

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, March 17, 2017
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 by Chair Rick Williams at 9:01 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Hamman, Kiker, Manning, and Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Williams and Stout; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Flanders and Anthony; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Gore; Village of Estero Councilmember Jim Boesch; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Denham; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Forbes. Others in attendance included Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney; L. K. Nandam, D’Juan Harris, Zac Burch, Steve Walls, and Bessie Reina with FDOT; David Loveland and Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Village of Estero Councilmember William Ribble; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel; Diane Dillon with TYLIN; and Wayne Gaither and Levi McCollum with LeeTran.

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

Don Scott reported that the BPCC met on February 28, 2017. He said at the meeting they elected a Chair and Vice-Chair and reviewed and approved the preliminary bicycle pedestrian priorities. They also received a presentation from Simone Behr of the Lee County Visitors Convention Bureau on bike related activities and a final report on the Tice/Dunbar Walking Audits.

Agenda Item #2 - Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Don Scott reported that the CAC met on March 2, 2017. He said they reviewed and approved the amendments to the UPWP and discussed updates to the regional maps and the TRIP priorities.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on the consent agenda items.

Agenda Item #4 - *Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the February 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Gore suggested the word “voted” be replaced with “reached a consensus” on page 7 regarding the Town of Fort Myers Beach discussion on the MPO decision to pause the study.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamman to approve the corrected version of the February 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manning. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

New Business

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program

Don Scott introduced this agenda item for the approval of amendments to the existing FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to move funding for the start of an update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and to update the certification and assurance forms.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to move \$33,000 in funding from Task 4.5 Lee County Complete Streets Initiative to Task 4.4 Administrative and Planning Consultant Services for the beginning of an update to the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (underline and strike through changes were attached to the agenda packet). The funding that was included under Task 4.5 was set aside for collecting the required TIGER performance measure data, following the completion of the project, but this task will not be needed until next spring. Also, the Joint Certification Statement, the Debarment and Suspension Certification, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization and the Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement forms are being updated and those were also **attached** to the agenda packet. The TAC and CAC unanimously approved this item at their respective meetings held on March 2, 2017.

Commissioner Hamman asked who will update the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Don Scott replied that they will bring the information to the MPO Board when they have candidates.

A motion to approve this agenda item was made by Commissioner Manning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kiker. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Presentation and Discussion on the Safety Performance Measures

Don Scott presented this agenda item on the Federal requirements for the development of safety, preservation, mobility, economic and environmental performance measures have been ongoing and staff will provide a presentation that will outline those efforts. As part of these requirements, the MPO has upcoming responsibilities that include establishing targets, incorporating national goals and measures into plans and programs and reporting back progress. The deadline for establishing targets depends on when each of the performance measures was approved by the USDOT during the rulemaking process. The MPO's have 180 days after the State establishes a target to agree to support the State target or to establish their own target. This must be done to comply with MAP-21.

The Safety Performance Measures are the first ones that will be addressed, with the State targets due by August 31, 2017. The five safety performance measures that have been set are:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

The safety targets are applicable to all public roads regardless of functional classification or ownership. The MPO targets are reported to the State DOT, and are made available to the Federal Highway Administration upon request. The MPO targets are not included in the assessment of whether a State met or made significant progress towards meeting its targets. The additional mobility related measures, specifically the Federal Measures/Coverage were **attached** to the agenda packet and reviewed by Don Scott at the meeting.

Don Scott showed a National Highway Systems map of Lee County to illustrate what network some of the performance measures will be based on. He continued that FDOT will provide data and the MPO must set targets. The targets can be different for different areas of the county. He showed examples and also discussed safety targets. He said there are penalties for not meeting targets but that there is a very low impact in Florida as we spend all of our safety money on safety projects.

Councilmember Flanders asked how we know who is at fault in the fatalities/injuries. Don Scott said the Bike Ped Safety Action Plan gets into causes and it is also analyzed as part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan. He said law enforcement and media can help improve some of those conditions.

Agenda Item #8 - Update on the ongoing MPO Projects

Ron Gogoi and Don Scott gave an update on the MPO projects that included the status of current bicycle pedestrian projects.

Don Scott said the TIGER project is in punch list on completed segments. He said the Wayfinding project has preliminary costs and change order submitted to FHWA. He said the packages were sent out to the municipalities with locations and sample resolutions. He said they are also looking at potential ribbon cutting locations along the project segments.

Don Scott said there would be a Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plan Meeting on March 27, 2017.

Ron Gogoi said there was a PAC meeting on January 31 and the first public meeting on February 15 for the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan. He said 95% of the funding analysis is complete. He added that the next steps are draft recommendations on March 27 and another public workshop on April 26. He noted that the wikimaps is posted on the Fort Myers Beach website. He showed slides on Fort Myers Beach demographics and commuting.

Don Scott showed a slide on the US 41 N sidewalk projects.

Ron Gogoi gave a brief history of the Able Canal pathway and said the PD&E study has a completion date of May 2018. He said the Able Canal could be part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

Councilmember Flanders said a two-year time frame seems long for a pathway PD&E study. Don Scott said the average for a road PD&E is four years.

Agenda Item #9 - Overview of Autonomous Vehicle Technology and Measuring the Potential Impact in the Transportation Model

Don Scott presented this agenda item on the development of autonomous/connected vehicle technology. He explained that this technology has the potential to provide a large improvement in safety, help reduce congestion, improve vehicle fuel efficiency, and provide increased mobility options. There are a lot of issues in determining how to reflect those coming changes in the development of the upcoming Long Range Plan that attempts to project travel conditions and infrastructure needs out to the year 2045. There has been recent travel modeling work done that provides the option of estimating the level of implementation of autonomous/connected vehicles that will in turn provide model output traffic projections reflecting the benefits of the projected implementation. The assumption is that the larger the increase in the amount of autonomous vehicles the less gaps/more capacity that can be provided by the existing transportation system. This opens up options for providing different scenarios for comparison for determining projected infrastructure needs.

There is a lot of uncertainty on the benefits to the implementation of autonomous/connected vehicles as there are competing claims made on how it will impact our future. **Attached** to the agenda packet was a recent white paper from the Victoria Transport Policy Institute (Todd Litman, Feb. 2017) on this subject that provides a good background on the implications while also looking at projections for implementation.

Don Scott discussed the levels of automation from no automation to fully automated. He said automated includes autonomous and connected vehicles. He listed potential benefits of safety, fuel efficiency, accessibility, saving freight, and lessening congestion. He added that 90% of accidents are driver error and may be avoided. He listed issues for deployment including legal liability, licensing, security, insurance, cyber-attacks, weather influence and public fears. He noted recent survey results indicate that 59% would like some features of automation but that 75% are afraid to ride in fully automated vehicles. Currently only 3% of the US fleet is equipped with self-driving features. IHS Automotive predicts there will be 54 million self-driving vehicles by 2035. Planning implications include capacity of roadway, vehicle ownership, land use planning, transit, freight movement, and increase in data needs. The MPO will have to include some of this impact in its LRTP update. We will need to consider infrastructure and tech improvements in the LRTP to accommodate driverless vehicles. FHWA is recommending scenarios to include impact of driverless vehicles.

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 - LeeTran Report

Wayne Gaither with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the Beach Park and Ride was held on March 6, 2017. They are estimating completion for the end of the 2017 calendar year. The February passenger trip report showed a down turn of 5.9%. Mr. Gaither said this could be partially caused by last year being a leap year and having an extra day. He also said the average daily ridership was only down 2%.

Agenda Item #12 - TD Report

Alan Mandel with Good Wheels gave the TD report. He said they are still waiting to place orders for the seven replacement vehicles. He also said he will be in Tallahassee on Tuesday for scheduling software funding.

Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report

D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He recognized the City of Cape Coral for being the Florida Bicycle Association’s Bike-Friendly Community of the Year for 2016.

Agenda Item #14 - Announcements

There was a brief discussion on bicycle and pedestrian awareness and how clothing can increase visibility.

Commissioner Pendergrass noted that he had seen a woman crossing a road dangerously even though there was a crosswalk. He also announced he would not be at the next meeting.

Vice-Mayor Denham commented about the tech changes with bicycles and asked if there were regulations against the new motorized bicycles, that can reach speeds of 30 mph, being on the sidewalks. He requested a discussion on this subject and how to address the issue at a future meeting. He believes it is a potential safety hazard on paths. Councilmember Gore asked what the legal speed is on sidewalks. Vice-Mayor Denham reiterated that the bicycles can go up to 30 mph. Commissioner Pendergrass commented that sidewalks are for pedestrians only and no motors are allowed. Don Scott added that sidewalks are not designed for that speed.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

Don Scott handed out a newer version of the MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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