

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, March 2, 2017

City of Cape Coral Public Works Building

815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990

3:00 p.m.



Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was called to order by Scott Gilbertson, temporary Chair. Citizen Advisory Committee Chair Rick Anglickis and Vice-Chair Al O'Donnell were both absent. Carie Call made the motion for Scott Gilbertson to be temporary Chair and Marion Briggs made the second. There were no objections and it passed unanimously.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included CAC committee members Carie Call, Bev Larson, Marion Briggs, Bill Johnson Jr., Patty Whitehead, Edward Blot, John Karcher, Ron Talone, Randy Krise, Jim Wurster, Ted Tryka, Ty Symroski, Robert King, and Scott Gilbertson; Lee MPO staff Ron Gogoi and Calandra Barraco; D'Juan Harris with FDOT; and Levi McCollum and Hunter Abel with LeeTran.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda as there were no members of the public present.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran Report. He announced that ridership was up 5% in January 2017 over January 2016. He also handed out a "Beach Park and Ride Groundbreaking" flyer for the March 6, 2017 event.

Ty Symroski asked why ridership was up. Mr. McCollum answered that January 2017 included a couple extra days of ridership than the previous year.

Robert King asked if LeeTran is planning bus pullouts in the Estero area. Mr. McCollum said they are but construction and funding are constraints to implementation. Mr. King asked for a list of those planned locations. Mr. McCollum said he would bring them to the next meeting.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

D'Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT Report. He noted several changes to the presentation that David Jones with FDOT had given previously. The update on the Status Changes of the project on US 41 from Winkler Ave. to SR 82 [FPN – 431313-1] in Fort Myers is as follows. FDOT will continue coordination with the City of Fort Myers to do a PD&E on this corridor in order to continue to assess the applicability of a road diet on the corridor. The list of notable changes from the first discussion that David Jones gave at the November TAC/CAC meeting are listed below:

- Removing the signal at Oakley Avenue and installing a new one at Jefferson. This is based on the left turning traffic at Winkler. This will allow more storage for vehicles and will provide a way for fire trucks to turn out of Jefferson.

- No longer reconstructing the driveways – this will be done in a subsequent project that comes out of the PD&E
- Full lighting replacement will be done in the following project – in current project we will be retrofitting the existing lights with LEDs and adding supplemental lighting at crosswalks
- Utility Work by Highway Contractors Agreement (UWHCA) with the City of Fort Myers will no longer be done as a part of this project
- Pavement design will be done to extend pavement life for 8 years

Mr. King asked about the interchange at I-75 and Corkscrew Road and when the interim improvements were scheduled to begin. Mr. Harris wasn't sure but he said he would check with SIS administration.

Randy Krise asked if there was a US 41 update. Mr. Harris said it is still in flux. Mr. Krise said McGregor was supposed to start immediately and asked who was in charge of the US 41 project. Mr. Harris said FDOT is heading the US 41 project.

Old Business

Ed Blot asked if Don Scott will share infrastructure funding updates and if a priority list is still being worked on. Ron Gogoi said the list is in the works but there is uncertainty as to funding. Mr. Gogoi said they did look through all the information that Mr. Blot sent. Mr. Symroski suggested that they should anticipate the criteria and have projects ranked. Mr. Gogoi said there is a potential list and the main criteria might be that the project is production ready. He also said there is a list of unfunded projects that have been regularly submitted to FDOT every year. Mr. Blot asked if Governor Scott indicated there was funding. Carie Call said there hasn't been anything mentioned yet.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the February 2, 2017 Meeting Summary

Randy Krise made a motion to approve the minutes. Bev Larson seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Review and Approval of Preliminary Bicycle/Pedestrian and Congestion Management Priorities

Ron Gogoi introduced this agenda item to review and approve the preliminary bicycle pedestrian and congestion management priorities that were attached to the agenda packet. He said this was an information only item and it will not be going before the MPO Board. He presented a power point slide show and reviewed the funding boxes. He explained the differences between the funding boxes as well.

Mr. Gogoi explained that FDOT has requested preliminary lists of priority projects by funding categories to be submitted by March 17th. The final list of these MPO annual priorities will be brought before the TAC and CAC at the June meetings for recommendation before the MPO Board adopts them to meet FDOT's July 1st deadline.

Attachments A and B of the agenda packet included the preliminary bicycle pedestrian priorities for SUN Trail and TA funds respectively. **Attachment C** included the preliminary bicycle pedestrian priorities for SU 'box' funds. There are no new bicycle pedestrian projects for TA and SU funds this year and all projects in the individual lists include the unfunded priorities from last year. For SUN Trail funds the new projects are the Kismet Parkway Multi Use Trail from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 24th Avenue and the FPL Easement Multi Use Trail Feasibility Study in Bonita Springs. There may be

additional projects, as these are discussed through the Committees and the local agencies, for the final list of priorities that are adopted in June. A separate list of preliminary congestion management priorities for federal SU 'box' funds are included in **Attachment D** of the agenda packet. Congestion management projects include both traffic operation improvements and transit projects. There are two new and two previously included congestion management projects on the list and they will compete with the bicycle pedestrian projects for SU funds. The final list of SU priorities in June will include a combined list of bicycle pedestrian and congestion management projects by priority order. A separate list of Regional Enhancement Priorities using FDOT "Any Area" TA funds will be developed and brought to the TAC and CAC meetings.

Carie Call asked Mr. Gogoi to explain what a box fund was. Mr. Gogoi said that it is Lee MPO's allocation of Federal dollars. He added that it is money Lee MPO receives because the population of Lee County is over 200,000. John Karcher asked about limitations. Mr. Gogoi said it is about closing gaps. Mr. Karcher asked if it is a safety measure. Mr. Gogoi said it is not.

Jim Wurster asked about how to get a sidewalk application on the list. Mr. Gogoi said the good candidates are on the list. He also spoke with Matt Feeney. Mr. Gogoi said some municipalities would like the funding now and since these funds take five or six years, they will use local funds if they need a project done sooner. Mr. Wurster asked if this was done in accordance with the TAP. Mr. Gogoi said yes. Mr. Gilbertson asked if the funding was for filling in gaps on Veteran's shared use pathway. Mr. Gogoi said yes along the frontage road.

Mr. Krise asked Mr. Gogoi to find out about the status of the Littleton/Kismet interlocal agreement to take out the curb. Mr. Gogoi said he would.

Mr. Symroski asked if the costs were actual because he thought they seemed high. Mr. Gogoi said the costs are just estimates.

Mr. Gilbertson asked if the through lanes would just be shifted over. Mr. Gogoi said they are re-striping and increasing pavement.

Agenda Item #6 - *Unified Planning Work Program Amendments to Add the Forms and

Certification

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to approve the amendments to the existing FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program to move funding for the start of an update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and to update the certification and assurance forms.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to move \$33,000 in funding from Task 4.5 Lee County Complete Streets Initiative to Task 4.4 Administrative and Planning Consultant Services for the beginning of an update to the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (**attached** underline and strike through changes were included in the agenda packet). Also, the Joint Certification Statement, the Debarment and Suspension Certification, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization and the Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement forms are being updated for the new year and those were **attached** to the agenda packet.

An agenda item 6E was added and it entails adding \$71,803 to the FY 2017/2018 UPWP that will be dispersed by the MPOAC to the MPOs based on the population formula. The Lee County MPO is allocating approximately \$20,000 to updating the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and the remaining \$50,000+ to LRTP updates.

Patty Whitehead asked what PL stood for. Mr. Gogoi said it is planning funds.

Mr. Symroski made the motion to approve this agenda item. Mr. Talone seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - +Update on the Southwest Coast Regional Trail Alignments in Lee County

Ron Gogoi introduced the item. He provided updates on all developments leading to the FGTS Plan Update, and the Southwest Coast Regional Trail Alignments in Lee County.

There have been a lot of recent developments on the Florida Greenways and Trail Plan (FGTS) and also the Southwest Coast Connector (SW2C) in Lee County. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) in Tallahassee is currently updating its FGTS Plan, the Land Trail Opportunity Map, and Priority Map.

As part of the OGT led Priority Trail Update, the MPO has been working with OGT staff at considering an east west regional trail that will connect Fort Myers to West Palm Beach possibly using corridors already identified in the Land Trail Opportunity Map. An east west regional trail provides us with an opportunity to include another corridor on the SUN Trail Network thus allowing us to tap into potential SUN Trail funding. An east west connection linking the east and west coast in South Florida has become critical with the River of Grass Greenway now becoming a non – starter and with no other coast to coast connections south of the Orlando area. The BPCC's recommendation from its February 28th meeting was reported to the TAC this morning and they were asked to weigh in regarding the current two options on the table.

As part of the Priority Trail Update, the MPO staff is also pursuing the elevation of the Coastal Loop alignment (**Attachment A**) from a Land Trail Opportunity Corridor to a Priority Trail Corridor. This concept was vetted and approved by the BPCC at its December 20th meeting. The MPO has now endorsed the concept at its February 17th meeting and adopted a resolution urging the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to include the alignment in the Priority Trail Map (See adopted Resolution in **Attachment B**). The Coastal Loop will provide a more leisurely coastal detour to the SW2C.

Also, the MPO executive Committee adopted a Resolution (**Attachment C**) in support of a Feasibility Study that will evaluate (1) existing bicycle pedestrian facilities on the SW2C alignment from the proposed extension of JYLP Trail to Littleton Road (2) connections between Downtown Fort Myers to SW2C and (3) pedestrian bridge options related to the Caloosahatchee Bridge connecting North Fort Myers and Downtown Fort Myers. This concept was also vetted and approved at the December 20th BPCC meeting. Subsequently, staff has submitted an Appropriation Project Request to the Florida Legislature for \$1.90 million to conduct the feasibility study.

Finally, Mr. Gogoi reported on the Village of Estero and City of Bonita Springs Inter-coordination meeting that was held the morning of February 28th to discuss construction and funding options of the trail in their area.

Marion Briggs asked if Collier County had taken out the River of Grass Greenway. Mr. Gogoi said they did.

Patty Whitehead said the SR 80 trail could link to the Okeechobee trail and benefit Lee County. Mr. Gogoi said they would use discretionary dollars and work with Hendry County. Ms. Whitehead asked Mr. Gogoi to explain the south route. He said it runs along the Abel Canal in Lehigh Acres.

Ms. Whitehead mentioned the recent meeting in Estero and if the rail line plays in to this. Mr. Gogoi said it does and they are trying to secure funds.

Mr. Krise asked who would pay for the feasibility study for the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Mr. Gogoi said it would be the Florida Legislature through sponsorship of Representative Caldwell and Senator Benacquisto. He said Bonita also submitted its own request for funding a US 41/Bonita Beach Road intersection quadrant project.

Temporary Chair Gilbertson asked if there was a motion needed. Ms. Whitehead said she would make a motion for the SR 80 option but she would like to know the cost difference between the two. Mr. Gogoi said he would like to see the Lee County portion extended to Pine Island to make the whole segment a corridor. Ms. Briggs made a second but Mr. Gilbertson said he would like to see values associated with the options. Mr. Symroski agreed and said he wasn't prepared to choose without dollar values. The discussion continued as to what type of motion to make and the original motion was amended by Mr. Symroski to state the Citizen Advisory Committee would like to continue to evaluate both alternatives.

Mr. Symroski made the motion to continue to evaluate both alternatives. Bev Larson seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Discussion on Updating the Regional Maps and TRIP Priorities

Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to discuss the updating of the Regional Maps and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities. The Lee and Collier MPO's are seeking to update the Regional Roadway and Pathway maps as well as update the TRIP priorities out to the year 2022/2023 (consistent with other project priority requests for submittal this year). Draft changes were taken through the Joint Committees back in October but the maps were not approved due to a lack of a quorum by the Collier MPO and issues related to the River of Grass Greenway. The River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) has been removed. **Attached** to the agenda packet was the previously adopted TRIP priority list and the regional roadway map for the Committee's information and discussion on adding projects that are consistent with the requirements (regional facility, included within a jurisdiction's CIP, match of 50% or more etc.). Mr. Gogoi said this agenda item will be back again soon for recommendation and approval.

Ms. Whitehead asked about the segment from US 41 to Livingston. Mr. Gogoi clarified it is in Collier County and it will help alleviate congestion. Ms. Whitehead asked where it is located. Mr. Gogoi said it is parallel to Bonita Beach Road.

Mr. Gogoi said the Technical Advisory Committee met earlier in the day and identified two more projects. He also said Collier will add more and LeeTran will add bus amenities. The final list will be brought for approval.

Mr. Gilbertson said there are pieces of old Metro and Hanson that should be erased. Mr. Gogoi said the state list hasn't been updated to include that section. Mr. Symroski said there is also a dirt road on Sanibel that is listed as a major road and it should be changed.

Other Business

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

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda as no members of the public were present.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

Levi McCollum with LeeTran introduced Hunter Abel, LeeTran's newest planning technician. Mr. Abel is from Louisville, Kentucky.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Gilbertson suggested an update on the East/West trail alternatives. Mr. Blot suggested an update on the infrastructure projects. Another topic suggested were the interim improvements to Corkscrew.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Additional items distributed at the meeting included Agenda item 6E and a handout from LeeTran on the Beach Park and Ride Groundbreaking.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

*Action Items *May Require Action

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