

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Held on June 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Traffic Management and Operations Committee was held on June 10, 2015 at the LeeTran office on 3401 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Abes	Lee County EMS
Dan Moser	BPCC
Dallas Smart	Fort Myers PD
Dominic Konieczki	LCSO
Jay Anderson	Lee County CTST
Lee Mayfield	Lee County Division of Public Safety
Marie Marro	Lee County Toll Division
Nick Danu	City of Fort Myers
Nina Garrett	Lee County School District
Sarah Plumer	LeeTran
Stephen Jansen	Lee County DOT

Those also in attendance included: Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Lt. Joseph Bowers with Florida Highway Patrol; Richard Fimbel with DBI Services; and Katie Arsenal with Public Safety

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 TMOC MEETING

Mr. Gogoi stated that the minutes be amended to reflect that Mr. Raimondo attended the meeting. Ms. Plummer asked that her maiden name be replaced with her married name.

MR. MOSER MOVED AND MR. ANDERSON SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 11, 2015 TMOC MEETING AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STP STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDED PRIORITIES

Mr. Gogoi presented the list of MPO's federal and state funded priorities and explained that the funds are typically used for implementing highway capacity projects. He explained that this table was being brought before the committee for review and approval because of 3 line items in the table which actually comes under the purview of the committee.

MR. ANDERSON MOVED AND MR. ABES SECONDED THAT THE STATE AND FEDERAL FUND PRIORITIES BE RECOMMENDED FOR MPO APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LEE MPO MULTI-MODAL BOX FUND PRIORITIES

Mr. Gogoi presented the BPCCC recommended priorities for the Lee MPO Multi-modal Transportation Enhancement Box funds. The available Box funds include \$2,549,387 in FY 2018, and \$3,200,000 in the new fifth year (FY 2021) for implementing traffic operations, bike ped, and transit projects proposed on arterial and collector roads. The top 5 projects were as follows:

1. The construction phase for the SW 20th Avenue Sidewalks from Veterans Parkway to Trafalgar Parkway (Construction was previously funded but dropped out of the Work Program. Design phase is complete)
2. A Phase II Construction of the SR 80 Shared Use Path (*A \$2 million cost increase to the SR 80 Shared Use Path from Shoreland Blvd to Buckingham Road and a transfer of funds to address construction shortfall in a LC School District sidewalk project has resulted in staging construction. Phase I is from Buckingham to Tropic Avenue. Phase II project limits have not been determined*)
3. Signal Timing and Coordination of Traffic Signal Systems (*Joint #1 Congestion Management Priority for Traffic Operations*)
4. Transit Preferential Treatments on US 41 Corridor (*Joint #1 Congestion Management Priority for Transit*)
5. Summerlin Road Shared Use Path (*# 1 Ranked Bike Ped Project*)

The 5 projects were followed by 15 bike ped projects and 1 traffic operation project.

MR. ABES MOVED AND MR. MOSER SECONDED THAT THE MULTIMODAL BOX PRIORITIES BE RECOMMENDED FOR MPO APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #3 – HURRICANE EVALUATION CHALLENGES

Mr. Mayfield started off his presentation by talking about evacuation in general. The call for evacuation is different in different states. Florida is a home ruled state and the order to evacuate is decided at the county level. When it comes to one way evacuation on the interstate, it is the Governor who makes the decision. Calling for an evacuation is a tough decision to be made and you have to be careful that you do not over evacuate or under evacuate. Large scale evacuation is always a challenge as you have to consider where to evacuate, the risk of storm surge risk, and be always aware that Florida is flat. They coordinate with various agencies throughout the year as part of the emergency planning and they have conference calls at least twice a day with all 10 counties in South Florida in the days leading up to a hurricane. They are also in touch with the National Hurricane Center at Tampa daily and sometimes hourly getting the scientific data based on which they make decisions on evacuation. Another challenge during an evacuation are the transportation disadvantaged which includes the elderly, the poor, and the handicapped.

Lee County is deficient in public shelters and being in the storm surge zone poses further challenges. Every hurricane is different. FDOT and DBI Services plan reverse lane strategies during an evacuation, and FHP conducts reverse lane exercises regularly in coordination with the state. Even with all the training reverse lane evacuation poses lots of transportation challenges. A video by the Weather Channel called “the top 5 most dangerous hurricane cities in the nation” was played during the presentation. Fort Myers, Miami, Houston, New Orleans, and Tampa Bay were among the 5. Fort Myers-Naples area is #3. Public shelters are used normally by 10% of the population in a place during an evacuation, and in reality they are even less like 4 to 5%. But a hurricane like Katrina could see the numbers go up really fast. The capacity of the shelters in Lee is only 35,000. Evacuation clearance times here is the highest in Florida.

Agenda Item #5 – LEEWAY PRESENTATION

Ms. Marro stated that 61% of the tolls collected at the Sanibel Causeway were through transponders and that number was 58% at the two Cape Coral bridges. She also informed that Leeway passes are good through the state of Florida and that I-tolling allows Leeway transponders to be read in toll facilities operated with Sunpass. It also allows the toll to be charged to the Leeway account. I-tolling also enables Leeway passes to be interoperable in North Carolina and Georgia.

Leeway tolls are being used to pay for the expansion of Burnt Store Road and for bridge painting/sign structures at the 3 toll bridges. Tolls will be also used to pay for the \$87.5 million Cape Coral Bridge Westbound Replacement that is proposed in 2028.

Agenda Item #6 –REPORT ON CTST REVIEWS

Mr. Jansen reported the results of the site reviews at Metro and Crystal, Colonial and Winkler, and Winkler Avenue and US 41. The SB left turn lane to EB Winkler Avenue needs to be extended and that a request was made to FDOT to extend the lane during the programmed resurfacing of US 41. The Colonial Boulevard and Winkler Avenue has congestion problems which will be compounded with traffic generated by new developments in the area. A project to add capacity on NB Winkler Avenue by adding turn has been proposed.

Agenda Item #7 – UPDATE ON THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Gogoi provided a status on the ongoing 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He gave a summary of the model results of the various project alternatives, updates on the freight and congestion management components, outreach meetings that were planned and next steps.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item # 8 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON TRAFFIC OPERATIONS RELATED PROJECTS

Mr. Jansen reported that LCDOT will be doing a project in the summer at the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Summerlin that will extend the WB left turn lane on Colonial Boulevard. This may ease some of the traffic backups occurring in the through lanes. Estero Boulevard will go under construction soon.

Agenda Item # 9 – STATUS OF THE MPO TRAFFIC OPERATION RELATED PROJECTS

Mr. Gogoi provided a status on the Roundabout RFP. He reported that 11 teams submitted proposals and 5 teams were shortlisted for interviews. They included Sam Schwarz, DPA, American Consulting, KAI, Atkins and Jacobs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item #11 – Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda
None.

Agenda Item #12 – FDOT Report
None.

Agenda Item #13 – Announcements

Ms. Plummer offered a tour of the LeeTran facility. She reported that the ridership numbers for April by 7% as compared to April of last year, and this was attributed to the fare increase.

Agenda Item #14 – Topics for next meeting
None.

Agenda Item #15 – Information & Distribution Items
None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.