

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, April 5, 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 as 3:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. There are 26 authorized members and 21 current members. There are 11 members needed for a quorum. A quorum was present. Members in attendance included Carie Call, Bev Larson, Albert O'Donnell, Marion Briggs, Rick Anglickis, Phillip Boller, 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; Dr. Nora Demers and Katie Leone with FGCU; Levi McCollum, Paul Goyette, and Steve Myers with LeeTran; Dave Harner with Lee County; Johnny Limbaugh with Wright Construction; 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 noted February ridership was up over four percent with more than 317,000 passenger trips. He added there were approximately 31,000 passenger trips on the new Fort Myers Beach tram service. With regard to agenda item #5, the presentation on LeeTran System Recommendations, he thanked Professor Demers and Mr. Thomas Kanell for their interest and efforts in developing the recommendations for LeeTran. He noted their ultimate common goal of making Lee County a better place. He said LeeTran has taken the feedback in to consideration and many of the ideas are currently built into the system that operates 359 days a year. He urged the committee to watch the current pulse design system in operation by visiting the Edison Mall transfer center. He offered to come back and present to the committee on how the LeeTran system works and the processes involved. He mentioned LeeTran has been on a continuation budget for the past five years, and even with that limitation they still have managed to develop creative ways to make the system more efficient. He noted Lee County doesn't have a central business district and commercial nodes in Lee County are fairly spread out which presents a challenge. He also noted that transit ridership is down across the nation, hitting Florida especially hard. He said LeeTran is currently looking at new models to help improve the system. He asked if there were any questions. Ms. Carie Call said she liked the more comprehensive report style. Ms. Bev Larson commented she was pleased to see the trolleys full. Mr. McCollum noted due to exceptional ridership performance, LeeTran is extending seasonal service to May 30 for Routes 410, 420, and 490. He noted the exceptions are Routes 500 and 505 which will end on April 18. Ms. Ann Pierce asked if LeeTran would consider hiring Houston's consultant. Mr. Steve Myers said he is still working with the Lee County Board of Commissioners and reviewing options. Mr. McCollum noted Houston had a central business district as well as rail. Ms. Larson asked how the beach tram was being promoted. Mr. McCollum said there are radio ads as well as signage. Mr. Myers said LeeTran has also advertised with the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Mr. McCollum noted that Ms. Katie Meckley is the marketing manager for LeeTran, and he could provide her contact information if there were further questions about marketing.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He noted there would be a trucking industry seminar in Bartow on April 12. He also announced that Florida had received two recognitions from Smart Growth America, one for the FDOT Design Manual and one for the City of Bonita Spring’s Complete Streets implementation in their downtown redevelopment project. Mr. Harris also mentioned there will be an Able Canal presentation at the next TAC/CAC meetings. Ms. Pierce noted that Smart Growth publishes the best Complete Streets projects in the United States. Ms. Call added that citizens do make a difference. Mr. Phillip Boller asked about the US 41 resurfacing project. Mr. Harris said it was on schedule. Mr. Robert King asked for an update on the Corkscrew improvements to be brought to the next CAC meeting.

New Business

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

Mr. Ty Symroski made the motion to approve the March 1, 2018 Meeting Summary. Ms. Bev Larson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Presentation on LeeTran System Recommendations

Dr. Nora Demers and Ms. Katie Leone with Florida Gulf Coast University gave a presentation on the LeeTran System Recommendations developed by Mr. Thomas Kanell over the last two years. They handed out blank sheets of paper that the committee could write comments on regarding the presentation. Dr. Demers explained that Mr. Kanell is a local citizen and former LeeTran driver that has developed recommendations for LeeTran which include reconfiguring routes and increasing points where multiple routes meet to synchronize the system. Dr. Demers added that Mr. Kanell had already presented his recommendations to the Lee County Board of Commissioners and to LeeTran. She said he has recently moved to Hawaii, so she was here to present his recommended plan to the CAC for review and input. More information on Mr. Kanell’s recommendations can be found at: www.abetterleetran.site. Mr. Myers noted that LeeTran planning staff has worked on a system redesign and has incorporated some concepts that Mr. Kanell is promoting. He also mentioned the presentation made to the Board in November. Dr. Demers showed two of Mr. Kanell’s videos that are available on YouTube. Dr. Demers noted Mr. Kanell has spent a lot of time developing these recommendations. Chair Anglickis asked if Mr. Myers has seen the recommendations before. Mr. Myers replied yes and the proposals presented have been analyzed. Mr. Paul Goyette added they are great suggestions and LeeTran has vetted some of it through their modeling systems software with algorithms. Mr. McCollum again mentioned that LeeTran operates 359 days per year, with over 250,000 hours of road time. He said the recommendations do not account for the recovery and dwell times that are built in to the current system. Mr. Goyette also noted the system redesign would require the elimination of the Health Park stop and a new stop to be placed at a private location on Radar Court. Mr. Goyette also mentioned that paratransit was not considered in the recommendations. Mr. Albert O’Donnell suggested a real time GPS bus locator. Mr. McCollum said LeeTran already has that technology available. There was a brief discussion on students at FGCU being able to commute to school using transit. Dr. Demers noted that Mr. Kanell is frustrated as he has waited for a response from LeeTran for over a year. Mr. Goyette responded that Mr. Kanell gave his presentation and then the Board gave LeeTran direction to complete other projects. Ms. Pierce asked if there was a willingness to collaborate. Mr. Goyette replied that there is a willingness to take some of the concepts and elements but paratransit is still a factor. Mr. McCollum also mentioned Title VI must be accounted for as well. Mr. Goyette said LeeTran could give a report on what has been done. Mr. Dave Harner noted that part of the presentation to the Board was based on Ms. Ann Pierce’s idea to examine Houston’s system. He noted paratransit was enhanced, and the Board is interested in transit. He added the transit system in Tampa was also examined. Mr. Goyette again stated LeeTran could bring a report back to the committee. Ms. Pierce commented on the

complexity of the system. Dr. Demers thanked the committee for their time and asked them to hand back any comments they had written on the blank paper distributed at the beginning of her presentation.

Agenda Item #6 - Overview of the Freight Prioritization Program

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as an overview of the Freight Prioritization Program. He said the MPOAC and FDOT have developed a new Freight Prioritization Program. He added the Program involves the compilation of a list of high priority freight needs statewide that are submitted to FDOT for consideration of state and federal funds during the development of their annual 5-year Work Program. He continued the high priority freight list is proposed to be updated annually and shared with FDOT. He showed slides on the freight priority program, call for projects, and the recommended MPO freight priority for 2018. He added due to the April 6 deadline, the MPO Board has already voted to approve the widening of SR 31 from SR 78 to SR 80 as Lee County's Freight Priority. Mr. Gogoi noted the Lee County MPO has already submitted the project priority. He added that the widening of SR 31 from SR 78 north to Cook Brown Road is already privately funded. Chair Anglickis asked if the math was correct for funding needs. Mr. Scott replied yes, the higher amount was mostly due to the replacement of the bridge. Mr. Scott also mentioned a future planned connection from SR 31 to US 17 in Desoto County. Mr. O'Donnell asked about a SR 82 connection to I 75. Mr. Scott noted that would actually be the SR 29 bypass, and he will ask Collier about that at an upcoming meeting. He noted that Collier would need to put the project in. Mr. Gogoi commented that Charlotte County would also be submitting before the April 6 deadline.

Agenda Item #7 - Presentation and Discussion on Transportation Funding Options

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item due to a request from Mr. Symroski at the last meeting to bring back for discussion the different transportation funding options that are being used and also pursued around the Country to pay for transportation improvements and for maintenance. He explained over the last three years, the MPO staff has worked with the MPO's Executive Committee (MEC) to present some of the funding issues we have as well as some of the solutions that are being used in other areas. He said much of this discussion came out of the projections of predicted future funding reductions and the balancing of overall transportation needs during the development of the revenues for the Long Range Plan. He noted the revenues were already artificially reduced by 20% and that vehicle miles per gallon and other factors will impact future revenues. He discussed the funding sources that make up the revenues. He also noted that in our current five year 21-25 project block of the LRTP only 10% were currently funded. He reviewed several funding options including gas/diesel tax increase, increase tolls/toll roads, increases in registration fees, implement sales tax, and increase property taxes. He provided some of the background on ballot measures, indexing fuel taxes, and locally imposed motor fuel taxes. Mr. Symroski mentioned less is being collected because the amounts are not indexed. Mr. Scott mentioned the discussion of Collier County on imposing a sales tax. He noted the recent issues with the proposed school board tax and these measures may affect the chances of any future transportation tax initiatives getting passed. He continued his presentation with a review of the Florida referendums. Mr. O'Donnell commented that a limited time frame on taxes is a good idea. Chair Anglickis noted that it was helpful to be specific. Mr. Scott said a more detailed list and the addition of a sunset provision of ten years seemed to be best. A brief discussion continued on the best length of time for the sunset provision. Mr. O'Donnell asked about tax rates that Commissioner Kiker has mentioned. Mr. Scott explained they were Growth Increment Funds (GIF). Mr. O'Donnell asked who would pass indexing. Mr. Scott said it would be the state legislature. Mr. Scott also noted he was working with FDOT on answers to funding questions and also discussing anything moving forward with the MPOAC. There was a brief discussion on tolling the interstate and reactions of citizens. Mr. Scott mentioned the current I 4 project that is costing over \$100 million per mile to create tolled center lanes and free outer lanes and that is what our Interstate would most likely see in the future.

Agenda Item #8 - Information on the New Interchange Access Request Process Requirements

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

Agenda Item #9 - MPOAC Legislative Update

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the MPAOC Legislative Update. He quickly noted that none of the items discussed at the previous meetings had passed. He added more thorough information is in the MPOAC legislative update that was attached to the agenda packet.

Other Business

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

Ms. Ann Pierce announced this would be her last CAC meeting. She also announced there would be a conference on April 19, 2018.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

The topics suggested for the next meeting included a presentation on Able Canal.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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