy project.

MOTION DENIED.

Agenda Item #8 – Presentation on the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Mr. Roll of Tindale Oliver provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item. The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in conjunction with local stakeholders and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 is developing and implementing a Lee Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (BPSAP). The main purpose of this plan is to reduce bicycle and pedestrian crashes, especially emphasizing a reduction in fatal and incapacitating injury crashes.

The main vision of this plan is a zero fatality transportation system for pedestrians and cyclists throughout Lee County.

Mr. Getch said that it is important that FDOT should partner with any item that has to do with design or operational decisions. This will help ensure a standard solution.

Mr. Scott said that the workshop notice for this plan will be sent out to the TAC and CAC members.

Ms. Letourneau commented that there will be a series of events coming up regarding bike ped safety.

Chairperson Zambrano suggested using safety clips on TV for education.

Agenda Item #9 – Review of the Public Involvement Evaluation Report

Ms. Marion presented this item. This report contains everything the Lee MPO has done with the public from January to December of last year, meetings attended, plans adopted and amended, and recommendations for a facebook page and a better relationship with Florida Gulf Coast University.

Agenda Item #10 – Review of the Proposed Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Scott presented this item. This will be brought in next month for discussion after a 30 day public comment period.

Agenda Item #11 – Update on the MPO Apportionment Letter and Response to FDOT

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Other Business

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

Ms. Davis said that she has been volunteering with the Florida Association of Community Transportation Systems. She introduced the organization.

Agenda Item #13 – LeeTran Report

Mr. Gaither provided the LeeTran report. He thanked everybody who was able to attend the LeeTran groundbreaking ceremony. LeeTran reached a milestone ridership in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013 with 1 million riders. The preliminary numbers for the second quarter also showed another milestone by reporting 400,000 trips for the month of March. He also said that FGCU has issued a statement about discontinuing funds for Route 60.

Agenda Item #14 – FDOT Report

None.

Agenda Item #15 – Announcements

None.

Agenda Item #16 – Topics for next meeting

Mr. Scott said that the LRTP amendment, draft TIP, TDSP, and a few other items will be discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #17 – Lee County Port Authority Report

Mr. Philpott provided the Lee County Port Authority Report. This year passenger numbers are up by 6.5% and this upward trend should continue for the rest of the year. At Page Field, operations are down, but there has been a significant amount of flight training activity. Fuel sales have gone up 27%. The result of building the new Page Field facility has caused an interest of aviation groups to come use the facility for training. Page Field towers could be potentially shut down due to the sequester.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.