

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, August 4, 2016
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990
9:30 a.m.



Meeting Summary

Meeting Called to Order

Roll Call – roll was called, quorum was present

1. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda – no comments from public

New Business

2. ***Approval of the Roll Forward Report (Don Scott)**

Don Scott presented amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Fiscal Year 2016 Roll Forward projects which are inserted at the end of the TIP. Each year there are projects that are scheduled to be authorized prior to June 30th (when the previous TIP is in effect) but for various reasons they do not get authorized. These projects will automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program but should be accounted for in the TIP. This amendment is being done to account for the roll forward projects within the TIP.

A motion was made by Carl Karakos and seconded by Rick Burris to amend the TIP to include Fiscal Year 2016 roll forward projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. ***Endorsement of the Aviation Priorities (Ron Gogoi)**

Ron Gogoi presented the recommendation that the MPO endorse the Lee County Port Authority's priorities for aviation projects at the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport.

A motion was made to recommend the Lee MPO endorse the Lee County Port Authority's latest priorities for aviation projects at the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport by Wayne Gaither and seconded by Carl Karakos. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Presentation and Update on the Babcock Development (Alexis Crespo)**

Alexis Crespo from Waldrop Engineering provided an update on their development activities along with a status of the SR 31 Project Development and Environmental studies. Additional information on the development can be found on their website at www.babcockranchflorida.com. This was an information item and no action was taken by the committee.

5. **Presentation on the SR 82 Widening Projects in Lee County (FDOT)**

FDOT employees D'Juan Harris, Rick Lilyquist, and Ray Porter along with Ray Lee of Dewberry presented on the SR 82 widening projects relating to the four project segments in Lee County. The current schedule for the four segments is listed below:

- SR 82 from Lee Boulevard to Shawnee Road (just east of Daniels/Gunnery) – Construction is programmed for this fiscal year (widening from 2 to 6 lanes)
- SR 82 from Shawnee Road to Alabama Road – Construction is not programmed in the five year work program but is planned for FY 2021/2022 in the SIS Cost Feasible Plan (widening from 2 to 6 lanes)
- SR 82 from Alabama Road to Homestead Road – Right-of-way is programmed for this fiscal year and construction is programmed for FY 2017/2018 (widening from 2 to 4 lanes)
- SR 82 from Homestead Road to the Hendry County line – Construction is programmed for FY 2017/2018 (widening from 2 to 4 lanes)

This was an information item and no action was taken by the committee.

6. **Presentation on the Transit Development Plan (LeeTran)**

LaChant Barnett from Tindale Oliver and Associates gave a presentation on the draft LeeTran Transit Development Plan (TDP). She explained the assessment process and the research that was done. The TDP document will be available on the LeeTran website for review at <http://www.leegov.com/leetran/tdp>. The State of Florida Public Transit Block Grant Program requires public transit service providers to develop and adopt a 10-year comprehensive planning document in accordance with Rule Chapter 14-73, Florida Administrative Code.

Major updates are required every 5 years with annual progress reports during the interim years. LeeTran has drafted the 2016 Major Update to its Transit Development Plan for 2017 – 2026. This plan sets forth an improvement plan for transit service in Lee County, which is consistent with local plans and the Lee County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan and will serve as the guiding document for the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program as well as the FDOT's Five-Year Work Program covering public transit projects in Lee County.

The Transit Development Plan was developed with input from various stakeholders and interviews with elected officials representing the County and all municipalities. Public participation workshops were conducted and public comment was solicited through various means. The plan was vetted through the Review Committee, which was comprised of representatives from County Departments as well as local stakeholders.

The TDP document contains ten primary sections reviewing existing services, the operating environment, future conditions, transit needs, and proposed improvements to meet those needs. A financial plan is also included in the TDP, identifying the costs of existing and proposed services and resources necessary to fund the transit ten-year plan. All identified plan improvements beyond those currently funded with existing federal, state, and/or local sources are proposed to move forward only when an adequate funding mechanism can be secured.

A motion was made to accept the report and it was seconded and accepted unanimously.

7. **+Review and Provide Input on the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform (Don Scott)**

Don Scott provided a presentation on the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed rulemaking for MPO coordination and planning area reform.

On June 27, 2016, the United States Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) proposed a draft rule proposing changes to the transportation planning regulations to "promote more effective regional planning by States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)". Comments on the proposed rule are due by August 26, 2016. A summary of the proposed rule requirements is listed below:

- Changes to the definition of Metropolitan Planning Area would clarify that it must include the entire urbanized area, plus the contiguous area forecast to become urbanized within the 20-year planning horizon.
 - In practice, Metropolitan Planning Area has been synonymous with the MPO boundary.
 - But in statute, the Metropolitan Planning Area is intended to be the entire urbanized area. In complex areas, the statute envisions there could be multiple MPOs within one metropolitan planning area.
- Governors and MPOs would determine whether multiple MPOs are warranted within a single Metropolitan Planning Area, based on the size and complexity of the area.

- Multiple MPOs within a metropolitan planning area would jointly develop planning products including a single metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, and performance targets.
- In order to improve State coordination with MPOs, States and MPOs would be required to maintain a current planning agreement, which would include a dispute resolution process, and would be required for coordination for analyses of areas within the metropolitan planning area.
- Metropolitan planning agreements must include coordination strategies and dispute resolution procedures between the States and the MPOs and, MPO to MPO for those sharing UZA boundaries.
- Planning data must be consistent between States and MPOs.

Of the 409 MPO's across the Country, 142 of them will be impacted by this rule change including 22 in Florida (including the Lee County MPO - see attached list of MPO's that are impacted and the Urbanized boundary map for Florida). We have provided a few scenarios to give an idea on how this might impact the Lee County MPO, if this moves forward with no changes:

- The Lee MPO area is reduced back to the Cape Coral urbanized area and the Collier MPO area is expanded to the Bonita Springs MPO area with the split falling in the middle of Estero (see attached map).
- The two MPO's are combined to cover both the Cape Coral and Bonita Springs urbanized areas.
- The two MPO's remain separate but are now required to produce a joint Long Range Transportation Plan for the entire Cape Coral and Bonita Springs urbanized areas, a joint Transportation Improvement Program and jointly established performance targets.
- Multiple MPO's in south Florida are combined into one MPO to cover the urbanized areas that have or are projected to grow together over the 20-year planning horizon (not sure that this is the intent but there have been interpretations out there that, for instance, have included an east coast MPO from Miami to Jacksonville due to the existing and projected growth of the urbanized areas).

A link to the proposed rule was provided: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/27/2016-14854/metropolitan-planning-organization-coordination-and-planning-area-reform>.

Don Scott provided additional information on the Rulemaking impacts along with some draft comments for discussion. No action was required on this item.

8. Information Item on the Proposed Changes to NHS Designations (Ron Gogoi)

Ron Gogoi provided a quick overview of its plans to submit a request to FHWA for adding roadways to the National Highway System (NHS) so that Lee County can qualify for FAST lane freight grants in the future. The inclusion of certain roadways to the NHS such as SR 31 and SR 82 will require collaboration and coordination with adjoining counties and MPOs.

9. +Discuss Potential Agenda Items for the Upcoming Lee/Collier MPO Meetings (Don Scott)

Don Scott discussed potential agenda items for the upcoming October joint meeting with Collier County. These included:

- Review of regional map and TRIP priority resolutions for Joint MPO Board approval
- Review and approval of the updated Regional Non-Motorized Transportation map

He noted Resolutions must be done on all of the regionally approved documents from now on.

Other Business

10. **Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda** – FDOT, project manager Justin Reck for the McGregor Boulevard 8-foot sidewalk project and an Alliance Representative provided information for discussion on changing the time frame for constructing this project. Persides Zambrano informed them that action cannot be taken until the funding is found to move the project up. No other public comments were made.

11. **LeeTran Report** – Lee Combs of LeeTran reported that the June ridership is down 11.5% but they are still anticipating it to be one of top five years for trips.
12. **FDOT Report** – D’Juan Harris from FDOT gave a report regarding a plan for reallocation of funds to I75/Colonial.
13. **Announcements** – Don Scott and D’Juan Harris discussed LAP certification for local agencies.
14. **Topics for next meeting** – there were no topics presented for next meeting discussion
15. **Information and Distribution Items** – there were no information or distribution items

Adjournment *Action Items +May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Mr. Johnny Limbaugh at the Lee MPO at 239-330-2242 or by email at jlimbaugh@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. 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 (239) 330-2242 or by writing him at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.