

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, May 19, 2017  
Lee County Administration East Building  
2201 Second Street, Room 118  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239-244-2220



## Meeting Minutes

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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. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Brian Hamman, Larry Kiker, Cecil Pendergrass, and John Manning; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Rick Williams, Jim Burch, and John Carioscia; City of Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr., Mike Flanders, and Gaile Anthony; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Tracey Gore; Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred 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, Steve Walls, Laura Herrscher, Nicole Mills, Bessie Reina, and Zachary Burch 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; Saeed Kazemi with the City of Fort Myers; Steve Myers with LeeTran; and Kayleen Mueller with American Consulting.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Report**

Mr. Don Scott with the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization gave the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) report for their last meeting on April 25, 2017. He said the BPCC reviewed the Estero Bike/Ped Scope and the Sanibel Bike/Ped Update Scope, watched the I-75/Colonial presentation, reviewed the Regional Non-Motorized Map, and discussed the finalization of the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Citizens Advisory Committee Report**

Mr. Don Scott gave the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Report for their last meeting on May 4, 2017. He said they approved the revised Regional Roadway Network Map, approved the Estero Bike/Ped Master Plan Scope and the Sanibel Bike/Ped Master Plan Update Scope, approved the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Development Plan, reviewed the draft Transportation Improvement Plan, reviewed the draft revision of the Long Range Transportation Plan, and had a lengthy discussion on autonomous vehicles.

### **Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on consent agenda items.

### **Agenda Item #4 - Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the April 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the Local Coordinating Board Certification
- C. Approval of the Minor Update to the Transportation Disadvantage Service Plan
- D. CAC Appointment – Walk On Item

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the consent agenda items. Councilmember Jim Burch seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously. A roll call vote was then taken, and it was unanimous for approval.**

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item #6 - \*Approval of the Joint Regional Roadway Network**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review and approve the revised regional roadway network map that was attached to the agenda packet. He stated the regional roadway map has been updated to reflect current conditions and to also include a joint resolution that can be included with future TRIP agreements, consistent with our discussions on this item back in the fall. The update includes the removal of Old Metro, now that the Metro Crossover has been built, the addition of Hanson Street from US 41 to Ortiz Avenue, and the addition of Veterans Memorial Boulevard from US 41 to Livingston Road in Collier County. These have been added based on the addition of a new criteria to address improvements to parallel routes that will help reduce congestion on major regional facilities. The TAC and CAC Committees for both the Lee and Collier MPOs have unanimously approved this item.

**Commissioner John Manning made the motion to approve the Joint Regional Roadway Network. Councilmember Mike Flanders seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #7 - \*Review and Approval of the Village of Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Scope**

Mr. Ron Gogoi with the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization presented this agenda item to review and approve the scope for the development of the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan that was attached to the agenda packet. The Florida Department of Transportation's Work Program includes a project for developing a new Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan for the Village of Estero. Currently, the project is funded in FY 2019 and the earliest that the project can commence is July 1, 2018. However, the MPO and FDOT are still looking for funds to advance the project, so we want to be ready with an approved scope for project letting in case that happens. The Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee, TAC, and CAC have all approved the latest version of the scope that was attached to the agenda packet, which addresses all of the comments that we have received to date.

**Mayor Jim Boesch made the motion to approve the Village of Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Scope. Commissioner John Manning seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #8 - \*Review and Approval of the City of Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update Scope**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to review and approve the scope for updating the City of Sanibel Shared Use Path Master Plan that was attached to the agenda packet. The Florida Department of Transportation's Work Program includes a project for updating the City of Sanibel's 2009 Shared Use Master Plan. Currently, the project is funded in FY 2019 and the earliest that the project can commence is July 1, 2018. However, the MPO and FDOT are still looking for funds to advance the project, so we want to be ready with an approved scope for project letting in case that happens. The Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee, the TAC, and the CAC have all approved

the latest version of the scope that was attached to the agenda packet, which addresses all of the comments that we have received to date.

**Vice-Mayor Mick Denham made the motion to approve the City of Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update Scope. Mayor Jim Boesch seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #9 - Presentation on the I-75/Colonial Boulevard Interchange Modification Project**

Ms. Nicole Mills, FDOT, introduced herself stating she was presenting on behalf of Justin Reck, the current project manager who was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. She explained that this non-action agenda item on the I-75/Colonial Interchange Modification Project that is funded for construction in FY 2020 will be presented through a video. The FDOT Work Program includes an upcoming project that calls for this modification of the Colonial Boulevard Interchange. Ms. Mills then introduced Ms. Kayleen Mueller, the Engineer of Record (EOR) with American Consulting. Ms. Mills started the video. The video went over the project limits, an overview of the project, existing conditions, developing area, need for the project, and the proposed improvements. The video explained that the design calls for a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at the I-75/Colonial interchange, a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) at the Colonial and Six Mile Cypress Parkway Intersection, and a Super Street at the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Forum Boulevard to meet existing and future travel demand in the corridor. Each proposed design was further elaborated on including diagrams. The video continued with an aerial view of five common travel paths in the project area. The video also covered the estimated costs and impacts that included 1.84 acres of right-of-way acquisition. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$45 million not including the right-of-way acquisition. The design phase is currently underway, the right-of-way is set for late 2017, and the construction phase is funded in FY 2019/2020. The last section of the video listed information on the FDOT contacts for this project. Ms. Mills mentioned there would also be a CFI constructed at SR 82 and Gunnery. She added there is a DDI that will be opening in June in Sarasota at University Parkway and I-75. She stated it is the first in the state of Florida. Ms. Mueller then introduced the driver's windshield perspective video for the same five paths shown aerially in the previous project video. Ms. Mills stated the public hearing for this project will be June 15 at the Gulf Coast Church of Christ. She opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Hamman asked what would happen if a motorist gets stuck in the DDI. Ms. Mills stated this will not happen if the traffic signals are followed since the signals are timed to work together. Commissioner Hamman said a judgement call has to be made not to cross. Ms. Mills responded that it must be made now as well. Commissioner Hamman asked if the system will be improved. Ms. Mills responded that at every intersection of the project the situation will be improved. Mr. Nandam stated it was a challenge since the intersection at Ortiz/Colonial is at capacity. He stated the focus was to determine the best treatment. He added the backups should be eliminated by the treatment since reducing the number of phases will add efficiency. Mayor Sawicki asked what signage will be placed throughout to avoid confusion. Ms. Mills stated that is why there was a portion of the video dedicated to the windshield view, to illustrate the signage. She added that these treatments are already used in other areas of the country. Mayor Sawicki asked if drivers will have to follow through if they make a mistake. Ms. Mills said they will. Ms. Mueller stated there will be an emphasis on road signs and pavement markers. Councilmember Anthony asked when the memo will go out to the public. Ms. Mills responded it will be this week. Ms. Mueller added the flyers are being printed, and they are going out in the mail this week. Councilmember Anthony asked if an email will go out. Ms. Mills responded that it will go out this week. Ms. Mueller added there are no homes in the direct area of the project. Councilmember Burch asked Ms. Mills to check the arrows on the road in the video for accuracy. Ms. Mills said she will check the video as they are still editing it for the public hearing in June. Councilmember Burch commented that more money makes for better design, and overpasses de-complicate the design. Councilmember Flanders asked how many signalized lights are proposed. Ms. Mills said there will be the same number, four signalized intersections. Councilmember Flanders suggested showing

landscaping in the presentation. Ms. Mills stated there is a separate landscaping project programmed after construction, and it has a budget of at least \$1 million. Commissioner Mann asked when this will be an action item. Mr. Scott said the project is already moving forward. Commissioner Mann asked when this was an action item. Mr. Scott said it was voted on as a project in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Commissioner Mann commented that the project was impressive yet confusing. He asked if there was a computerized version with peak traffic. Ms. Mueller responded that significant modeling and simulations had been done. She added that it was documented in the Interchange Modification Report. L. K. Nandam commented that when the project was considered, VisSim models were used to simulate traffic. He continued that based on the simulation, these recommendations were chosen. Chair Williams voiced his concern about distracted drivers in these new types of intersections. Commissioner Pendergrass asked for a copy of the presentation. Ms. Mills said that Zachary Burch will send it out. Commissioner Pendergrass asked if the number of lanes increased. Ms. Mueller responded that in some cases they did and in some cases they stayed the same. She added they are able to accommodate a higher volume of traffic since there are fewer phases. Mr. Nandam stated that change is always difficult, but these treatments have been implemented successfully in other areas. He added that education, outreach, signing, and marking are important for success. Councilmember Anthony asked Ms. Mills to explain the signal at Dynasty Drive. Ms. Mills said currently there is not a left turn. She added this is not included in this project, but they are working on a separate project to be completed at the same time that will only include a single left turn lane due to environmental concerns. Mayor Boesch urged the project coordinators to consider the seniors in the area. Vice-Mayor Denham stated following the traffic when it is heavy may be easy but would be more difficult when it is light. He asked if changes will be made based on the comments at today's meeting. Ms. Mills said they will be combined with the public comment at the hearing to determine if any adjustments are necessary. Ms. Mueller added that there have been reductions in the number of accidents and increased safety where the treatments have been implemented. Councilmember Burch urged the project managers to keep in mind this is an evacuation route and consider the possibility of a power outage. He also suggested landscaping that won't obstruct signage or signals. Vice-Mayor Gore asked the project managers to consider the large number of teenage/younger drivers in the area. Commissioners Pendergrass and Manning left at 10:09 a.m. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn complimented FDOT on the creative ideas. Commissioner Mann added this calls for innovative thinking. He said something must be done, even if it is wrong. FDOT's Zachary Burch said he will send two other videos that have more color, landscaping, and are visually more appealing. Commissioner Kiker commented that the treatments are not difficult to maneuver. He added that public education is important, but FDOT also needs to ensure the public knows they are listening and will make changes if necessary. Councilmember Anthony suggested giving statistics on safety at the beginning of the Public Hearing presentation. She also suggested they should share the success of the Sarasota project. Ms. Mills said they could also add the information about the VisSim modeling done.

### **Agenda Item #10 - Review of the Draft FY 2017/2018 through FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Mr. Don Scott presented this non-action item on the draft FY 2017/2018 - FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Board's review prior to public review and final approval at the June meeting. He provided an overview of the TIP. He summarized that there are \$479 million worth of projects and this has increased our area's fair share. He discussed the comments that had been addressed. The TIP document can be found at the following link:

<http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Draft-TIP-FY-2018-2022-update-with-appendices.pdf> \*

Vice-Mayor Gore asked if the MPO and FDOT could present to the neighborhood surrounding the Connecticut project after design is completed. Mr. Scott replied yes. Commissioner Mann asked what projects were included for SR 31 improvements. Mr. Scott responded that SR 78 north is not showing in TIP, but there is a private sector interest in constructing this section. He said it is in the process of a

SEIRs (State Environment Impact Report). Mr. Nandam added there is a SEIRs for widening of the highway, and they are working on locating funding to go from two to four lanes. Commissioner Mann stated this is a major issue in his district, especially since yesterday the Regional Planning Council approved an additional segment of the Kitson development that did not include capacity improvements for SR 31. He added FDOT said the level of service did not increase and was not needed. Commissioner Mann said there is increased traffic from the Kitson development and from increased mining in the area. He would like the developer to commit to widening SR 31 from the Charlotte County line to SR 80. He questioned when this will happen. He asked what the trigger mechanism is that will pressure the developer to fund the widening. He also questioned when the SR 31 bridge will be widened. Mr. Scott gave a brief history beginning with the PD&E and public hearing in 2012. He also said that the gas line previously stopped the project. He added that they are trying to get the project back on track, but funding hasn't been identified yet. Commissioner Mann asked again, when this will be done. Mr. Scott said the same discussion occurred five years ago. Commissioner Mann would like the developer, on record, re-affirming the commitment to widening this road since the RPC just approved more units. Mr. Nandam stated there are several agencies involved including FDOT, Lee County, and the RPC. He said they will speak with the developer and get a status. He asked if Commissioner Mann would like a presentation to the MPO Board. Commissioner Mann said a presentation would be good at some point but for now a conversation between the developer, the MPO, and FDOT is sufficient. Councilmember Burch stated he is the Chairman of the RPC and admitted there are issues with the Babcock development by Kitson. He added that soon the RPC will be dissolved. He directed the action to Mr. Scott and the MPO to assist Commissioner Mann in alleviating the regional impacts. Vice-Mayor Denham commented that the RPC erred in approving the additional units. Commissioner Hamman stated he supported Commissioner Mann and asked what could be done to move the project forward. Mr. Nandam said he would have a conversation with the MPO. Mr. Scott said the PD&E was in the E+C, but the Right of Way and Construction were to be funded by the developer. Commissioner Mann asked for an update on the project. Chair Williams asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments. Councilmember Streets left at 10:40 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #11 - Review of the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for review and comment on the proposed amendment to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The MPO staff is proposing an LRTP amendment, to be voted on at the June meeting, to reflect the proposed interim I-75/Corkscrew Interchange improvements consistent with current plans for this Interchange. The proposed changes to the State/Other Arterial table showing the changes to the project description and estimated cost for the improvements were attached to the agenda packet.

There were no comments from the MPO Board. There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Mann left at 10:42 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Planned Studies and Improvements to Enhance Access to and from the Bridges**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to provide information on future planned studies and projects that will improve access to and from the bridges. This item is a follow up on the request from the Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki on what plans there are for improvements for the Cape Coral Bridges. The following is a list compiled by MPO staff of upcoming transportation studies and projects over the next fifteen years that will enhance access to and from the bridges:

- Colonial from US 41 to McGregor Blvd. – study to determine improvement options funded in FY 2018

- Cape Coral Bridge Old Span replacement – project will add shoulders/breakdown lanes, design is funded in FY 2020 and construction is planned for FY 2028
- Veterans/Santa Barbara Overpass – design and construction is planned for the FY 2026 to FY 2030 time frame
- Kismet/Littleton Road re-alignment – construction is programmed in FY 2018
- Littleton Road from Corbett to Bus US 41 design is programmed in FY 2019 and right of way/construction is planned for the FY 2021-2025 time frame
- Cape Coral Evacuation Study – planned for the FY 2021-2025 time frame and included on the priority list (corresponding origin-destination study PL funded in FY 2018)

Mr. Scott also showed a slide of a map, existing counts, and future projections for bridges. Councilmember Carioscia left the meeting. Mr. Scott asked if there were any comments. Mayor Sawicki asked where the growth figures came from. Mr. Scott said they are from a traffic model, and the traffic increases aren't as great as the population increases. He added the direct source of the data was the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR), 2040 projections. He explained that buildout is 400,000. He added there are no plans for a new bridge. He commented that there are mitigation strategies that could be used including increased transit use, ridesharing, bike/ped facilities, and better response time to crashes. Mayor Sawicki expressed her concern that the bridge is currently over capacity. She asked what is on the list to improve that. Mr. Scott responded that beyond shoulders, nothing. Mayor Sawicki asked what could be done and when will conversations happen to fix this. She added the toll lanes are the problem on the Cape Coral Bridge. Mr. Scott responded that he was unsure of an immediate fix to the problem. Mayor Sawicki asked what the next step was. Mr. Scott said the improvement needs to be added to the LRTP. Mayor Sawicki asked if Cape Coral needed a resolution. Mr. Scott replied that it was not necessary. Commissioner Hamman asked if there were funds for a study. Mr. Scott said an Origin and Destination (O&D) study might be the first step. Commissioner Hamman asked if one was planned. Mr. Scott said yes it was planned for the next fiscal year, after July 1. He added that it is MPO funded and will use cell phone data. Commissioner Hamman asked if it will just be for that specific area. Mr. Scott responded that it will be for the entire Lee County area. Mayor Sawicki offered suggestions for the toll area. Mayor Sawicki also suggested the toll surplus money could be used. Mr. Scott replied that the replacement cost of the bridge could be in excess of \$80 million. Commissioner Hamman added the Cape tolls are going to fund the Burnt Store widening, and the tolls are being used to create a fund for Cape Coral bridge replacement. Mayor Sawicki asked if the money could be reallocated. Ms. Persides Zambrano, with Cape Coral Public Works, stated that the current allocation of funds is part of an interlocal agreement that expires in 2020. She stated she could include this as a topic for the next internal Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Commissioner Hamman commented that the agreement cannot be re-written in the middle. Ms. Zambrano replied he was correct. Commissioner Hamman stated that he would like to see more cooperation. Mayor Sawicki replied that in the past there has not been cooperation and that is why she is being direct. Chair Williams asked if the meeting could move on. Mayor Boesch also asked if the meeting could move forward. Mayor Sawicki announced she would be leaving to spend time with her sister who was in town for a family event. Mayor Sawicki left at 11:04 a.m. Councilmember Flanders asked about the status of refurbishing or replacing the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Councilmember Anthony left at 11:05 a.m. Mr. Walls, FDOT, said his staff is looking into it and they will report back to Councilmember Flanders and Commissioner Hamman. There were no comments from the public.

### **Other Business**

#### **Agenda Item #13 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

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

### **Agenda Item #14 - LeeTran Report**

Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He gave an update on the ITS project stating they are about to go public with the system. He added that the trip planner is implemented and operating. He stated the mobile app has been tested, it is running, and ready to use. He also announced that total ridership for April was down 2% from last year, but beach ridership was strong with an 8% increase for April over last year. Mr. Myers then asked if there were questions regarding his report. Vice-Chair Gore said there was discussion at the latest council meeting regarding a presentation from LeeTran on trolleys and benches. She asked if the Fort Myers Beach Town Manager had reached out to LeeTran to present on trolleys and benches. Mr. Myers said he had not heard from them personally, but he will reach out to the Town of Fort Myers Beach on this.

### **Agenda Item #15 - TD Report**

Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels gave the TD report. He said the Commission met Wednesday deciding that as of July 1, 2017 there will be additional funding available to transport non-Medicaid passengers. He added that Good Wheels will be sending out letters to local municipalities for assistance with local matching funds of \$150,000. He commented on the success of the Good Wheels program for transporting students to training. He thanked the MPO Board.

Councilmember Burch said the area is recovering from the worst recession, but Cape will go through its budget cycle to see how they could help. He added it is time for a joint meeting to talk about bridges and provide solutions for citizens. Mr. Mandel said the county already contributes to equipment.

### **Agenda Item #16 - FDOT Report**

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He informed the MPO Board that due to Seminole Gulf Railway crossing construction, there would be a closure on Colonial Boulevard between Fowler and Metro. He said the closure will last June 9 through June 23, weather permitting. He added the detours will be signed and posted, and FDOT is expecting delays. Mr. Harris also announced the External Draft of the Complete Streets Handbook has been released for comments through May 26, 2017. He said the comments could be submitted at [www.FLCompleteStreets.com](http://www.FLCompleteStreets.com).

Mr. Zachary Burch with FDOT commented regarding the closure on Colonial. He stated a flyer was sent out earlier in the week. He said FDOT is encouraging residents to avoid the area. He asked the MPO Board for assistance in spreading the word. He added that signs will be up.

### **Agenda Item #17 – Announcements**

Chair Williams announced he will not be at the June 16, 2017 meeting due to a League of Cities event conflict.

Vice-Chair Gore announced she will be attending the MPOAC Weekend Institute this weekend.

Deputy Mayor O’Flinn announced he had just attended a Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation meeting hosted at Cape Coral Hospital by Lee Health.

### **Agenda Item #18 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution item included in the agenda packet was the MPOAC Legislative Update from May 5, 2017.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.**

^Roll Call Vote    \*Action Items    †May Require Action

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