

# CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, June 6, 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 Vice-Chair Albert O'Donnell at 3:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Members in attendance included Carie Call, Karen Miller, Tony Cardinale, Albert O'Donnell, Marion Briggs, Derrick Donnell, James Dodge, Phillip Boller, Ed Blot, Randy Krise, Jim Wurster, Ty Symroski, Robert King, and Moses Jackson. Others in attendance included LeeTran staff Levi McCollum; 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 on improvements to the system and goals for the future. He began his PowerPoint report with slides on objectives and improvements made. There was a short discussion on route timing. Mr. McCollum continued with additional slides on improvements made as well as slides on how the improvements were made and additional anticipated improvements. Mr. McCollum noted there was no service loss with any of the changes. A brief discussion followed on the new routes and coverage of old stops. Mr. McCollum then showed slides on stakeholder input and infrastructure improvements. A brief discussion followed on the specifics and functionality of the infrastructure improvements. Mr. McCollum concluded his presentation with slides on accomplishing the objectives and asked if there were any additional questions. Mr. Ed Blot asked how long ago these improvements were started. Mr. McCollum said they have been in progress for a few months and mentioned the new LeeTran Director Mr. Robert Codie had been hired in November. Mr. Blot asked if the previous concerns of the former LeeTran driver had been addressed. Mr. McCollum said the ideas had been examined thoroughly and general concepts had been used like reducing headway. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked if the new software makes a difference. Mr. McCollum replied yes, it speeds up the process. Mr. Ty Symroski asked if drivers receive hospitality training. Mr. McCollum said it is part of the hiring process orientation as well as included in the yearly retraining. Mr. Randy Krise questioned if there were any serious incidents on the buses. Mr. McCollum said there have been general service complaints related to timeliness of buses but no serious issues. The entire Power Point presentation can be accessed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/LeeTran-TAC-20190604.pdf>

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

There was no FDOT report.

### **New Business**

### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Approval of the May 2, 2019 CAC Meeting Summary**

Ms. Marion Briggs made the motion to approve the minutes for the May 2, 2019 Meeting. Mr. Randy Krise seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Agenda Item #5 - \*Endorsement of the FY 19/20 through FY 23/24 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review and recommend endorsement of the FY 2019/2020 through FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be forwarded to the MPO Board for their approval on June 21, 2019. This information was attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott noted the definitions and acronyms are included in the back of the TIP but may need to be moved forward. He also said there were no major changes in the projects and the list was taken from the latest FDOT download. There was a brief discussion on the funding including comments on aviation funding sources, highway funding, and funding fair share. Mr. Symroski questioned the funding spent on landscaping. Mr. Scott said he would find out how much is required to be spent on landscaping. Mr. Jim Wurster noted for the Old US 41 project a consultant had been selected. Mr. Scott elaborated on the project mentioning that the first public meeting will be held in spring and RK&K was the consultant selected. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked if there were other questions or comments.

**Mr. Ty Symroski made the motion to endorse the FY 19/20 through FY 23/24 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Phillip Boller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #6 - \*Review and Recommend MPO Priorities for MPO Allocated TA and SU Box Funds**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the staff suggested priorities for MPO Allocated TA and SU Box funds for final adoption by the MPO Board. The information was also attached to the agenda packet. He noted these priorities were discussed at the prior meeting. He said the congestion management candidate projects for TA and SU Multimodal Box funds include those projects that have pre-construction phases programmed or underway, reoccurring annual project funding requests consistent with the MPO Transportation Plan (such as the LeeTran Bus Purchase), unfunded projects from last year's priority list and new projects submitted this year. He noted for consideration of ranking order of the new bike ped projects, they were evaluated against the unfunded bike ped projects from last year using the *MPO Evaluation Criteria*. He added the rankings were then used in determining the priority order of all the bike ped projects. He then reviewed the list commenting that in addition to the project categories called out above, the attached priority list includes a category that includes a request (the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge) that involves swapping the funds from a funded project (Queens Avenue Sidewalk that could not move forward due to the drainage costs) in the FDOT Work Program. He added that among the project priorities are three traffic operations projects (Priorities 7, 8 and 9) which are eligible only for multimodal SU box funds. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked what SU funds are. Mr. Scott said they are federally apportioned funds for our area. Mr. Gogoi then showed a slide on funds available. Vice-Chair O'Donnell questioned how many of the projects are funded or could be funded. Mr. Scott replied that it is difficult to determine as FDOT does not always follow the priority order and costs don't always match estimates. Mr. Gogoi added that the Richmond Bridge and LeeTran bus purchase funds come off the top but some of the smaller amount projects may get funded. Mr. Moses Jackson asked about the McGregor/Iona project. Mr. Gogoi said it was necessary due to the current unsafe design. Mr. Scott noted it could be funded with state funds so it may not come out of this funding source. Mr. Wurster questioned the US41/Bonita project. Mr. Gogoi said the amount is high so the project may need to be split into phases. He added that it may be supplemented by FDOT as it is on a state highway. Vice-Chair O'Donnell questioned the necessity of a pathway on US 41 in Bonita as there is already a sidewalk there. A brief discussion followed on the project. Mr. Jackson commented on the urgent need to fund and begin the Bell Boulevard project. Mr. Gogoi said the county has put some money toward it but it may need to be split into phases to make more affordable to fund a portion at a time.

A brief discussion followed on only placing sidewalks on one side of the roadway to cut costs. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked for a motion.

**Mr. Jim Wurster made the motion to approve the MPO priorities for MPO Allocated TA and SU Box Funds. Mr. Robert King seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #7 - \*Review and Approval of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the proposed Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) priorities. He showed an updated table that included changes made at the earlier Technical Advisory Committee meeting including pulling the Veteran's project at the request of Collier County staff and adding the Chiquita project at the request of Cape Coral staff. Vice-Chair O'Donnell questioned the setup. Mr. Scott said the setup reflects matching the years to the CIPs and then using the criteria to rank the projects. He noted in addition to the Committee action on the priorities, the MPO staff is also seeking a recommendation to the Board requesting the moving of the awarded TRIP funding on the Estero Boulevard project to the Corkscrew Road project. He said the County is no longer able to use the TRIP funding on the Estero project due to the FDOT requirements to re-advertise for services previously selected. He commented the Corkscrew Road project is in the same fiscal year and it scores as a higher priority under our criteria. He also mentioned this request is consistent with previous requests that have been made on Lee and Collier TRIP projects that for one reason or another did not move forward (for example, moving TRIP funding on a right-of-way phase on Collier Boulevard to a construction phase for another segment of Collier Boulevard). Mr. Wurster asked if the addition and the list should be approved separate. Mr. Scott said they could be approved separate or together. Vice-Chair O'Donnell said the motion could be made for the approval of the general list and the reallocation together. There was a brief discussion on funding totals and regional cooperation between neighboring MPOs.

**Mr. Jim Wurster made the motion to approve the Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities and the Reallocation of Estero project funds to the Corkscrew project. Mr. James Dodge seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #8 - \*Review and Recommend MPO Priorities for SUN Trail Funds**

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to review the staff suggested priorities for SUN Trail funds and recommend priorities for adoption by the MPO Board. These priorities were attached to the agenda packet and also shown as slides at the meeting. He mentioned at the May TAC and CAC meetings, staff had presented a draft list of priorities for SUN Trail Program funds for committee input. He said while there is no guarantee there will be a call for application for SUN Trail Program funds this year, the District 1 SUN Trail Program Coordinator had suggested the MPO should be ready with adopted priorities to submit to FDOT should there be one. He said the list of priorities from May has been modified to reflect correct project limits and costs, and is now being brought back for committee action. He noted while we have not developed any written criteria for this type of funding, staff felt it necessary to give higher priorities to projects with pre-construction project phases already funded, and to projects submitted by local government jurisdictions that have never received any SUN Trail funds. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked if local match was needed for construction. Mr. Scott said it was not required but it helps. He added that local jurisdictions cannot be forced to contribute. Mr. Gogoi explained the funding. Mr. Boller asked what the typical trail looks like and how it is constructed. Mr. Scott said it is a multi-use pathway. Mr. Gogoi added the typical sections are twelve feet wide unless constrained by issues like right-of-way and then they can be decreased to eight or ten feet. Mr. Wurster questioned the accuracy of priority number four from Bonita to Alico. Mr. Gogoi said he spoke with the elected officials and staff. Mr. Gogoi said some less expensive projects were added as

sometimes funds are awarded to less expensive projects. There was a brief discussion on design standards for pathways.

**Mr. Ty Symroski made the motion to approve the MPO Priorities for SUN Trail Funds. Ms. Carie Call seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #8a – \*Review and Approval of Federal and State Funded Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this walk-on agenda item for the review and approval of the Federal and State Funded Priorities. He noted the design of the West Terry Street Roundabout was added to the list. Vice-Chair O'Donnell asked if that was the only change. Mr. Scott replied yes.

**Mr. Jim Wurster made the motion to approve the Federal and State Funded Priorities. Mr. Tony Cardinale seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #9 - Presentation on the Old US 41 - US 41 to Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study**

Mr. Scott commented that there was no one present from FDOT or the project team to present this agenda item. He said the project has started and the consultant met with Bonita and Collier staff with a public meeting expected in the spring.

**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 noted there would be no MPO meetings in July, and the next CAC meeting would be in August.

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

The topics for next meeting included the Aviation Priorities and a presentation from the Lee County Port Authority.

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

The information and distribution items included FDOT's Roadwatch report. Mr. Scott said he would periodically include the report to keep the committee updated on local projects.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.**

**\*Action Items    \*May Require Action**

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