

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, February 1, 2018
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990
3:00 p.m.



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Anglickis at 3:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. There are 26 authorized members and 22 current members. There are 12 members needed for a quorum. A quorum was present. Members in attendance included Karen Miller, Bev Larson, Tony Cardinale, Albert O'Donnell, Marion Briggs, Rick Anglickis, Phillip Boller, Edward Blot, Ron Talone, Ann Pierce, Randy Krise, Ted Tryka, Ty Symroski, Larry Wood, and Robert King. Others in attendance included D'Juan Harris with FDOT; Moses Jackson; Andy Getch with Lee County Community Development; Levi McCollum with LeeTran; and Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Don Scott presented the LeeTran report given by Mr. Wayne Gaither with LeeTran at the earlier Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Scott said LeeTran will begin adjustments to seasonal service around February 12, 2018. Ms. Ann Pierce asked what the adjustments were. Mr. Andy Getch said it was possibly the trolley services. Mr. Scott said he would find out for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D'Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced there would be a PD&E workshop on the SR 865/San Carlos project on February 27, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Chapel by the Sea on Fort Myers Beach. He said he would forward additional information for the MPO to circulate as it became available.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the January 4, 2018 CAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Phillip Boller made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the January 4, 2018 Meeting Summary. Ms. Bev Larson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of the Proposed LRTP Amendments

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the proposed LRTP Amendments to add the improvements identified in the US 41/Bonita Beach Road Quadrant Study and to update the Existing plus Committed project list. He noted the draft was presented at last month's meeting. He explained the LRTP is being amended to reflect the project phases for the US 41 and Bonita Beach Road quadrant improvements. He added the City of Bonita is seeking State/Federal funding assistance to implement the improvements identified in their recently completed US 41 Bonita Beach Road Quadrant study. He said the MPO had previously identified a project in the MPO Cost Feasible Plan that is listed as Major Intersections to address intersection improvement phases at intersections. He said the City of Bonita is also using about \$4.8 million in local funding for this project. He mentioned the updated Existing plus Committed tables. Ms. Pierce asked the total length of the loop in the Bonita project. Mr. Scott said it is around a half mile. He asked if there were any other questions. Chair Anglickis asked about the completion of the Right of Way and Construction phases for the project on Homestead from Sunrise to Alabama. Mr. Getch responded that Right of Way can take a while

due to litigation. Mr. Boller questioned the two total cost columns. Mr. Scott replied one is present day cost and one is inflated cost.

Mr. Randy Krise made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the Proposed LRTP Amendments. Mr. Ron Talone seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robert King asked why Corkscrew wasn't on the list. Mr. Scott responded it was a county project. Mr. Getch noted the list of county projects was much longer.

Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran arrived and responded to the earlier question regarding seasonal route adjustments from Ms. Pierce. Mr. McCollum said the change was on the schedule of Route 410 on Fort Myers Beach. He also mentioned the Park and Ride facility was now open at Summerlin and Pine Ridge with kiosks, vending machines, phone/computer charging stations, and restrooms. Mr. Scott asked what percent of the parking lot was full. Mr. McCollum said they are able to monitor the facility remotely via cameras, and there were around 60 vehicles at 10:00 a.m. He noted there were 250 spaces, with a grass lot for future parking if needed. Mr. Krise asked if there was room on the trolleys for beach chairs and bags. Mr. McCollum said there is a reasonable amount of space for these items. Mr. Albert O'Donnell asked if this facility also connected with other bus routes. Mr. McCollum responded that Routes 490, 50, and 130 all go to this facility. Ms. Pierce asked how the facility is advertised. Mr. McCollum said he knows it is has been advertised on the radio and on Facebook. Mr. Tony Cardinale mentioned that a substantial amount of funding for LeeTran buildings is Federal. Mr. McCollum said it is typically an 80/20 split. The committee briefly discussed the funding for the main LeeTran building and the Park and Ride Facility. Mr. Harris said there will be a workshop to discuss the alternating light before the Matanzas Bridge and other issues in the area. The committee also briefly discussed the type of people using the Park and Ride facility and suggestions for gaining more riders.

Agenda Item #6 - Presentation on the Corkscrew Road Traffic Study

Lee County Department of Community Development staff Andy Getch provided a presentation on the results of the Corkscrew Road Traffic Study. He showed graphics, also attached to the agenda packet, indicating the improvements needed by 2026 with and without the overlay developments. He said County staff may be asking for an LRTP amendment based on this study. He explained that EEPKO stands for Environmental Enhancement and Preservation Community Overlay and DR/GR stands for Density Reduction Groundwater Recharge. He explained the DR/GR designation is given to areas that are intended to be lower density, preservation, agricultural, or environmentally sensitive lands. He discussed the four new developments in the area with a proposed combined 4,600 residential units: Wild Blue, Pepperland, Verdana, and The Place. He noted the developers are required to preserve some of the land, restore the natural flow ways, and pay a proportional share for impacts to the roadways. He added the study was conducted, in part, to determine the developer's proportionate share for each of these developments. He explained the consultant for the study first needed to do an analysis of the current/existing development and then compare to projections. He commented that the consultant made adjustments to the underestimated traffic levels. He referred to the graphic without the EEPKO and discussed the road segments that would need improvement. He asked if there were any questions on the first graphic. Chair Anglickis asked about the overlap with the Alico Connector. Mr. Getch said that is a separate project. The committee briefly discussed the road segments proposed for improvement.

Mr. Getch moved on to the graphic with EEPKO. He noted the slide assumes buildout by 2026. Mr. Symroski clarified this is what is needed in addition to what was shown on the first graphic. Mr. Getch replied yes. Mr. Getch mentioned the Village of Estero traffic study and the interim improvements that will be proposed due to these studies. The committee discussed the amenities that would be necessary for these new developments and if transit was a part of the development plan. Mr. McCollum said Route 60 on Ben Hill is the closest LeeTran goes to this area. Ms. Pierce commented that if the speed limits in the area exceed 35 mph, the developments should include off road facilities for bicycles and pedestrians. Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Getch for a logical and complete presentation. Ms. Pierce asked what the next steps are. Mr. Getch said the consultant will complete the remaining tasks in the study and then present to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). The BoCC will then decide which projects will move forward. Mr. Getch noted some of those projects will be addressed in the LRTP. Ms. Pierce asked when this will go to the BoCC. Mr. Getch responded hopefully by spring of this year.

Agenda Item #7 - Discussion Regarding Hurricane Irma Evacuation Issues and Current Activities Addressing those Issues

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on Hurricane Irma evacuation issues and current activities addressing those issues. He said at the last CAC meeting, one of the suggestions for an agenda item for this upcoming meeting was a follow up on any issues related to the evacuations during Hurricane Irma. He added the State is currently studying several issues related to the evacuations and staff is still researching these further. He discussed the following two examples of current studies on issues that occurred:

- The Governor directed FDOT to review ways to expedite evacuation routes during emergencies from the I-75/Florida Turnpike Interchange near Wildwood to the Florida/Georgia border. This area is where the worse congestion occurred during the evacuations. The evacuation numbers for the storm were estimated at 6.8 million people. In the past, making the Interstate a one way roadway for both directions was considered an option but more recently the FDOT has been studying/implementing the use of the shoulders instead (and that they were used in some areas during the Irma evacuation).
- The Governor has also directed FDOT to examine ways to increase the fuel capacity, distribution and availability to the customers as this was a major hindrance to drivers evacuating, storm responders and people trying to get back home after the storm.

He mentioned a study done in Miami by one of their commissioners. He also commented on legislation that might require certain facilities to have back-up generators. He asked if the committee had any questions.

Mr. O'Donnell asked who would be able to travel in the narrow shoulder lanes. Mr. Scott said no trucks or buses, and the lanes will be swept in advance to avoid tire damage from debris. Mr. Symroski asked if some stores and gas stations were not able to open due to employee evacuation. Mr. Scott responded yes. Mr. Ed Blot asked about the lack of local information with regard to functionality of roads during the evacuation. Mr. Scott said Bonita Beach Road flooded as did SR 31 after the hurricane. He added that a portion of SR 31 was shut down for several days after the hurricane. Mr. Getch noted that the evacuation is controlled by Public Safety and Law Enforcement before the event occurs and there is generally no flooding at that time. He mentioned the extensive rains and flooding in Lee County a week or so prior to the hurricane. He added the BoCC has directed Natural Resources to advise on preventative measures. Mr. Talone commented that after Hurricane Andrew, changes were made to the way traffic lights were hung. He added many traditional line hung signals were replaced with the much stronger mast arms. Mr. Symroski noted that many road signs were gone after the storm making it difficult for those coming to help from out of area to find their way around. Mr. Talone commented that many of the signs that fell down after the storm were taken away with the hurricane debris. Mr. Scott said he will bring this back when there is more information from the studies.

Agenda Item #8 - Discuss Tasks for the FY 2018/2019 & FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on tasks for the FY 2018/2019 & FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He said a draft version will be brought to the committee at next month's meeting. He discussed planning tasks for the upcoming FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program, the MPO's budget. He explained this is the time of year to start identifying any new tasks and refine the scopes of ongoing tasks to include in the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that will come back in draft form at the March meeting and final approval at the May meeting. He noted a significant portion of the consultant fees will be used on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update as the 2045 LRTP is due to be adopted by December 2020. He said other tasks include accounting, legal, the audit, and the TIP. He mentioned the evacuation study might proceed if there is still an interest and partial funding from the City of Cape Coral.

Chair Anglickis introduced the newest member of the CAC, Ms. Karen Miller. He asked Ms. Miller to tell the committee about herself. She said she works for GHD, a local engineering firm, but she is not an engineer. She said she is a community outreach manager dealing mostly with water issues. She commented that she is also interested in transportation issues. She added she has been involved in the local community for a long time. Chair Anglickis welcomed Ms. Miller to the committee.

Other Business

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

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #10 – Announcements

Ms. Pierce announced a conference on context classification will take place on April 19th at FSW in Fort Myers. She said registration will be open mid-February. She noted they are applying for CEUs and other professional credits. She added FDOT's L. K. Nandam will be attending with members of the Complete Streets team.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for next meeting included the draft UPWP and comments from the Big Carlos Bridge meeting.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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