

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Steve Jansen, Chair.

The members introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

Members Present

April Russ	Lee County Port Authority
Bill Floyd	Lee County Emergency Management
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Doug Higgins	Lee County Emergency Medical Services
Levi McCollum	LeeTran
Marie Marro	Lee County DOT - Toll Facilities
Marinko Gadjinik	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Lt. Petracca	LCSO
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT, Chair

Those in attendance also included: Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Hunter Abel with LeeTran; Akram Hussein and Kayleen Mueller with American Consulting; and Justin Reck and Steve Walls with FDOT.

Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Item #1 - Approval of the Minutes from the February 8, 2017 Meeting

Bill Floyd made the motion to approve the minutes. Marinko Gadjinik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - Report on Preliminary MPO Priorities

Ron Gogoi presented the table of this year's proposed federal and state fund priorities for FY 2023. He stated that the source of these funds are Lee County's share of federal and state funds on the basis of being a Transportation Management Area (TMA). A TMA is a metropolitan area with a population greater than 200,000. He said the Lee County TMA receives an average of \$7.1 million per year.

Mr. Gogoi called out the funding request for Lee County Traffic Operations Center, and he stated that this is a reoccurring request, and that the federal funds will now be supplemented with \$250,000 in state funds annually. Mr. Gogoi also called out the I-75/Corkscrew Interchange Interim improvements. He asked FDOT if funding had already been found for this project. Mr. Walls said they have identified possible revenue sources. Mr. Walls added that nothing will happen until July 2017. He also stated it is the intention of the department to secure funding at that time. Mr. Gogoi also called out the ATMS Phase III project and noted that the design for the ATMS Phase II design has been completed, and

construction will occur soon. He then went to present the preliminary list of congestion management project priorities. These projects include both traffic operation improvements and transit projects. He stated that congestion management projects will be competing with bicycle pedestrian projects for SU box funds, and went on to show where the congestion management priorities will stand when combined with the bike ped priorities. There was a brief discussion about expediting the Challenger/Winkler Roundabout project using local funds as the use of federal dollars would increase the time frame for completing the project. Mr. Karakos asked if environmental assessment would be needed if the City stayed within the right of way. He subsequently clarified, stating that if the project is kept within the original footprint, there would be no environmental impacts since the roadway was already there. Mr. Gogoi said that if right of way has to be purchased the project would not be eligible for this category of funding. His understanding was that the City would work with developers for donation of any additional right of way. Whether an environmental phase is needed or not will have to be determined by FDOT. The final list of SU priorities in May will include a combined list of bicycle pedestrian and congestion management projects by priority order.

Agenda Item #3- Presentation of the I-75/Colonial Boulevard Interchange Modification Report

The Director of the Southwest Area FDOT office, Steve Walls, introduced this non-action item presentation of the I-75/Colonial Interchange Modification Project. He then introduced Justin Reck, the FDOT project manager for the I-75/Colonial modification. He also introduced Kayleen Mueller and Akram Hussein with American Consulting to continue the explanation of the project.

Ms. Mueller gave a power point presentation on the I-75/Colonial Interchange Modification Project that is funded in the work program. She introduced the project area limits adding they would include ramp improvements. She announced the purpose of the presentation is to brief the committee before the public hearing on May 16th at the Gulf Coast Church of Christ. She went over the existing conditions. She explained the need for the project was based on current and future traffic projections. Ms. Mueller stated the proposed improvements would contain three segments. The segments include a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI), a Diverging Diamond Intersection (DDI), and a Super Street. She further explained each segment.

Ms. Mueller went over the bike ped accommodations of this project which include eight foot sidewalks and seven foot buffered bicycle lanes. She then discussed the estimated costs and impacts. She said there are approximately 1.84 acres required for right of way which is the buffer strip in front of the golf course. She also stated the estimated project cost is \$45 million. This price doesn't include acquiring right of way. Ms. Mueller said the design is currently under way. The right of way acquisition doesn't begin until September of this year with construction set to begin in late 2019. She stated Justin Reck and Zachary Burch are the FDOT contacts for this project. Ms. Mueller concluded her project and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Jansen asked why the crossing was placed on the east side of Forum Boulevard from the slide showing the yellow line pedestrian crossing at the super street. Mr. Hussein explained the left turn will go. Mr. Jansen proposed an alternate scenario that enabled the pedestrians to cross at the same time as the left turn. Ms. Mueller and Mr. Akram said they would look into that suggestion.

There was a question as to how the tourists would deal with the right turn to make a left turn out of the Forum. Mr. Jansen mentioned that the Super Street treatment is common up North. Mr. Walls added it is more common up North than it is in Florida. Ms. Mueller added there will be a lot of signage. There was a brief discussion about the largest fire truck and if it's length could be accommodated. This continued with a discussion on U-turns. Mr. Jansen asked about impacts to the southeast corner of Six Mile Parkway and Colonial Boulevard. Ms. Mueller said there will be a gravity wall. She added they are not touching the shopping center. Mr. Jansen noted there are numerous pedestrians at this location. There was a discussion on how to deter pedestrians from crossing at mid-block. Mr. Walls suggested

education. A committee member expressed concern for traffic on Ortiz Avenue. Ms. Mueller said there are improvements planned for Ortiz Avenue and that the CFI would be completed and that the county project to widen Ortiz to 4 lanes will follow soon after. Mr. Higgins brought up the earlier fire truck discussion adding that the longest truck the City has is 45 feet. There was concern raised by another committee member that other area fire departments that would respond might have longer trucks. Another member said the City fire trucks are longer than the other trucks.

Ms. Mueller asked if there were any other questions. There were no further questions. She thanked the committee.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation of Winkler/Challenger Intersection Issues and Interim Solutions

Carl Karakos, City of Fort Myers Engineering, presented design ideas to fix the safety problems at the Winkler/Challenger intersection before a more permanent solution can be implemented. Stop signs were recommended as an interim improvement. One of the design fixes was shown in **Attachment A** of the agenda packet. A roundabout was viewed as the best future recommendation since traffic signals were not currently warranted. Mr. Karakos mentioned that he receives emails from a concerned citizen every time there are crashes at this intersection. Mr. Karakos also said Wink News is involved. He mentioned a quick fix that would cost around \$40,000. He said it would involve installing quick curb and signs. It would also require adding flex sticks, LED lights, and dashed lines. He said there was an audit done by Streets Alive. He would make it available to those interested. He concluded his presentation.

A committee member asked about students walking from nearby schools. Mr. Karakos said he didn't really see any. He added it was possibly due to the fact they are younger students that are dropped off by parents or ride the bus. Mr. Karakos discussed Winkler and the new developments that will make the traffic conditions worse. A committee member asked the time of day for the majority of the crashes. Mr. Raimondo said he would look it up. Another committee member added the markings are difficult to see at night. Mr. Karakos noted there is heavier traffic at night. A brief discussion ensued regarding the traffic in that area. Mr. Gogoi corrected a statement he made earlier about the type of environmental study FDOT will do as part of the project development phases for installing a roundabout at that location. He stated that Challenger and Winkler are City owned federal aid roadways and therefore have to go through a PD&E Study. Mr. Walls said they are trying to expedite the PD&E process. Mr. Raimondo explained the crash data he collected with regards to time of day.

Agenda Item #5 - LeeTran Bus Pullout and Shelter Program Update

Levi McCollum, LeeTran, handed out maps of completed bus shelters/pullouts including proposed bus pullouts. He focused on the section from Corkscrew to Coconut mentioning that Bob King with the MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee had inquired about it. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Karakos asked if there was bus service proposed to go by Alico Arena. Mr. McCollum said it is highlighted in the TDP. He added they are currently under a continuation budget which means that they will continue to provide existing services but are not seeking to expand. Mr. Gogoi asked if the Colonial bus stop on the north side from across the Social Security Building will be moved west of Veronica Shoemaker Parkway where FDOT has recently installed a bus landing pad as part of the Colonial shared use path project. Mr. McCollum said they are still researching. He said it will most likely be moved to the west side of Veronica Shoemaker. Mr. Jansen commented he was surprised there have been no serious injuries to pedestrians on account of the dangerous mid-block crossings encouraged by the operation of the existing bus stop on the north side of Colonial Boulevard. A brief discussion followed regarding this bus stop.

Old Business

Agenda Item #6 - Report on CTST Intersection Reviews

Mr. Jansen presented the results of intersection reviews that were conducted by the Lee County CTST this year. He said in January they looked at Del Prado and SE 2nd Street. The City said they will not make any changes at this time. He added in February they looked at the US 41 and Palm Drive intersection. He added the day they were there it was raining so there were few pedestrians. Mr. Jansen commented that many people didn't press the button for the signal. A discussion followed with suggestions on how to get people to use the signal. Mr. Jansen said a final review is being compiled. He continued, stating in March they met at the Metro and Colonial intersection. He said there are issues with conflicts. He would like to see crosswalks enhanced with high intensity crosswalk markings. He listed several other safety suggestions they sent to FDOT. He concluded his presentation and asked for questions. Mr. Gogoi said these are short term solutions but the CFI is a long term solution.

Mr. Gogoi continued the discussion with candidate projects for safety improvements. He announced that District One is accepting applications for highway safety program funds. He said there is \$100 million for the entire state. He added the earliest the funding is available is 2020. He continued that they typically like to see all of the applications and requests by the end of May. He asked Mr. Jansen if he would like to submit a list of projects on behalf of the CTST. Mr. Jansen said that LCDOT will be putting something together. Mr. Walls said there is a time frame. Mr. Raimondo asked if it is better to send them through the MPO or the local jurisdictions. Mr. Walls said he likes structure which means going through the MPO. Mr. Gogoi then commented on who would be submitting to the MPO from the local jurisdictions. Mr. Raimondo said the word needs to be spread so there is a better list.

Agenda Item #7 - Local and MPO Reports on Traffic Operations Projects

Marinko Gadjinik with the City of Fort Myers discussed fencing for the proposed hotel in the Downtown Fort Myers River District next to the Convention Center. He said Mr. Karakos had information on the Hanson extension that will begin soon. Mr. Gadjinik also mentioned the McGregor utility project that has already started. He said there will be no closures. Mr. Jansen mentioned a sidewalk section along McGregor that was closed. Mr. Gadjinik said the one at the corner of Hill and McGregor is closed. Mr. Jansen mentioned another sidewalk location that was closed. Mr. Gadjinik said they are attempting to minimize the closures.

LeeTran had nothing further to report.

Lee County Sheriff's Office had nothing to report.

April Russ with Lee County Port Authority said that traffic will be increasing due to the Publix opening soon. She said the Fuel Farm roadway will need reconstruction soon due to the increased construction traffic. She added that project will have little impact on anyone not going to the north side of the airport. Mr. Jansen said there will be about 500 feet of roadway added to the merge lane on Daniels just north/east of Gateway.

Mr. Walls with FDOT said he had nothing further to report. He thanked the committee. Mr. Walls added he had business cards if anyone needed more information.

Mr. Jansen provided an update of LCDOT projects. The traffic signal at San Carlos and Beachwalk is under construction and should be completed in the next several months. A signal at Corkscrew and Bellaterra is about ready to go to contract. A signal at Ben Hill and Grandezza is in design. A signal at Corkscrew and Lowes is in the preliminary stages of design. ATMS Phase II project design is complete and the bid will be let after July 1st. The Caloosahatchee Bridge IMS repair is wrapping up.

They are still waiting for FDOT'S ITS consultant to get SunGuide communicating properly. The first phase of the Estero Boulevard Improvements is complete. The Homestead widening in Lehigh Acres will be under construction this month.

A committee member asked if there will be any improvements at the intersection of Olympia Pointe and Lee Boulevard. Mr. Jansen said the City of Fort Myers and Olympia Pointe would have to get together and decide.

Another committee member said they took a phone call at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from a North Fort Myers resident asking when there will be a light at Bayshore Road and Nalle Road. Mr. Jansen said FDOT did a recent study and it did not meet warrants for a full signal. Ms. Russ asked if there was a map for Lee County of the hotspots. She felt this would be helpful in determining the area most likely for incidents. She said then it could be stressed that drivers should use caution in those areas, even if it was just pushed towards commercial drivers. Mr. Jansen said he did compile a list of where there were the most crashes. He said it was also where the most cars were. He said motorists should drive carefully all the time. Mr. Raimondo commented on the free Signal Four Analytics software. He said it will show hotspots as current as 2015/2016. A discussion followed on the use and accuracy of Signal Four data. Mr. Karakos asked if the committee used to have representation from the local police departments. Mr. Jansen said they are invited. Mr. Raimondo said he spoke with Cape PD and they would try to make it. He added Fort Myers PD doesn't have anyone on traffic. There was a short discussion on whether Fort Myers PD had a traffic unit and who was on it. Mr. Raimondo recommended that Mr. Karakos contact Lt. Jay Rodriguez to attend or send a representative. Mr. Karakos said the reason he was asking is because the City is taking over patrolling for Pelican Preserve. He wanted to make sure the streets and signs are compatible with MUTCD standards so legitimate tickets can be written. Mr. Karakos said he already went through with an expert on signs and discovered numerous problems that must be changed. He would also like to go through with law enforcement to see what they recommend. There was a brief discussion about the signage. Mr. Raimondo commented on the process the MPO follows to ask for local law enforcement representatives. He also explained which local police departments he doesn't ask. There was a brief discussion that followed regarding this topic.

Mr. Gogoi showed a few slides to provide MPO project update on the Town of Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan. He also shared some conceptual design ideas from the Metro Parkway widening project and mentioned that the BPC at its last meeting had asked staff to coordinate with the project manager to provide bicycle boxes at the intersection of Metro Parkway and Winkler Avenue. Mr. Raimondo announced the roundabout PSA is being aired. He said he also has brochures on roundabouts. Mr. Walls asked if the MPO had the video link. Mr. Raimondo said they do. The discussion continued on roundabout videos from other states. Mr. Gogoi reported that the BPC AT ITS March meeting picked the Daniels Parkway resurfacing project from west of I 75 to the Rest Area for implementing bicycle boxes at the intersection of Daniels and Teeline. He reported that he received a phone call from Bartow that confirmed that the resurfacing project will be now extended to Teeline Avenue, and that FDOT is still evaluating the proposed bicycle boxes at the 4 legs of that intersection. He showed a diagram of standard and Two Stage Bicycle Queue Boxes, and stated that it seems more practical to implement the Two Stage Bicycle Queue Boxes at all 4 legs.

Other Business

Agenda Item #8 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments as no members of the public were present.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

FDOT had nothing further to report.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Jansen said if anyone had topics, they should email Mr. Gogoi.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. McCollum handed out three LeeTran maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
