

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, August 25, 2017
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Williams at 9:00 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 Hamman, Kiker, Manning, and Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Carioscia and Williams; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Anthony, Flanders, and Streets; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Gore; Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch; 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, Steve Walls, and Zachary Burch with FDOT; Roger Desjarlais, David Loveland, and Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel; Juliet Iglesias and Derek Faulkner with Lee County Port Authority; Sean Corey with IT Services of Lee County; and Johnny Limbaugh with Wright Construction.

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

Mr. Don Scott gave the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) Report. He stated the BPCC met on June 27, 2017 and approved the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Scope of Services, discussed the update of the pathway network, provided input on amendments to the Bicycle Pedestrian LRTP element, and discussed crossing issues at the SR 78/Business 41 intersection. He mentioned the BPCC also had a Joint meeting with the Collier Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC) on August 22, 2017 where the Joint Committee by consensus, as Collier did not have a quorum, approved the proposed changes to the joint regional pathways, discussed ongoing trail planning projects and the upcoming statewide meetings regarding land trail opportunity/priority trails, and heard a presentation on motorcycle crashes and the cost of medical care.

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

Mr. Scott gave the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report. He commented that at the last meeting of the CAC on August 3, 2017, the CAC recommended approval of the TIP roll forward amendments, the aviation priorities, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Scope of Services. He noted they also discussed performance measure requirements and the impact of vehicle changes on infrastructure needs.

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 June 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve the June 16, 2017 meeting minutes. Councilmember Flanders seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Hearing Items

Agenda Item #6 - ^*Approval of the Amendments to the FY 2017/2018 through FY 2021/2020 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Roll Forward Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the Amendments to the FY 2017/2018 through FY 2021/2020 Transportation Improvement Program to add to the Roll Forward Report. The document was attached to the agenda packet. He explained that each year there are projects that are scheduled to be authorized prior to June 30th, when the previous TIP is in effect, but for various reasons they do not get authorized. He added the projects will automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program but need to be accounted for in the MPO's TIP. This amendment is being done to account for the roll forward projects within the current TIP. He noted the TAC and CAC approved this item at their August 3, 2017 meetings. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Williams asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve the amendments to the TIP. Councilmember Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously. A roll call vote was taken and all members voted in favor.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approval of the Amendments to the MPO Board Bylaws

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the proposed revisions to the MPO bylaws to add public comment procedures for MPO meetings and workshops. He explained from a discussion at a previous MPO Board meeting, the MPO bylaws are being amended to add public comment procedures that include time limits with some flexibility for the MPO Board to adjust based on the circumstances of the meeting. The proposed additions to the language revisions are included on page 13 and 14, underlined, that was attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned it had already been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. Chair Williams asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilmember Flanders asked about the public comment time on non-agenda items being limited to 15 minutes and if that was under the authority of the MPO Chair. Mr. Scott responded that if there are numerous speakers on an item not on the agenda, then it should be made an agenda item at a subsequent meeting. Councilmember Flanders then asked if it is mandated by State Statutes to include a section for comments on non-agenda items. Mr. Scott said he did not think so. Mr. Derek Rooney said changes were made a few years ago to Chapter 286 to allow public comment on any items so this covers that requirement. Chair Williams added that although this is in the Bylaws, it could be modified by the MPO Board. There were no additional comments.

Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve the amendments to the MPO Board Bylaws. Commissioner Pendergrass seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Endorsement of the Aviation Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the endorsement of the Lee County Port Authority aviation priorities for the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport. He said the Lee County Port Authority is working on its latest priorities for aviation projects at Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field for endorsement by the MPO Board. He said if there were any specific questions on line items, staff from Lee County Port Authority were in attendance to respond. Councilmember Gore asked if this had anything to do with flight patterns. Mr. Gogoi said it did not.

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the aviation priorities. Councilmember Streets seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - *Review and Approval of the Scope of Work for the Update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (BPSAP)

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the revised scope for updating the Lee MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, attached to the agenda packet. He said the draft scope for the update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan has now been updated to reflect comments that we have received

through the two round of Committee Meeting reviews. Some of the scope language changes that have been recommended from the Committee meeting discussions and reflected in this final version include the following:

- Adding a calculation for projected costs associated with fatality, injury, and property damage crashes.
- Adding a presentation to the Committees and the Board after the draft crash analysis report is produced (possibly as a joint workshop).
- Addition of potential representatives for the stakeholder group.
- Clarifying the potential survey questions that will be asked of the stakeholders.
- Adding a review/update of the complete streets policies.
- Adding perceptions of law enforcement and levels of stress by users surveys

He added the updated scope was approved by the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee at their June 27, 2017 meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee at their August 3, 2017 meeting, and the Citizens Advisory Committee at their August 3, 2017 meeting. There were no committee comments or questions. There were no public comments or questions.

Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve the scope of work for the Lee MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Action Plan update. Councilmember Flanders seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - Presentation of the Recently Completed Fowler Intersection Improvements

Mr. Randy Cerchie, with the Lee County Department of Transportation, gave a slide show presentation of this agenda item on recently completed Fowler Intersection Improvements. He explained that based on the latest Dangerous by Design report, working closely with Commissioner Hamman and FDOT, Lee County DOT considered pedestrian safety enhancements along Palm Beach, Bayshore, and San Carlos Boulevard. He said FDOT has ongoing plans and projects along these roadways, so Lee County DOT sought to improve pedestrian conditions along Fowler Avenue instead. He gave the locations of the improvements and added that these improvements included new crosswalks and signage. Additionally, he noted they looked at mid-block crosswalks to identify where adding streetlights could help improve pedestrian safety. He said they contacted FPL and LCEC to place streetlights at the identified locations. Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Cerchie and his team, including Roger Desjarlais. Chair Williams commented that flashing lights on Matlacha are very effective. Councilmember Flanders referenced the elaborate plans for crosswalks in the US 41 renovation plans, noting the only place in Lee County where we do more than the minimum is on Estero Boulevard. He suggested Lee County should also take more than the minimal approach, of painting and regular DOT signs, in other areas as well. He added that lighted signs are not that expensive and worth the additional cost. Mr. Scott noted that even with the RFBs, some people don't stop. He suggested it would be better for an engineer to address the standards. Councilmember Flanders said it was apparent that what was done on Fowler is the minimum standard for crosswalks, and he noted it was most likely a funding issue. He added that safety should be a priority. Mr. L. K. Nandam, FDOT District Secretary, said from an FDOT perspective, first they look at demand, then they look at speed and geometry of the roadway. He said they use a matrix where they start with signs and paintings and then progress to rapid rectangular flashing beacons and then to HAWKs. He added the HAWKs will be used on US 41. He said the final step would be a full block signal and gave the example of Coronado Charter. Councilmember Flanders said that was a very analytical approach, but the perception of the driver and what catches their attention should also be looked at. Chair Williams said the lights are effective but best used on a road that isn't very busy. He added these lights are not expensive and there is a payback. Commissioner Kiker referenced the earlier comment regarding Estero Boulevard saying that there are factors to be considered like the number of signs that can be used and still be effective as well as the behavior of the pedestrians using the crosswalk. He added it is a science and suggested contacting Rob Phelan with LCDOT. There was a brief discussion about pedestrian behavior.

Other Business

Agenda Item #11 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Wayne Gaither with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said as part of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project that LeeTran has been working on, the public access real time information system is available for download to Android and Apple products. He added that the app is called Ride LeeTran and can be downloaded in the app stores or on LeeTran's website. He noted that six out of seven kiosk locations are open and listed the locations. He explained that the seventh location, the Beach Park and Ride facility, will be open by the end of the year. He commented on the services the kiosks provide. There was a brief discussion regarding the reasons LeeTran doesn't service Sanibel. Commissioner Kiker instructed Vice-Chair Gore to contact his office and have them set up a meeting with Roger Desjarlais to discuss the Fort Myers Beach/Sanibel public transportation issue. There was not a representative from Sanibel present to comment.

Agenda Item #13 - TD Report

Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels gave the Good Wheels report. He said the Transportation Commission has awarded additional money this year raising the total from \$76,000 to \$108,000 per month. He added that Good Wheels has seven charter bus routes this year and is working with five Medicare brokers. He alerted the Board to the fact that although money has been awarded, it still hasn't been received. There were no questions or comments for Good Wheels.

Agenda Item #14 - FDOT Report

Mr. Steve Walls with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He noted there was an e-public hearing for FDOT's tentative Work Program for FY 2019-2023 from October 16 through October 20, 2017. He informed the Board that the SR 82 project from Lee Boulevard to Shawnee will begin next month, and there will be a public pre-construction meeting held at Gateway Trinity Church, September 7 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He stated next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday there will be neighborhood meetings on the US 41 project. Mr. Scott handed out a flyer on the meeting dates and locations.

Mr. L. K. Nandam discussed updating the Work Program and the goal of safety first. He spoke of the Alert today/Alive tomorrow program as well as the high visibility programs noting that funding has been increased to \$9 million to cover 25 counties. He urged the Board to speak with their law enforcement agencies about applying for the funding. He added that the Florida Safety Office will be addressing high crash locations related to specific patterns with \$60 million being allocated to that program for FY 2019-2020. Mr. Nandam also discussed the Complete Streets Handbook stating they will be moving away from production of the handbook and instead concepts will be incorporated in context guidelines, manuals, documents, policies, and practices. Chair Williams asked Mr. Nandam to send the law enforcement grant information to Mr. Scott for distribution to the entire MPO Board. There was a brief discussion about the San Carlos Island/Fort Myers Beach traffic study. Mr. Walls with FDOT said it would not be done until after the public meetings. There was a brief discussion on the diverging diamond intersection proposed in Lee County and the one open in Sarasota.

Agenda Item #15 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #16 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott handed out a flyer for the US 41 median project public meetings and one for the Office of Greenways and Trails system plan update public meetings. He noted our area meeting location had changed from Englewood to North Port.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

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