

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, March 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 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, Albert O'Donnell, Marion Briggs, Rick Anglickis, Edward Blot, Ron Talone, Ann Pierce, Jim Wurster, Ty Symroski, Larry Wood, Robert King, and Scott Gilbertson. Others in attendance included D'Juan Harris with FDOT; Moses Jackson; Dave Urich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition; Sara Jarvis with the News Press, Levi McCollum and Debi Stephens with LeeTran; and Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, 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. Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He announced there was a new beach tram on Fort Myers Beach that is transporting an average of 68 riders per hour. Chair Anglickis asked if Mr. McCollum had any ridership numbers for last month. Mr. McCollum said those numbers were not available at this time.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D'Juan Harris with FDOT had not arrived yet so Mr. Don Scott repeated the FDOT report that Mr. Harris gave at the earlier Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Scott said Mr. Harris had announced that the FDOT's Interstate Access Coordinator will make a presentation at the March 16, 2018 MPO Board meeting on policy point changes for interstate access requests. Chair Anglickis asked if FDOT is relaxing standards. Mr. Scott replied he was unsure, and he would have more information for the CAC after the presentation. Mr. Jim Wurster asked about the required distances between future interchanges possibly changing. Mr. Scott said it seems they are trying to increase distances when you consider the CD lanes. There was a brief discussion on CDs and interchanges. Mr. Harris arrived during this discussion. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Harris if he had anything to add to the report Mr. Scott gave. Mr. Harris recapped the SR 865/San Carlos meeting that was held by FDOT on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. He said the public comment period would be open through March 12, 2018 at www.swflroads.com under the public involvement link. Chair Anglickis asked for a progress update on SR 82. Mr. Harris said he believed they were on schedule. Mr. Scott mentioned L. K. Nandam, at an MPO Board meeting, had announced the second phase had been moved up. He added that FDOT will apply for a SIB loan to move that phase up and then pay it back when the funds are available during the originally proposed phase time. Mr. Wurster asked if comments could still be submitted regarding the Big Carlos Pass Bridge. Mr. Harris noted that was a county project. Chair Anglickis said that comments should be gathered continuously.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the February 1, 2018 CAC Meeting Summary

Ms. Bev Larson made the motion to approve the February 1, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Ron Talone seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - +Review and Comment on the Draft Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the draft tasks included in the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Scott noted every two years the MPO is required to develop and submit the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the FDOT and the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA). He added a draft copy of the tasks and budget sheets are posted on the website at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/T05a.UPWP-FY-2019-and-2020-Draft.pdf>. He mentioned there were numerous typos, due to the conversion of the old document from Adobe to Word, that had already been corrected. He reviewed several of the MPO planned tasks for the next two years, including the 4.4 tasks of accounting, legal, audit, and TIP Tool maintenance. He noted TALU funds would be used for the Estero and Sanibel Bike Ped studies. He added, at the TAC meeting, Mr. Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers indicated they would like an update to their Bike Ped study done as well. Mr. Scott also mentioned that other MPOs use Federal SU funds for LRTP update tasks, but the Lee County MPO does not. Ms. Ann Pierce asked the difference between the two LRTP tasks. Mr. Scott explained. He said the Committee will be asked to approve the final version of the UPWP at its May 3, 2018 meeting. Mr. Ed Blot pointed out an error with line breaks on page 3. Mr. Scott said it would be corrected.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approve the De-obligation of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the de-obligation of \$120,000 of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds for use in FY 2019. He explained the MPO is de-obligating \$120,000 in federal planning funds from Task 4.4 Administrative, Planning and Project Consultant Services so that the funds will be available for use for the LRTP in FY 2019 starting on July 1st. He mentioned the changes to the existing UPWP, that were also attached to the agenda packet. He noted the carryforward amount was included on the draft UPWP that will be approved in May and explained the tasks this money was moved from and the new allocations. Mr. Blot asked if some of the projects had not started yet. Mr. Scott responded yes, some were not ready to begin but he wanted to ensure funding was available.

Mr. Scott Gilbertson made the motion to approve the De-obligation of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds. Ms. Bev Larson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on the Bicycle Pedestrian and Congestion Management Project Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update on the Bicycle Pedestrian and Congestion Management Priorities. Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the proposed project priorities that have been submitted as well as some updated project information from the initial reviews. He said some projects had been discussed at previous meetings. He reviewed slides of the TA and SU Box Fund priorities for the 2018 funding cycle, showing projects that didn't receive funding and new projects. He also showed slides and briefly discussed the Fort Myers Beach project and several projects in Bonita Springs. Ms. Pierce asked about the path width. Mr. Gogoi said the design hasn't been done but the conceptual is a ten foot wide multi-use path. Mr. Scott then presented slides on the Caloosahatchee Bridge pathway project noting they were looking at this as a possible SUN Trail alignment as well. He said the county made a request of FDOT for a cost estimate. FDOT's cost estimate came back at \$35.8 million for an eight foot path on both sides that would also require demolition of the existing guard rails. Mr. Scott said it was still a priority but several questions were raised such as what if the path was only on one side and what would a completely separate pedestrian/bicycle bridge cost. Mr. Ron Talone asked why the guardrails had to be demolished. Mr. Scott said he would ask this question as well. Mr. Symroski suggested the bridge could also be used for fishing. Ms. Pierce questioned why the path had to be on this bridge. Mr. Scott replied the Edison bridge already had a sidewalk but it was originally raised as a safety issue. Mr. O'Donnell noted by the high cost of the estimate, it seemed like FDOT didn't want to construct the pathways. Mr. Scott said it was at least a step in the right direction versus past discussions of this item. Mr. Blot said the high cost of the estimate could be due to relocation of utilities. Mr. Scott agreed that is part of it. Ms. Pierce asked what the next step was. Mr. Scott mentioned the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian bridge and their funding sources and said he would do further research. Mr. Scott also mentioned that the School District would like to see a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across SR 82 at Griffin near Gateway due to the construction of a new high school. He said the estimate for that bridge is between \$4-6 million. He added Mr. Karakos is sending over information about a similar type of bridge to be constructed over Colonial with an estimate of \$2 million. Chair Anglickis noted the School Board could have built the school on the other side of the road where they already owned property. Mr. Scott mentioned maintenance is another issue that has been raised with building the pedestrian bridge. Chair Anglickis commented our area did not plan well. Ms. Peirce noted if the speed is over 35 mph, separate off road pathways should be constructed for pedestrians and cyclists. There was a brief discussion on the widths and types of pathways. Mr. Gogoi mentioned a bill that was currently in Florida legislation requiring drivers to vacate lanes for vulnerable users. Mr. Scott said it probably wouldn't pass. The discussion continued on design standards for bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Mr. Scott noted

FDOT builds to their standards. Ms. Peirce said the problem is with the initial setting of values and we should create facilities for a mode shift. Chair Anglickis asked how design standards get changed. Ms. Pierce mentioned the conference coming up on April 19, 2018 and said she would include that question for FDOT to answer. Mr. Wurster suggested sending the questions ahead of time. Mr. Harris noted that many standards are based on FHWA best practices. Mr. O'Donnell asked for a flyer for the conference. Ms. Larson and Ms. Peirce said they would forward a flyer to the MPO for dissemination.

Agenda Item #8 - Discussion on Updating the Proposed TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a discussion on updating the proposed TRIP Priorities. He explained the TRIP program provides funding for roadway and transit projects that are on the regional roadway network map. He showed a slide of the regional roadway network map. He said the map was updated last year and our regional partners are seeking updated TRIP priorities to be submitted by the end of June. He noted the TRIP projects are prioritized based on the scoring criteria which takes into account performance, SIS connectivity, matching funds etc. He added the project phases for the projects being requested are identified in the fiscal year that is indicated in the local Capital Improvement Elements. He said the priority list that was submitted last year was attached to the agenda packet and asked the committee for input on potential projects for this year. There were no questions or comments on the proposed TRIP priorities. Mr. Jim Wurster asked why some of the charts and tables were not included in the packet. Mr. Gogoi replied some tables are from staff presentations and may not have been available due to revisions still being made at the time the packet was sent out. Mr. Wurster said he would like a record of the tables presented to take home. Mr. Gogoi said some of the tables could be included. Mr. Symroski agreed it would be nice to look at the tables before the meeting but the tables could also be sent after the meeting. Mr. Wurster said any revisions could be talked about during the meeting. Mr. O'Donnell agreed the tables didn't have to be perfect to be sent out.

Other Business

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

Mr. Dave Urich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition gave a presentation with two large poster boards on a few local projects including the Littleton/Kismet connection, a new I-75 Interchange between Tuckers Grade and Bayshore, and a possible connection from Kismet to Burnt Store. He also discussed a possible new road in Charlotte County. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Bob King commented on the impact fees in Lee County suggesting they need to be raised to 100%. Chair Anglickis mentioned the CAC took a stand on that issue before and it did not work out favorably. Mr. Scott noted that the MEC weighed in on this issue indicating it was a Board of County Commissioners issue, not an MPO issue. He noted the elected officials are the ones that will deal with that issue. There was a brief discussion on county funding and historical rates. The discussion continued on affordable housing and how the rates would impact that. The committee also briefly discussed the economy of southwest Florida and how it has changed. Mr. Symroski suggested that they look at other funding sources that are being used for transportation across the Country and that we bring this back as a topic for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #10 – Announcements

Ms. Ann Pierce announced that her last meeting would be the April 5, 2018 meeting. She said she was moving to a different state.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

The suggested topics for the next CAC meeting included impact fees and other funding sources.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Gogoi gave a brief presentation as an update to the bike box project. He said Daniels resurfacing is scheduled to be completed by the end of May/June 2019, at which time the bike boxes will be implemented. He explained the two-stage bike boxes, showing slides and a brief video. He noted monitoring will be done before and after

implementation, mentioning four days of monitoring will occur this month. Mr. Al O'Donnell suggested putting up signs. Mr. Gogoi replied FDOT will most likely do that.

Mr. Gogoi also gave updates on the Bike Ped Plans for Sanibel and Estero. He said Sanibel will take it before their Council on March 12 to decide if they will use one of the MPOs GPCs or put out a request for proposal (RFP). He added the Village of Estero has decided to use an MPO GPC and their project can begin July 1st. He noted eight of nine MPO GPCs expressed interest in submitting a proposal for the Estero project. He commented that the Sanibel Plan may take longer if they put out an RFP. Mr. Gogoi also stated Mr. Bob King would be the representative for Estero and Mr. Ty Symroski would be the representative from Sanibel.

The information and distribution items included in the packet were the Hurricane Irma Emergency Evacuation Report and Recommendations and the Hurricane Irma Fuel Distribution System and Recommended Improvements. Mr. Scott noted these reports were published a day after the discussion at the last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. *Action Items *May Require Action

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