

# **CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Thursday, January 3, 2019  
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building  
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990  
**3:00 p.m.**



## **MEETING MINUTES**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Anglickis at 3:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. There are 26 authorized members and 21 current members. There are 10 members needed for a quorum. A quorum was present. Members in attendance included Kenneth Jenkins, Carie Call, Karen Miller, Bev Larson, Albert O'Donnell, Derrick Donnell, Rick Anglickis, Phillip Boller, Ed Blot, Steve Henry, Randy Krise, Jim Wurster, Ty Symroski, Robert King, Moses Jackson, and Scott Gilbertson. Others in attendance included Tom Spencer; John Majka; Michael Tisch with FDOT; David Murphy with Lee County Department of Transportation; and Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco.

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

There was one public comment on items on the agenda. Chair Anglickis asked the public speaker, Mr. Tom Spencer, if he would like to speak after Lee County gives the presentation on Joel Boulevard, Agenda Item #7. Mr. Spencer replied yes.

### **Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report**

Mr. Don Scott gave the LeeTran report given by Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran at the earlier Technical Advisory Committee meeting. He said there was increased service on Fort Myers Beach with trolleys, park and ride, and two free trams. He said in FY 2018 LeeTran had 3.1 million passenger trips which puts them even with FY 2017.

### **Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report**

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT said that FDOT had nothing to report. Mr. Steve Henry mentioned that he provided comments to FDOT on Burnt Store Road. Mr. Scott said the project was a Lee County project. Mr. David Murphy said that comments could be given to him. Mr. Phillip Boller said he would like to see an update on the project brought to the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Approval of the December 6, 2018 CAC Meeting Summary**

**Ms. Bev Larson made the motion to approve the December 6, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Randy Krise seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 - \*Election of Officers for 2019**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the election of officers for 2019. He said consistent with the CAC bylaws, a Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. He added any voting member or his or her alternate may nominate another voting

member to be an officer. He noted the current voting members of the CAC who are eligible to serve as officers were listed on the roster that was attached to the agenda packet.

**Mr. Ty Symroski made the motion to re-elect Mr. Rick Anglickis as Chair and Mr. Albert O'Donnell as Vice-Chair. Both nominees accepted. Mr. Phillip Boller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **WALK-ON ITEM – ENDORSEMENT of SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PRIORITIES**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the endorsement of the Lee County School District's Safe Routes to School priority list. He said in response to FDOT's call for proposals for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure funds, the School District of Lee County is submitting 3 (three) applications. He noted of the 3, 2 include the unfunded Bonita Springs and Cape Coral project proposals from last year. He added applications are due to FDOT by January 31<sup>st</sup>. He then reviewed the following list that was also emailed to the committee and handed out at the meeting:

**Priority #1:** This is a resubmitted application that calls for sidewalks that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Childers Avenue to Dean Street. Cost: \$205,609

Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

**Priority #2:** This is a new project application. The proposal calls for (1) sidewalk on west side of Schoolside Court and north side of Schoolside Drive and (2) replacement of the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge over the Able Canal. The existing bridge was destroyed during Hurricane Irma. The proposal will benefit Lehigh Elementary located in Lehigh Acres. Cost: \$816,738

Maintaining Agency: Lee County BOCC

**Priority #3:** This is a resubmitted application that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposed sidewalks are on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle South and along the perimeters of South Gator Circle. Cost: \$862,032

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Mr. Scott said the MPO is looking for endorsement of the priorities. Mr. Jim Wurster noted that Bonita Springs is encouraging support of their project. He said it fits in with the Complete Streets ideal.

**Mr. Jim Wurster made the motion to approve the Safe Routes to School Priorities. Mr. Scott Gilbertson seconded the motion.**

Mr. Gilbertson asked if the maintaining agencies are on board with their respective projects. Mr. Scott replied yes. He said the TAC questioned why FEMA didn't fund the Lehigh bridge rebuild. Mr. Scott noted the bridge was originally funded by the Rotary Club. A brief discussion followed on the Lehigh bridge project and other similar bridges in Lehigh. Chair Anglickis mentioned there was a motion and a second on the floor.

**There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Anglickis moved to Agenda Item #7 for the convenience of those who had traveled to speak on the subject.

## **Agenda Item #7 - Information on the Joel Boulevard Resurfacing Project**

Mr. David Murphy with Lee County DOT presented this agenda item on the Joel Boulevard resurfacing project. He said the safety of the road has been closely monitored and due to over 100 accidents and five fatalities, a safety project was proposed to take the four lanes down to three lanes with paved shoulders. He said the latter configuration has been shown to be safer in nationwide studies. He added they are looking into bus pullouts and off-peak solid waste scheduling. He noted the project limits were from Country Club to 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Randy Krise asked how long the section was. Mr. Murphy replied approximately four to five miles. He added the main concern is to reduce speed, and the three lane configuration will slow traffic. Mr. Ty Symroski asked the layout of the middle lane. Mr. Murphy said it will be striped, solid yellow for no passing. Mr. Symroski asked if there will be any rumble strips or other surface treatments. Mr. Murphy said it could be done. Mr. Murphy said enforcement might also help. Mr. Albert O'Donnell commented that bicycle lanes on high speed roads are not good practice. Mr. Murphy said the shoulders will be paved but not striped for cyclists. There was a brief discussion on the legal issues related to cyclists and other users on the roadways. Mr. Murphy said the goal is to make the road safer through the resurfacing project. Mr. Symroski asked if there was a capital project down the road to address this. Mr. Murphy replied there is not enough right of way to construct a four lane divided road. Chair Anglickis elaborated on the constraints of the area. He said there could be evacuation issues by constricting Joel. He then introduced a Lehigh resident, Mr. Thomas Spencer, who learned of the project through a letter. Mr. Murphy added there were over 3,000 letters sent out. Mr. Jim Wurster asked the current and proposed speeds. Mr. Murphy said the current is 45, and it will be kept that way. Mr. Wurster suggested lowering the speed. Mr. Murphy replied Lee County Sheriff's Office doesn't have the deputies to enforce. Mr. Scott then handed out a letter written by BikeWalkLee in favor of the Joel project. Chair Anglickis again introduced Lehigh resident Mr. Thomas Spencer to present. Mr. Spencer read his petition against the Joel project. The full text of his petition can be found here: <https://www.change.org/p/lee-county-board-of-county-commissioners-the-redesign-of-joel-blvd-from-4-to-3-lanes> Mr. Spencer noted that safety and resurfacing should be two separate projects. He added that the paved shoulders will invite problems. Chair Anglickis noted the project was tabled for 2019 to continue to study other options. He suggested the committee could also provide ideas for consideration. He asked if Lee County would hold another public meeting when the project is updated. Mr. Murphy replied yes. There was a brief discussion on the possible use of roundabouts to slow traffic. Mr. Murphy noted the four lane road is even currently under capacity for a two lane road traffic load. Mr. Murphy added there is 44 feet of pavement. He said they could possibly stripe and add signals if warranted, yet signals can also lead to accidents. Ms. Larson thanked Mr. Spencer for speaking. She said the demographics in Lehigh have changed. She added that road rage and more accidents are a possibility. Mr. Murphy said the reduction of lanes will only add two to three minutes to the current travel time. He said it is a cost effective way to make the roadway safer. Mr. Boller asked what the committee's review of this project was expected to produce. Chair Anglickis said this was an information only item which brought new information to the residents of Lehigh on the project being tabled. Mr. Symroski applauded Mr. Murphy for his efforts to make the roadway safer. Mr. Tisch added that the proposed projects are based on numerous studies. He then gave the example of South Point to illustrate how the road diets are successful. Chair Anglickis thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation.

## **Agenda Item #6 - Update on the Review of the Model Base Year Data and Project Table Modifications**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the review of the model base year data and project table modifications. He said an overview of the 2015 base year data that will be used in the validation of the Regional model was provided at the last meeting. He added we have now had further discussions with our partners in reviewing the control totals, the control totals for each of the data items was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He noted Traffo-Data has

indicated that if we want to change some of the base year control total items to better match up with our local data to provide that information. He also showed control data for population and employment, hotel and school, university, and households. He said he will bring more information at a future meeting. There was a brief discussion on possible issues with the data for seasonal residents and employment.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Review of the Statewide and Lee County Mobility Measures from FDOT**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the statewide and Lee County mobility measures from FDOT. He said we recently received the updated mobility measures for the Lee MPO area for 2016 as well as the updated statewide data for 2017. The Lee County MPO area analysis for review was attached to the agenda packet. The following link provides the statewide mobility data: <http://www.fdot.gov/planning/FTO/SourceBook/2018SourceBook.pdf> Mr. O'Donnell asked what caused the vehicle miles traveled to drop. Mr. Scott said the VMT is actually going up yet fatalities are decreasing. Mr. Scott then provided an overview of the data including slides on bicycle, pedestrian, and motor vehicle injuries and fatalities for the nation, state, and county. He also discussed transit, transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft, and truck miles traveled. Mr. O'Donnell asked if there has been any correlation with aging drivers since the insurance companies indicate older drivers are safer. Mr. Scott said definitely in our area. Mr. O'Donnell asked about unlicensed drivers. Mr. Scott said there was an increase in people applying for licenses. Mr. Scott then continued his presentation with slides on aviation passenger boardings, commuting to work, number of vehicles per household, rankings by county travel time to work, and percent of workers outside county. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Derrick Donnell asked where Mr. Scott's presentation could be found. Mr. Scott said he could send out it. He added many of his slides were taken directly from the statewide mobility link provided in the agenda packet (and included above).

### **Agenda Item #9 - Request for Transportation Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the requests for transportation project priorities for FY 2024/2025. He said FDOT has sent out their yearly request for project priorities, the schedule of deliverables, and the priority applications. He added the schedule includes information packages due by February 1, 2019, a preliminary list of priorities due by March 15, 2019, and the final approved priorities due by July 1, 2019. He noted the MPO staff is assuming that there will not be a lot of new priorities this year as there are a lot of previously submitted projects that did not receive funding or there is a need to include follow up phases for the projects that did receive funding. Mr. Scott showed slides on the various funding sources and project priorities.

Chair Anglickis welcomed the newest committee member, Mr. Kenneth Jenkins.

### **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**

Mr. Scott announced the Southwest Florida TransFourm meeting on January 28. He said he would send out more information if he receives it.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting**

There were no topics suggested for next meeting.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included the TransFourm Meeting Notice mentioned by Mr. Scott in Agenda Item #11.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.**

\*Action Items    +May Require Action

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