

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, December 16, 2016
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lee County Commissioner and MPO Board Chair, Brian Hamman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called by Lee County MPO staff Calandra Barraco. MPO Board members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Hamman, Kiker, Pendergrass, and Manning; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Streets, Flanders, and Anthony; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Carioscia, Stout, Williams, and Burch; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Gore; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor O'Flinn and Councilmember Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Batos. Others in attendance included MPO staff Don Scott, Johnny Limbaugh, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; MPO attorney Derek Rooney; Steve Myers with LeeTran; L. K. Nandam, Bessie Reina, and D'Juan Harris with FDOT; BikeWalkLee representative Darla Letourneau; Ann Pierce; Wally Blain of Tindale Oliver; and Alan Mandel with GoodWheels.

Commissioner Hamman welcomed and introduced FDOT's new District One Secretary, L. K. Nandam. Mr. Nandam stated he would like to continue the work of prior District One Secretary Hattaway with respect to building relationships to achieve the goals of the community and increasing safety particularly with respect to bicycles/pedestrians. Mr. Nandam then stated his focus will be on partnering with communities to create success on the roadways.

Agenda Item #1 - Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) Report

Don Scott gave the BPCC report. The Lee and Charlotte MPO's Bike Ped committees met last month. The Lee County MPO's BPCC met first and approved the Safe Routes to School priorities. Directly following that meeting, the Lee and Charlotte MPO's Bike Ped committees met jointly and heard presentations on Babcock, the SunTrail Network, Burnt Store Road facilities, TIGER grant, and the City of Punta Gorda's Bike Sharing Program.

Agenda Item #2 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on the Consent Agenda Items. Public comment was closed.

Agenda Item #3 - Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the October 21, 2016 Lee and Collier Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of the November 18, 2016 Lee and Charlotte Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of the Citizen Advisory Committee Appointment

Approve the appointment of Mr. James Wurster to the CAC to fill a City of Bonita Springs seat. There are also two member at large positions open and one in District 2.

D. Approval of \$500 in Local Funds for MPOAC Legislative Advocacy Activities

Each year the MPOAC requests \$500 of Non-Federal funds from each of the MPO's in the state to be used to support their legislative advocacy activities. **Attached** to the agenda packet was the memo from Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC Executive Director, and the invoice for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Hamman asked the Board members if they would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for discussion. There was no request for discussion on any of the consent agenda items.

A motion to approve Agenda Item #3, Consent Agenda, was made by Councilmember Burch and seconded by Commissioner Kiker. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

New Business

Agenda Item #5 - *Approval of a Resolution Endorsing the Lee County School District Safe Routes to School Priorities

Don Scott introduced the agenda item requesting approval of Resolution 16 – 16, **Attachment A** of the agenda packet, endorsing the Lee County School District priorities for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds.

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) project applications. The School District has also prioritized these projects. Consistent with the Lee MPO SRTS process, the school district priorities will need to be endorsed by the MPO Board before the applications can be signed by MPO staff, and submitted to FDOT by December 31st. The school district priorities are as follows:

Priority #1: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Harns Marsh Elementary and Harns Marsh Middle located in Lehigh Acres. The proposed sidewalk is on the north side of 25th Street West from Unice Avenue North to Sunshine Boulevard North. Cost Estimate: \$337,212

Maintaining Agency: Lee County BOCC

Priority #2: The proposal calls for sidewalks 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 all along the outer side of South Gator Circle. Cost Estimate: \$1,708,516

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Priority #3: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Edison Park Elementary located in Fort Myers. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Clifford Street from Edison Avenue to Victoria Street. Cost Estimate: \$152,885

Maintaining Agency: City of Fort Myers

The locations for each of the three projects above were included in **Attachment B** of the agenda packet. At its November 22nd meeting, the MPO’s Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee recommended MPO endorsement of the school district priorities. Accordingly, staff is recommending that the MPO approve Resolution 16-16 in **Attachment A** of the agenda packet endorsing the Lee County School District priorities.

Commissioner Hamman asked if there were questions from the Board. There were no questions. There were no public comments on this item. Public comment was closed.

Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve Agenda Item #5, Approval of a Resolution Endorsing the Lee County School District Safe Routes to School Priorities. Commissioner Kiker seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Election of Officers for 2017

Don Scott introduced and explained this agenda item for the election of 2017 Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer.

Each year the MPO Board holds the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair and the new term for these officers will begin on February 1, 2017 and run through January 31, 2018. In the past we have done a rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair from the municipalities/County and the current order is listed below:

- Lee County (Current Chair)
- City of Cape Coral (Current Vice-Chair)
- Town of Fort Myers Beach
- City of Sanibel (Current Treasurer)
- City of Bonita Springs
- Village of Estero
- City of Fort Myers

Based on this rotation, the City of Cape Coral would move to Chair and the Town of Fort Myers Beach would move to Vice-Chair. In addition to the nominations of Councilmember Rick Williams as Chair and Councilmember Gore as Vice-Chair, the Board also nominated City of Sanibel Mayor Ruane to continue as Treasurer.

There was no public comment on this agenda item. Public comment was closed.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve Cape Coral as the Chair, Fort Myers Beach as the Vice-Chair, and the City of Sanibel to remain as Treasurer. Councilmember Flanders seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and there were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Burch thanked Commissioner Hamman for his service as Chair.

Agenda Item #7 - *Election of 2017 MPOAC Representatives

Don Scott asked for the appointment of an MPO voting member to be the Lee County MPO representative on the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) Governing Board and the appointment of at least one additional voting member to be an alternate MPOAC representative.

The bylaws of Florida's MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) call for each of the state's MPOs to designate its primary and alternate representatives to the MPOAC Governing Board each year and to notify the MPOAC staff of its appointments by the end of December. MPOAC Governing Board representatives and alternates must be voting members of the MPOs they represent.

Over the last year, Mayor Sawicki served as the MPOAC Governing Board member and Commissioner Hamman was the alternate.

Participation in the MPOAC for the upcoming year involves attending four meetings that have already been scheduled:

January 26, 2017 in Sunrise, FL

April 6, 2017 in Space Coast, FL

July 19, 2017 in Boca Raton, FL

November 6 & 7, 2017 in Panama City, FL

Councilmember Burch volunteered and made a motion to nominate himself as the Lee County representative to the MPOAC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manning.

Councilmember Anthony made a motion to nominate herself as the alternate and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Manning. There was no further discussion and there were no objections to either nomination. The motions carried unanimously.

Before the Board moved to the next agenda item, they discussed the interest of several Councilmembers in attending the MPOAC Weekend Institute. Don Scott explained that the institute is hosted by CUTR and is specifically for elected officials regarding the MPOs and related topics.

Councilmembers Anthony and Stout will attend the April MPOAC Institute and Councilmember Gore and Mayor Batos will attend in May.

There was no public comment. Public comment was closed.

Several Board members commented that the MPOAC Institute was a valuable and useful learning experience that all members should have the opportunity to participate in.

Councilmember Burch made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Vice-Mayor Denham. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - +Follow-up and Update on the Development of Wayfinding Signs for the TIGER Project

Don Scott provided an update on the development and implementation of Wayfinding signs as a follow up to the discussion at the November MPO Board meeting. He handed out Resolution 16-17, a list of destinations, and three maps related to the Wayfinding project. He also explained that FDOT was requiring each jurisdiction to sign a resolution.

Mr. Scott gave an update on the TIGER project that is almost complete with Daniels being substantially complete. The construction portion minus the signs is almost complete. He stated that it has been a successful project in the sense that it came in underbid, met the schedule, and has been fairly positive with respect to public relations during construction. He explained that because the project came in underbid, there was extra money and FHWA approved the use of the additional money on the initial Wayfinding planning. The MPO put together a Wayfinding group, that was made up of local jurisdictions, to decide on signs and locations. On December 1st, the Wayfinding group met to finalize the Wayfinding plan. The project team is currently updating the plan based on the comments that were received. In addition, at the Wayfinding meeting, we discussed the next steps that will now include a memo to the jurisdictions that will provide the final information on what is being implemented.

Commissioner Hamman asked the time frame for completing the memo. Mr. Scott stated it should be out in January.

Mayor Batos asked if the list that was handed out was a complete list of destinations. Mr. Scott said yes. Mayor Batos then asked why Koreshan State Park was not on the list. Mr. Scott said he will look in to that.

Mr. Scott then explained, following one of the Wayfinding meetings, there was further coordination with FDOT in which they are now requiring the resolution and it must be consistent with Florida Administrative Code. The design plans must also be signed and sealed by a P. E. They are still working with the project team on completing the project.

Commissioner Hamman opened the floor to questions.

Vice-Mayor Denham asked if this resolution would be to the areas where the signs will go. Mr. Scott replied that yes it would be. Mr. Scott continued that originally he asked if one resolution approved by the Board could cover the project. FDOT responded that each jurisdiction must sign a separate resolution. The one being brought before the Board is a sample. Vice-Mayor Denham then asked what is the urgency or time frame for this. Mr. Scott responded that the grant closeout is the end of March and they are working with Federal Highways on the time frame side. Vice-Mayor Denham also asked if they anticipated any issues meeting the deadline. Mr. Scott stated that is what they are scheduling out right now and it is difficult to say from a fabrication standpoint how long some of these things may take.

Mayor Batos asked if destinations could still be added to the list if they qualify. Mr. Scott replied that the signs are not in fabrication yet so if there are any additional destination suggestions they can be sent in.

Commissioner Hamman asked if there was any public comment. There was one comment card turned in from Darla Letourneau.

Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee, thanked the Lee County MPO staff, the consultant team, and the BPC for their work on this project. She then urged the Board to approve the Resolution in support of the Wayfinding project hopefully expediting the process for completion by March. She stated new facilities are set to open in January and these signs would be a useful tool to show the community what has been accomplished. She is looking forward to the completion of the project so there can be a celebration of this accomplishment. She thanked Commissioner Pendergrass for sponsoring the ribbon cutting ceremony last week on the Fiddlesticks Road shared use path. That path will connect with one of the TIGER paths and the Wayfinding signs will be useful for both. She then welcomed L. K. Nandam to our district.

There was no further public comment. Public comment was closed.

Commissioner Hamman asked if the memo that is slated to be sent in January will include the resolution and if that is the time for the jurisdictions to pass their resolutions. Mr. Scott stated that the memo will include the Resolution and also a sample resolution for the jurisdiction to follow and that will be the time frame for those to be completed.

The motion to approve the Resolution with the addition of Koreshan State Park was made by Commissioner Manning and seconded by Councilmember Forbes. There was no further discussion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - +Review and Comment on the Proposed 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Don Scott reviewed and commented on the proposed amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will come back for a final vote at the January 20, 2017 MPO Board meeting.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to move up the Construction phase for the SR 31/SR 78 to the Charlotte County line project to be consistent with the current proposed project time frames for this Developer funded segment. In addition, the amendment includes adding the SR 31 from SR 80 to SR 78 segment to the project list to allow the Wilson Pigott bridge replacement/widening project to be eligible for potential grant funding. **Attached** to the agenda packet was the project table in underline and strike through format illustrating the proposed revisions. Mr. Scott then asked for any comments or questions that needed to be addressed before the vote next meeting. There were no questions. There was no discussion.

Commissioner Hamman asked if any action was needed. Mr. Scott stated this agenda item is just for notification and the plan will be sent out for public review and comment before the vote next month.

Other Business

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

Commissioner Hamman asked if there was anyone who would like to comment on items not on the agenda. There was one comment card turned in by Ann Pierce.

Ann Pierce began by welcoming L. K. Nandam as the new FDOT District One Secretary. She thanked him for his help in the past. She continued with a discussion on transit, explaining that a large percentage of the transportation related funding measures across the nation passed. Many of these included funding for bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities. Some of these areas have reworked their transit systems and recreated them as viable transportation businesses attracting the most desired riders. She then said it was her opinion that the personal automobile enjoys huge subsidies even though it is the most inefficient use of space and transit does not have that same subsidy. On a related thread, the biggest increase in development was in higher density developments with access to public transportation.

There were no further comments. Public comment was closed.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran Report

Steve Myers, LeeTran Director, gave the LeeTran report. He stated LeeTran has increased service levels to meet seasonal demand. In November, they implemented the seasonal service in Fort Myers as a cooperative effort between LeeTran, FDOT, and the City of Fort Myers where free trolley service is offered. They provide a route that goes along the waterfront in Fort Myers and another route that crosses the bridge into North Fort Myers circulating to North Key Drive and back downtown. In January, LeeTran will add trolleys to increase Fort Myers Beach service from three to eight trolleys. LeeTran will be adding one vehicle to the airport route. He also stated LeeTran has added a service stop at the North Fort Myers Library/Recreation Center. In terms of information for users of the system, LeeTran is fully implemented with an ITS project and that includes information on when the next vehicle will arrive. LeeTran will have a phone app as well as a Google Transit trip planner. He also handed out and discussed a ridership report. He concluded his report and asked for questions or comments.

Councilmember Burch thanked Mr. Myers for recognizing the season. He then asked if LeeTran keeps track of what is seasonal and non-seasonal. Mr. Myers said they do keep separate statistics on the Fort Myers Beach routes and they also have a history of those numbers. Councilmember Burch asked if the ridership decrease was overall and Mr. Myers said it was. Councilmember Burch said LeeTran is monitoring all the data so they can decide what actions to take in the future to ensure mass transit does survive.

Councilmember Williams asked what a premium passenger trip was. Mr. Myers said in the last budget year the County set apart a sum of money to provide service for ADA eligible individuals who don't reside in the service area or who are eligible and would like to make a trip outside of the service area to other places within Lee County. Mr. Williams asked if that new program was the reason for the increase in ADA service. Mr. Myers said it was the bulk of the increase in the ADA service.

Mayor Batos asked if the overall decrease was seven percent. Mr. Myers said he was correct. Mayor Batos said it has always been a comment that LeeTran could get more ridership if the service was more frequent and punctual. Mr. Myers said that LeeTran defines late as anything that is over two minutes tardy in reaching its destination. Mr. Myers also said they would like to drive that number down to the zero to ten percent range. The system they just installed will tell them how the vehicles are operating in

between each scheduled stop. They can add time to schedules if needed. Mr. Myers reminded the Board that LeeTran is also a victim of the same traffic congestion the rest of the population is.

Commissioner Hamman asked how Lee County compares in punctuality to other areas this size. Mr. Myers said the data is all over the place and there are success stories.

Councilmember Gore asked if the trolley will ever have service to Sanibel from Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Myers said there is no plan in the ten-year time frame and he doesn't believe there is anything in the Long Range Plan either. He also said the closest stop to Sanibel is at Tanger Outlets.

Vice-Mayor Denham commented that the primary reason for no bus service on Sanibel is that the residents rejected it.

Commissioner Pendergrass said as a resident of Sanibel and noticing the seasonal traffic he wondered why the island did not have bus service.

Vice-Mayor Denham said there have been an enormous number of public meetings and they felt the roads were too congested to have bus stops.

Commissioner Pendergrass suggested since Ding Darling is outside the city limits of Sanibel, the bus service could stop there.

Vice-Mayor Denham said there is an agreement for bus service onto the wildlife refuge, Ding Darling.

Commissioner Pendergrass commented that many of Sanibel's residents advocate for mass transit yet they don't want it on their island.

Vice-Mayor Denham said that is correct. He said very clearly the residents do not wish to have public transportation to their island.

Agenda Item #12 - TD Report

Alan Mandel, GoodWheels, gave the GoodWheels report. He stated there were no injuries related to the November 30th fire on a GoodWheels vehicle and they consider the driver a hero for helping evacuate the passengers safely. He also stated they have 10,000 trips per month and there are seven replacement vehicles on order. Those vehicles may be available by February. He requested that Lee County be funded with more money in TD program. He concluded his report and asked for questions or comments.

Councilmember Burch thanked Mr. Mandel for his service to a part of the population that is typically forgotten. He urged Mr. Mandel to visit the municipalities and talk with them about gaining additional funding. Mr. Mandel said he has asked Mayor Sawicki to set up a meeting and copied the LCB Chair on that as well. Mr. Mandel said he would like to thank Lee County for a funding award that will help with filling the gap for matching funds. They just received \$59,000 matching award for the capital grant and \$39,000 for operating grant. He also wanted to thank the City of Cape Coral and the City of Fort Myers for funding they provided to GoodWheels. A partnership with the United Way has also resulted in funding.

Councilmember Burch suggested Mr. Mandel should coordinate with all the funding sources to achieve the largest amount of funding.

Mr. Mandel wished everyone a happy holiday and the best in the new year.

Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report

L. K. Nandam, FDOT's new District One Secretary, had nothing further to report.

Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Nandam for his help over the past year with SR 82.

Agenda Item #14 - Announcements

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn announced the City of Bonita Springs will be having a City Council workshop on Wednesday about multi-modal and setting priorities with respect to separated bike paths within the city. On a related point, there was a discussion on SunTrail at the last Joint meeting with Collier County. After the Joint meeting, the City of Bonita Springs met with Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Ron Gogoi to further discuss SunTrail. The City of Bonita Springs has since reached out to the Village of Estero to form a partnership with respect to SunTrail.

Commissioner Kiker brought up the San Carlos Road study and he feels there is a disassociation regarding where information is coming from and how it is being distributed. He asked Lee County MPO to review the process. He also asked the MPO to do the same for the Bonita Beach Road project. He has spoken with Don Scott about looking at the project one more time and bringing it before the Board after that. Commissioner Kiker would like the process reidentified to make sure all the stakeholders are involved.

Councilmember Gore asked if this was the same information that FDOT recently gave to Fort Myers Beach.

Commissioner Kiker said it was. He made the point that the information went straight to the public without going to other stakeholders like the Town or County or MPO as well.

Don Scott stated he was not aware the project was going to be the subject of a public meeting until Councilmember Gore informed him of the meeting and he happened to see the consultant in front of FDOT.

Commissioner Hamman asked if Mr. Scott could take this feedback and put it into a future agenda item. Mr. Scott responded that yes, he would.

Councilmember Burch said he wasn't aware of what they were talking about and an agenda item explanation would be helpful.

Commissioner Kiker said there are changes that are taking place, for example Bonita Springs has just offered a new vision with what they would like to do for Bonita Beach Road and it doesn't necessarily reflect the work that has been done over the past few years or the investments that have been made. He went on to say it is not a point of contention. We just need to be on the same page so we can move in the right direction.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn agreed with what Commissioner Kiker was saying. He stated they are thrilled with the cooperation of LDOT, particularly Randy Cerchie.

On a different topic, Don Scott stated the rule for MPO coordination has been finalized. It sounds like they have an exemption process but a lot can happen by the implementation deadline of 2024.

Don Scott announced that Johnny Limbaugh will be leaving the Lee County MPO and taking a position at Wright Construction. Mr. Limbaugh's last day will be January 6, 2016.

Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Limbaugh for his service.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

Memo from Jeff Kramer on the MPO Weekend Institute sessions for this year

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a. m. by Commissioner Hamman.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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