

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, January 5, 2017

City of Cape Coral Public Works Building

815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990

3:00 p.m.



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Rick Anglickis, Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum was present. Those in attendance included CAC committee members Carie Call, Bev Larson, Tony Cardinale, Albert O'Donnell, Marion Briggs, Rick Anglickis, Phillip Boller, Sam Fisher, Edward Blot, John Karcher, Ron Talone, Ann Pierce, Ted Tryka, Ty Symroski, Robert King, and Scott Gilbertson; City of Cape Coral Councilmember Rick Williams; Lee MPO staff Don Scott, Johnny Limbaugh, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; D'Juan Harris with FDOT; and Levi McCollum with LeeTran.

Mr. Anglickis announced the new member from Bonita Springs, Jim Wurster. Mr. Wurster was not in attendance.

Mr. Anglickis introduced and welcomed a visiting past member, Rick Williams, to the Committee. Mr. Williams is the new Chair of the MPO Board.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

Phillip Boller requested to make an amendment to add an "Old Business" section to future meeting agendas and he asked to speak on old business at that time or some point in the meeting. Mr. Anglickis said Mr. Boller could speak at that time. Mr. Boller requested a motion to be made that the McGregor and US 41 projects not be done concurrently. John Karcher stated this concern was also expressed at the BPC meeting. D'Juan Harris said the McGregor project is behind schedule. Ron Gogoi said it is his understanding that they are looking into slowing down the US 41 project so they are not at the same time. Mr. Harris added that the schedules have not been set for the US 41 project. Ann Pierce said she just spoke with David Jones and the McGregor project is behind schedule, they are pushing to start within a month, and the project will take 18 months. Mr. Jones also told Ms. Pierce the schedule has not been set for the US 41 project but they are looking at July 2018 at the earliest. Mr. Boller then asked what the opinion of the committee was and if they felt a motion should be made that the projects should not be done concurrently. Mr. Gogoi stated the projects will not be done concurrently and there is no need for a motion. There was some discussion as to the length of the projects and proposed start dates. Johnny Limbaugh said the McGregor project was just awarded to his new employer, Wright Construction, but he did not know what the new start date was.

Ty Symroski was willing to offer a resolution that would be provided to both project teams indicating the construction activity of both projects needs to be coordinated to avoid conflicts. A second was made by Phillip Boller. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Anglickis asked if that was a resolution Mr. Gogoi could draft. Mr. Gogoi asked for clarification on the motion. Mr. Gogoi determined it was to be written as a recommendation of the CAC to the MPO Board. Carie Call asked for Mr. Gogoi to be careful with the wording so that it promotes positive coordination between FDOT, the City, and the MPO. Mr. Anglickis asked Mr. Gogoi to send a draft to the CAC Committee for approval before presentation to the MPO Board. Mr. Gogoi suggested Ms. Call create a draft. Mr. Gogoi said a simple resolution could be composed that indicates awareness

of the coordination between the City of Fort Myers and FDOT. Mr. Harris said both projects are urgent, there will be overlap, and it cannot be avoided. Mr. Anglickis asked the parameters of the McGregor project. Mr. Harris replied it is from Colonial to Poinciana.

Ms. Pierce continued the US 41 discussion with concerns about the quality of the road diet as a viable test. Her biggest concern is that coordination is just between FDOT and the City of Fort Myers and does not include the County. She believes this will be a perfect opportunity to invite the County in with LeeTran for marketing and to help alleviate some of the commuter traffic. Mr. Gogoi said he agreed with Ms. Pierce and one of the lanes could be used for transit but that is not going to happen. Ms. Pierce asked if it makes sense for FDOT to complete construction and if the road diet is a success to reconfigure the road. She also questioned the possibility of population growth if North Fort Myers redevelops and the need to achieve a mode shift. Mr. Harris clarified that the road diet came about at the request of the City of Fort Myers. He continued that once the road diet is completed, FDOT's role is to do modeling to see if it works. Ms. Pierce said that when there is a fixed capacity road, the only way to dramatically increase capacity, beyond buying right of way and demolishing businesses, is with mass transit. For this reason, Ms. Pierce is questioning why transit is not part of this mix from the beginning. Mr. Gogoi said this was brought up at previous meetings but it is not part of their plan. Mr. Symroski said that when the project managers know there will be an increased amount of congestion due to construction, it would be an opportune time to increase mass transit ridership. Mr. Gogoi said he has already communicated to FDOT and the project managers that the way the road diet is planned out will not achieve the true purpose of the test. Ms. Call said she feels they are constantly bringing up transit, sidewalks, and other modes of transportation. Albert O'Donnell pointed out the contrary view by saying that if the density of Fort Myers, the road network, and the possibility of increasing transit are considered, the needle may not move at all. He believes Uber share ride and driverless cars are far more likely to change road congestion. He added that the buses may increase congestion unless bus pullouts are added. Marion Briggs said that the fair and prudent thing to do would be to educate the public on the road diet. She continued that this will cause people to use other avenues to get around the congestion. Mr. Gogoi said the limits of the road diet, from Canal to Victoria, are too small for it to work.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the November 3, 2016 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the November 3rd Meeting Summary. There were no corrections suggested.

A motion to approve the November 3rd Meeting Summary was made by Robert King. Edward Blot seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Election of Officers for 2017

Mr. Anglickis introduced this item to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair for 2017.

Consistent with the CAC bylaws, a Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. Any voting member or his or her alternate may nominate another voting member to be an officer. The current voting members of the CAC who are eligible to serve as officers were listed on the roster **attached** to the agenda packet.

Nominees should be primary members who attend meetings on a regular basis. Any member who would be unable to fulfill the duties of an officer should so state before nominations are taken, or notify the Chair before the meeting if unable to attend. Any alternate member who attends meetings regularly who would be willing to serve as an officer may bring a letter to the meeting from his or her agency's

director, appointing him or her as the agency's primary CAC representative (in which case a new alternate should also be appointed at the same time).

Albert O'Donnell made a motion to nominate Rick Anglickis as Chair. The motion carried with a unanimous second. Mr. Anglickis accepted.

Ty Symroski nominated Albert O'Donnell as Vice-Chair. Carie Call seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. O'Donnell accepted.

Carie Call was chosen as a BPCC alternate.

Agenda Item #4 - Review and Approval of Proposed Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ron Gogoi introduced the agenda item to review and approve the proposed amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will be voted on at the January 20, 2017 MPO Board meeting.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to address changes in project time frames and to update project schedules consistent with the latest CIP and Work Program schedules. The proposed revisions include the following:

- Move up the Construction phase for the SR 31 from SR 78 to the Charlotte County line project to be consistent with the current proposed project time frames for this Developer funded segment.
- Add the SR 31 from SR 80 to SR 78 project to allow the Wilson Pigott bridge replacement/widening project to be eligible for potential grant funding.
- Update the Existing plus Committed (E+C) to match the latest Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and Work Program schedules.

Attached to the agenda packets were the project tables in underline and strike through format illustrating the proposed revisions. An additional E+C sheet was handed out at the meeting and the date for the Existing plus Committed table was corrected from 2020 to 2022.

A motion to approve the agenda item was made by Ron Talone and seconded by Phillip Boller. The motion had no objections and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program

Johnny Limbaugh introduced the agenda item to review and approve the amendments to the FY 16/17 and FY 17/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add tasks and to adjust funding.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to add new task descriptions to cover staff time and make funding revisions. The task changes include adding the unexpended funds for the Round-a-bout study from last year's budget to this year's budget, adding funding for the MPO Attorney services, and adding task language for the scoping of the upcoming Bicycle Pedestrian Masterplans in Estero and Sanibel. Attached to the agenda packet are the underline and strike through changes to the task sheets for these amendments.

Carie Call asked if the Committee will be able to see the final report for the Lee County Roundabout Study. Mr. Limbaugh said the report is under review and an update will be given in Agenda Item #7 – Update on MPO Projects.

Carie Call made a motion to approve the agenda item and it was seconded by Scott Gilbertson. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Ann Pierce asked what the other sheets included as attachments were. Mr. Limbaugh said the attachments included the budget table and the work products associated with the budget table.

Marion Briggs asked where the money was coming from to revise the budget. Mr. Limbaugh responded that new money was not added and the funds were shifted from other tasks in the budget. He explained that it was a budget realignment.

Ann Pierce asked specifically why Multi-Purpose Pathway Planning was included in the attachment. Mr. Limbaugh responded the Village of Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Plan and Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Plan were added. He continued that those scopes of services need to be written up, since both communities want to advance them, to include staff hours expended on preparation.

Tony Cardinale noted a discrepancy in the strike through total column and it will be corrected.

Agenda Item #6 - +Discussion on Developing Potential Projects for Proposed Federal Infrastructure Bill

Johnny Limbaugh introduced this agenda item to discuss developing a list of potential projects in preparation for a Federal Infrastructure Bill. Mr. Scott arrived midway through the presentation and took over.

This item is a follow up to the discussion at the November MPO Board meeting regarding the possibility of a federal stimulus funding program under the new administration and how to best position ourselves for possible funding. Staff went back and researched the requirements that were issued the last time and though there were several iterations of project lists before the final one, listed below are the minimum requirements that guided the process for determining eligible projects:

- Is the NEPA process complete for the project
- Can the project qualify for a Categorical Exclusion
- Can the project be construction ready within 120 days
- Is the project on a Federal Aid eligible roadway
- Has design been completed for the project
- Does the project fit within the existing right-of-way
- Is the local agency LAP certified
- Is the project in the TIP, STIP and/or LRTP

Back in the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, the MPO and FDOT staff developed a list of potential projects that ended up going through three iterations and was then combined into one final list that was prioritized and approved by the MPO Board prior to submittal to FDOT. The project list included capacity, bridge, intersection, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and resurfacing/maintenance projects. Our area ended up receiving about \$68 million in stimulus funds and the projects that were funded are attached. Mr. Scott explained that if these projects are funded through stimulus money and they were already funded in the work program, those funds could be used for other projects. He said this was also presented to the TAC this morning and he will be dealing with the local jurisdictions to see which projects they would like to submit.

Mr. Anglickis said that last time they were well prepared with a list of projects that were ready to fund. Mr. Scott agreed and said there were projects that were already designed, not in the work program, and able to be funded. Mr. Anglickis asked if there were many projects like that this time around and Mr. Scott responded there were not. Mr. Scott added he brought the topic up in hopes there may be projects he is not thinking of that could be added. Mr. Anglickis said there may be two classifications, one that could be started immediately and one that could be started in the next two years. Mr. Scott recalled a project with the Matlacha Bridge but it didn't show up on the list. Mr. O'Donnell thought it was moved when the Feds took other items. Mr. O'Donnell asked why SR 31 is not on the list. Mr. Scott replied that the list he produced is an example conversation starter and the final list submitted shouldn't be too long. There was a brief discussion that followed on the feasibility of completing the PD&Es and other preparations on some larger projects to prepare for funding. Mr. Scott said the process may be simpler and the requirements may not be as stringent this time.

Ron Talone asked about adding the roundabout study's priority intersections and if funding could be added for those. Mr. Scott said yes. Mr. Gogoi said the Sanibel project was not ready but Colonial was. Mr. Scott said the list could be expanded. Mr. Gogoi said it could include Gunnery which is currently in review to see if it qualifies for highway safety funding but it might still require a NEPA phase. A brief discussion followed regarding the Winkler and Challenger projects.

Mr. Gogoi said we would have a better picture when the criteria come out. Mr. O'Donnell said then it would be too late. He suggested the MPOs should get together and state that if something is already funded on the list, it should be accepted. Mr. Scott stated the only problem with that is the MPOs are all competing.

Edward Blot commented that bridge projects are huge nationally according to the ASCE. Mr. Scott responded that there are several bridge projects he would include if he thought the environmental issues could be addressed as part of the development.

Ann Pierce asked if the list included projects submitted by the County and Mr. Scott said it did not, but it would.

Ty Symroski suggested infrastructure money might be more readily awarded to a project or road network that facilitates the economy. Ann Pierce commented that if this is the case, the Tice area drainage issue should be addressed. Mr. Anglickis added that the Tice project always seems to be on the horizon but never on a list. Ms. Pierce believes it is because the project is so big. Mr. Scott said the problem is that the project has not been designed.

Marion Briggs suggested communication with Governor Scott since he seems to have an inroad with President elect Trump. Mr. Scott said that communication would go through FDOT first. Mr. Gogoi suggested they would also have to speak with the Transportation Secretary elect.

Mr. Boller commented that all the bridges have been inspected and ranked and based on those lists we could determine which bridges need to be replaced.

Mr. Anglickis suggested the creation of a separate list entitled "Major Infrastructure" that would include the design of major projects, like the drainage system in Tice, and bridges. Mr. Scott reminded the Committee that the last time around they had three lists that were consolidated into one large list at the end but there was a separate design list at the beginning as described.

Mr. Blot continued with the comment Mr. Symroski made earlier about proposing projects that would enhance the economy like right of way and/or rail projects to bring products down from Tampa. Mr. O'Donnell suggested the renovation of the rail line.

Mr. Scott stated that if it meets the other requirements, resurfacing floats to the top of the project list.

Mr. Symroski commented that increased congestion will be an impediment to our economy.

There was a brief discussion that followed regarding the rail lines and purchasing the right of way to increase economic development and cooperation between counties. The studies have already been done on this project, including depot sites, and the land in Lee County is there.

Mr. Anglickis believes the Infrastructure Bill will happen fast and we should be prepared. Mr. Scott said funding was discussed at a meeting in Atlanta and the topic of public-private partnership was brought up as a possible funding source since no one is sure where the money to fund this will come from.

Ty Symroski suggested creating a matrix so projects can be ranked against criteria to formulate a list.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on MPO Projects

Don Scott provided an update on the current MPO projects and studies. TIGER grant items are substantially complete with punch list items remaining on Daniels from Six Mile to I 75. The final Wayfinding Plan reflecting/comments are being submitted this week and then there will be meetings with the jurisdictions for a resolution from each. Mr. Scott felt the project went smoothly and Mr. Limbaugh did an excellent job. The Lee County MPO is one of the few MPOs that has done a design/build project. Mr. O'Donnell asked if this was the last one the MPO will ever do. Mr. Scott responded that if the MPO could get another TIGER grant they would do it. These projects are unique in that they provide funds quickly to complete impact projects.

The report is being finalized for the Roundabout Study. An aerial video of the McGregor/Colonial intersection will be taken by drones in February. There will also be a presentation to the Board in February. Some of these projects may be eligible for Infrastructure funding and could be placed on the list discussed earlier.

The Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plan report is almost complete. Presentations will be scheduled when the report is finalized.

Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan is in data collection and crash analysis. There will be a project advisory committee meeting later this month, January 31st, followed by a public involvement meeting on February 15th.

Sanibel and Estero Bike Ped Master Plans will be scoped and funding options researched.

Ann Pierce asked about the bike ped count equipment. Mr. Scott said the MPO would like portable equipment but that they were surprised by the lack of accuracy during the review process. Ms. Pierce asked Mr. Scott to communicate to City Council or the MPO Board that the MPO will not be purchasing equipment. Mr. Scott also suggested an intern or volunteer to search for and gather the necessary data. Ms. Pierce asked Mr. Scott to communicate this need to the Board.

Other Business

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

Mr. Williams commented on the depth of the discussions, knowledge base, and involvement at the CAC meetings. He hoped the CAC knew that the MPO pays attention to what they say and thanked them all.

Mr. Scott announced that Mr. Williams is the new Chair of the MPO Board beginning in February.

Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Report

Levi McCollum with LeeTran reported they had 261,000 passenger trips in November 2016 which is a 3% decrease from November 2015. They have started their routes 500 and 505 for downtown Fort

Myers. Since they started these routes in November, they've had roughly 11,000 passenger trips. They have reconfigured route 80 so that it now services Edison Mall. Ms. Pierce asked how the ridership has been for routes 500 and 505 and Mr. McCollum responded that the ridership has increased each year. Mr. O'Donnell asked the status of the bus pullout/shelter project and Mr. Gogoi responded that it is funded. Mr. McCollum stated the downtown trolley had 1,893 trips in November 2015 and 2,333 trips in November 2016. This was an increase of 23%. Ms. Pierce did not feel that Uber and autonomous vehicles conflict with transit as they address the first mile/last mile of trips. Ms. Pierce felt people would be more likely to use transit if it had a more dependable and frequent schedule. Mr. O'Donnell believes people who regularly travel to Fort Myers should move to Fort Myers. A brief discussion regarding housing costs and transit costs followed. Mr. Anglickis reminded Ms. Pierce to contact Steve Myers with LeeTran and ask if he would attend the next meeting to answer her questions.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT Report

D'Juan Harris with FDOT had no report.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

Mr. Anglickis announced that Johnny Limbaugh will be leaving the Lee County MPO. Mr. Scott said Mr. Limbaugh's last day is January 6th, 2017 but he will continue to help with the TIGER project through completion. Mr. Limbaugh has taken a position with Wright Construction. Mr. Anglickis was going to ask the Committee to give Mr. Limbaugh a standing ovation but Mr. Limbaugh already left.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Steve Myers from LeeTran was suggested as a speaker. Another requested topic was to show Ms. Pierce's presentation on separated bike lanes. Ms. Pierce suggested the Committee should discuss the CAC and its' ability to give comments and opinions on bike/ped issues. Mr. Gogoi stated the CAC, TAC, and BPCC are three independent committees. A short discussion followed on the events that led up to this topic.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items were attached to the packet with the exception of the E+C handout and the Potential Projects sheet.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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