

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

Held on November 20, 2015

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on November 20, 2015 at the City of Cape Coral Council Chambers, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, Florida.

LEE COUNTY	Present		
COMMISSIONER FRANK MANN	X		
COMMISSIONER BRIAN HAMMAN	X		
COMMISSIONER LARRY KIKER			
COMMISSIONER CECIL PENDERGRASS	X		
COMMISSIONER JOHN E. MANNING	X		
CITY OF FORT MYERS		ALTERNATES:	Present
MAYOR RANDY HENDERSON	X	COUNCILMAN JOHNNY STREETS JR	
COUNCILMAN MIKE FLANDERS	X		
CITY OF CAPE CORAL			
MAYOR MARNI SAWICKI	X	COUNCILMAN RICHARD LEON	
COUNCILMAN JOHN CARIOSCIA	X		
COUNCILMAN JIM BURCH			
COUNCILMAN RICK WILLIAMS			
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH			
COUNCILMAN ALAN MANDEL	X	COUNCILWOMAN REXANN HOSAFROS	
CITY OF SANIBEL			
MAYOR KEVIN RUANE	X	VICE-MAYOR MICK DENHAM	
CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS			
MAYOR BEN NELSON			
VICE-MAYOR STEPHEN MCINTOSH	X	COUNCILMAN MIKE GIBSON	

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, MAYOR NICK BATOS - Present on the Board as non-voting member

Also in attendance: Rosalie Berlin, Mark Novitski, Robert King, D’Juan Harris, Darla Letourneau, Ned Baier, Persides Zambrano, Jim Boesch, Bill Williams, Steve Crome, James Dodge, David Urich, Randy Cerchie, David Loveland, Don Eslick, Lee Combs, Wayne Gaither, Steve Myers, Patty Whitehead and Michael Tisch.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Agenda Item #1 – Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Bill Williams, the Vice Chair of the CAC gave the report and stated that the Committee approved the congestion management element, discussed the changes to the LRTP and reviewed the Executive Summary, received a presentation on the process to go through for a new Interchange on the Interstate, provided comments on the Fort Myers Beach Master Plan scope and the lighting study scope and reviewed the FDOT fair share report.

Agenda Item #2 – Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Scott gave the BPCC report and stated that the Committee approved the updated bicycle pedestrian project lists and masterplan recommendations, heard a report on the results of the FDOT Tentative Work Program, received an update on the SUN trail funding program and discussed the SR 82 crash analysis.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments will be taken at each Item

Chairman Flanders stated that public comments will be taken at each item.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of the CAC Appointments

Mr. Scott presented this item stating that this was for the addition of Mr. Samuel Fisher to the CAC representing the City of Cape Coral. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Hamman and was seconded by Mayor Henderson with the Board approving unanimously.

Mr. Scott asked to delay the next item as the Consultant who going to present the item had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item #6 – Overview and Discussion on the Federal and State Requirements to get Approval of a new Interchange on the Interstate System

Mr. Scott introduced Lawrence Massey with FDOT who presented the process to go through to get a new interchange on I-75 and some of the issues related to getting an Interchange between SR 78 and Tuckers Grade which included the lack of traffic issues with the upstream and downstream interchanges. He went into detail on the federal requirements and also discussed the letter that FDOT sent to Collier County for the last Interchange that was requested in this area. He also noted the current and future operations of the SR 78 and Tuckers Grade interchanges.

Following his presentation, there were three public speakers that spoke on this issue. The first speaker spoke in favor of the Del Prado Extension interchange for hurricane evacuation purposes and access to the City of Cape Coral. The second speaker made comments about implementing other network improvements that could be made in north Lee and south Charlotte to improve access to the existing interchanges. The third speaker talked about the process and that it is understood that it will not be easy but that we need

to stick to the plan and move forward. The last point was to ask the Board to direct staff to move forward with the Planning.

Following the public comment, the Board discussed the benefits to moving forward with the study which included starting with a hurricane evacuation study to help justify the need for an interchange. A motion was made by Mayor Sawicki to add a study of the hurricane evacuation study and to move up the Interchange Justification Report which was seconded by Commissioner Manning and approved unanimously by the MPO Board.

Agenda Item #5 - Review and Approval of the Congestion Management Element

Mr. Nick Lepp with Renaissance Planning Group made a presentation on the Congestion Management Process and the LRTP element that included how the network is operating and the evaluation of the various performance measures. He also went through the proposed congestion management projects and then opened it up to questions. The questions and discussion from the Board included a question as to why Fort Myers Beach was not shown as a congestion issue on the map, what is going on with the I-75 and Colonial interchange improvements which are currently funded through the right-of-way phase and how do we disperse across our network instead of just talking about the Colonial corridor. The discussion then went into the land use, economic development and needed revenues.

A motion to approve the document was made by Commissioner Mann and seconded by Commissioner Manning and was approved unanimously by the Board.

Agenda Item #7 – Review of the Draft 2040 Transportation Plan Executive Summary and Update on the Plan Elements

Mr. Scott gave an overview on the Executive Summary that is now out for public comment and noted that the comments that had been made in the last few weeks on the Del Prado Extension project, the Three Oaks Extension and the CR 951 Extension project. He noted what can be done to address the planning study for the Del Prado Extension with the intersection operational funds that could go to that project phase. He addressed the transit funding changes and how that is affecting the future transit operations. He touched on some of the traffic modeling issues in the future that include the growth in Lehigh Acres, adding bridges on parallel roads to improve circulation and roadway capacity, the addition of sector plan growth in Hendry County that will affect the SR 82 corridor, addressing future transportation funding and the projected impact of autonomous vehicles.

Chairman Flanders announced that there were public speakers on this item and opened it up for comments. The public speakers spoke in favor of moving up the Three Oaks Extension as it is a reliever for I-75, a benefit for hurricane evacuation and a reliever of other facilities. Comments were made about the Corkscrew Road project limits and asking why it broken at the Preserve, trying to get the I-75/Corkscrew Road project funded, speeding up the planning study and removing the CR 951 Extension. Comments were made on the Long Range Plan development process and making improvements the next time around. Additional comments were made on the I-75/Corkscrew Road phases and what is currently occurring in regards to the planning phase,

providing history on the CR 951 Extension and the proposed FGCU connection to it. Additional comments were made on the need for moving up the Three Oaks Extension, how much has been put into the project to date and the section that is currently built and the benefits of the project. There were further comments made on the removal of the CR 951 Extension based on the cost and impact of the project and bringing back through the Committee's for review and comment.

Following the public comments, Commissioner Manning made a motion to move up the Three Oaks Extension to the first five year (2021-2025) and remove the CR 951 Extension from the Needs Plan list and to show that when it comes back for adoption in December. This item was seconded by Mayor Henderson and the item was approved unanimously. The Board also discussed the funding issues, the fair share analysis and the Chairman raised bringing an agenda item back to the Board to discuss the status of the Transit Authority and the Transit Task Force.

Agenda Item #8- October MPOAC Meeting Update

Mr. Scott noted that Councilman Rick Williams attended the Governing Board meeting and then provided an overview of the items that were discussed at the meeting in Orlando that included the status of the federal bill, legislative policy positions, changing to the Unified Planning Work Program process, discussions on the performance measures, the legislative priorities and the Shared Use Network (SUN) trail program.

Other Business

Agenda Item #9- Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Additional comments included an announcement on the designation of the City of Cape Coral as a Bronze level from the League of American Bicyclists and an award to the News Press for their bike safety initiatives. Input was received on suggested improvements at the intersection of Summerlin and Colonial and there were comments made about what else needs to be done for transportation that includes land use, economic development and transit improvements.

Agenda Item #10 – Update on MPO Projects

Mr. Scott gave an update on the status of the TIGER project. He noted that the Corkscrew section will be the next to start.

Agenda Item #11- LeeTran Report

Steve Myers thanked FDOT for providing funding for the south County transfer facility and for trolley service in downtown Fort Myers area.

Agenda Item #12- FDOT Report

Chris Smith made the announcement that the SR 82 construction project was being revised from concrete to asphalt for most of the project but not including the Daniels/SR 82 intersection portion. He noted that this will free up funding for other projects.

Agenda Item #13-Announcements

Mayor Ruane brought up the Estero Boulevard project phasing and questions about doing construction at night. Mr. Randy Cerchie provided information on the project and issues with constructing at night.

Agenda Item #14-Information and Distribution Items

ADJOURNMENT