

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, May 18, 2018
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 at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Tracey Gore.

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 Brian Hamman and Frank Mann (9:29 a.m.); City of Cape Coral Councilmembers John Carioscia, John Gunter, and Jessica Cosden; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony and Fred Burson; Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor/MPO Board Chair Tracey Gore; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Councilmember Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Councilman William Ribble.

Others in attendance included D'Juan Harris, Lawrence Massey, Zachary Burch, L. K. Nandam and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Dave Murphy with Lee County; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney; Steve Myers and Paul Goyette with LeeTran; IT Services of Lee County; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; David Urich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition; Richard Walker with GHD; Jeannie Trumbower; and Cindy Hawk.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on consent agenda items.

Agenda Item #2 - Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the March 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the Local Coordinating Board Certification

There were no comments from the Board members on the Consent Agenda items.

Councilmember Jessica Cosden moved to approve the consent agenda items. Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

Chair Gore mentioned that public comments will be taken at each agenda item.

Public Hearing Item

Agenda Item #4 - Adoption of the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program and the MPO Planning Funds Agreement

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the adoption of the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program, Resolution 18-03 authorizing the Chair to sign the MPO Agreement, and Resolution 18-04 authorizing the Chair to execute and file the grant application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 funding for transit planning tasks identified in FY 2018/2019. Mr. Scott reminded the MPO Board that the draft of the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for fiscal year 2018/2019 and fiscal year 2019/2020 was provided at the March meeting. He added the draft UPWP was then submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA,) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for their review and comments. He noted the comments received from those agencies

were included in Appendix E of the agenda packet, and the recommended changes have been addressed in this final draft for the Board's approval. Mr. Scott also discussed the Section 5305 planning grant application that was included in the UPWP in Appendix B. He noted that this grant is awarded to the MPO each year to support the transit planning activities described in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program. Funding is provided from federal (80%) and state (10%) with a required local match of 10%. He added the local matching funds are provided by Lee Tran and the MPO for the tasks that are undertaken. Mr. Scott also reviewed slides of Table 1, the planning funds agreement, and the consultant services task 4.4, that were also included in the agenda packet. He discussed the Florida Planning Emphasis Areas for 2018. He mentioned that if an amendment was made, performance measures needed to be included. He briefly discussed autonomous, electric, and connected vehicles. He noted this was a public hearing item and asked if there were any comments. There were no public or Board comments.

Commissioner Brain Hamman made the motion to approve the adoption of the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program and the MPO Planning Funds Agreement. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All Board members voted in favor. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #5 - *Approval of the Minor Update to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the minor update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP). He said the TDSP was drafted and approved during the summer of 2013. He noted for this Minor update, staff and Good Wheels made the changes to the document that were listed in the agenda packet and included updated language. The entire document can be accessed at: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/M05a.TDSPUpdate.pdf> He asked if there were any comments.

There were no public or Board member comments on this item.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Minor Update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. Councilmember Jessica Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the FY 2018/2019 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Funds for Lee County and approval of resolution 18-05 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Agreement. (Rule 41-2.014(2), *Florida Administrative Code*, describes planning related grant funds as those that may be used by the Designated Official Planning Agency which, for Lee County, is the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization). He continued that these funds are used to undertake our responsibilities under Chapter 427, *Florida Statutes*. He said this includes staff support to the Local Coordinating Board to implement planning services for the non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged in its service area. He added the money comes from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund, which was set up to provide a dedicated funding source for some of the operational and planning expenses of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in carrying out its legislative responsibilities. He concluded that for the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 planning grant year, which runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the planning grant allocation for Lee County is \$34,192.

Councilmember Anthony made the motion to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement. Vice-Mayor Mick Denham seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels. Mr. Mandel gave the Board advance notice that they may be receiving calls related to lack of funding and trips for transportation disadvantaged in Lee County. He said there is currently such a demand that requests exceed funding. He noted they are currently receiving \$107,000 per month but there is still a shortage. Councilmember Gunter asked what amount of additional funding was needed. Mr. Mandel said he estimates between \$20,000 and \$30,000 per month. Councilmember Carioscia asked why the total trips decreased in Table 6 in the packet. Mr. Mandel said Medicaid trips have

increased, and those in medical need take priority. He added that TD trips are consistently increasing. He said there are monthly numbers that he could provide at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #7 - *Amendments to the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Bylaws

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the amendments to the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) bylaws. He said the BPCC bylaws are being amended to accommodate the Region 2 Community Educator from John Hopkins All Children's Hospital as a non-voting advisory member. He added the bylaws are also being amended to add the Lee County Department of Community Development to the voting membership, and to add wording for a joint meeting between the Lee MPO BPCC and the Charlotte-County/Punta Gorda BPAC to be held for regional coordination on an as-needed basis. He noted staff has also taken the opportunity to clean up some of the language in the bylaws. He said the proposed amendments are shown in underline and strike through format in the document. He concluded that the BPCC recommended approval of this item at their January 23, 2018 meeting. He said the MPO Board needed to endorse this item to approve the changes.

Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn made the motion to approve the Amendments to the BPCC Bylaws. Councilmember Fred Forbes seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2019 through FY 2023

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the draft FY 2018/2019 - FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He gave a brief overview of the TIP, mentioning that it has been updated to reflect comments from FHWA and FDOT that we have received to date. He also reviewed several of the projects in the TIP including the SR 82 Shawnee to Alabama project that had been moved up and the LeeTran 5339 funding that has been added. He said the final approval by the Board will be at the June 22, 2018 meeting. He showed several tables including the STP and State Funded, local TAP priorities, multi-modal, highway, safety, and roundabout. He added questions or comments could be brought back to him. Commissioner Brian Hamman asked about the status of Six Mile/US 41/Gladiolus. Mr. Scott replied it is shown as a priority and hopefully FDOT will address it soon. Commissioner Hamman asked if Mr. L. K. Nandam with FDOT could address this project. Mr. Nandam said the interim improvements involve left turn lanes and bike/ped improvements. Commissioner Hamman asked if the interim improvements will be completed in the fall. Mr. Nandam replied yes. Commissioner Hamman asked if this intersection should be ranked as a higher priority. Mr. Nandam replied yes. Councilmember Gaile Anthony asked about the timeline for the planned roundabout at Winkler/Challenger. Mr. Ron Gogoi said FDOT is reevaluating crash data and other data, then based on that they will evaluate against other projects for District One highway safety funds. He said Mr. Nandam would have a better idea of when the projects would be evaluated. Mr. Nandam said FDOT has been in contact with the City of Fort Myers and there should be more information available by October. Commissioner Frank Mann arrived at 9:29 a.m. Chair Gore asked about the status of the San Carlos Island/Fort Myers Beach study. Mr. Lawrence Massey with FDOT responded that the Complete Streets team and other FDOT staff did a field review and are finalizing designs and alternatives to present to the Town of Fort Myers Beach staff. Chair Gore asked when this will occur. Mr. Massey asked how often the Council meets. Chair Gore replied every month, but they could also call a special meeting, noting the Town Council does not meet in July. Mr. Massey said the project team is currently working with the Town manager regarding the pedestrian overpass at Crescent and the possible signal. Chair Gore asked when they could expect an update. Mr. Massey said next month.

The draft TIP may be viewed at the following link:

<http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/M08a.Draft-TIP-050818-for-MPO-Board.pdf>

Other Business

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. David Urich gave a brief presentation including slides, asking the Board to eliminate the possible Del Prado interchange project. He suggested an interlocal agreement and coordination with Charlotte County regarding future I 75 interchange alignments at the county line. He also asked the Board to consider a Gator Slough

bridge to connect Kismet to Burnt Store. Chair Gore reminded Mr. Ulrich that there was a public comment time limit. Mr. Ulrich wrapped up his presentation by thanking the Board.

Ms. Cindy Hawk stated she is a Prairie Pines area resident. She said there are currently two interchanges that could be utilized, and one near Prairie Pines would be disruptive. She asked if there was anything on the agenda regarding the widening of Bayshore as it was greatly needed. Mr. Scott replied no. Ms. Hawk asked if there was a possibility that Bayshore could be moved up as trucks clog the road and make for a rough commute. Mr. Scott replied that the widening of SR 78 is further out in the plan as there are funding constraints. Commissioner Hamman mentioned that he did bring up the issues near Loves on SR 78 near I 75 and asked if FDOT was ready to report on those interim improvements. Mr. Massey said FDOT is wrapping up the report in coordination with Lee County staff and can present the concepts at the next meeting. Chair Gore mentioned for the benefit of the public, that all of the MPO meeting agendas are available on the Lee County MPO website. Mr. Nandam said with respect to the interchange comments, FDOT is working with Lee County staff on access management and traffic control. Commissioner Hamman said that after the last MPO Board meeting, Lee County staff brought up the fact that right of way was purchased years ago to go around the preserve. Commissioner Mann confirmed this was correct.

Ms. Jeannie Trumbower also spoke with regard to Prairie Pines noting that even if the interchange goes around Prairie Pines Preserve, the noise and air pollution will disrupt the wildlife and the sanctuary. She said it would also impact the equestrian community in the area. She asked the Board to consider other options a bit further north. Mr. Scott noted that the interchange, if and when it is studied, could be placed anywhere between the two existing interchanges if it even occurs. Mr. Ulrich asked if he could speak again. Commissioner Mann said it was at the discretion of the Chair. Chair Gore allowed Mr. Ulrich additional time to speak under public comment. Mr. Ulrich gave a brief history of the Prairie Pines parcel noting that a portion of the preserve was re-deeded separately as right of way. Commissioner Hamman commented that a large amount of time was being spent discussing a project that has zero funding. Chair Gore asked if there was any additional public comment. There was none. Public comment was closed.

Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He referred to the ridership report that he had Mr. Scott pass out to the Board members and others present. He mentioned the discretionary grant, 5339 funds, that Mr. Scott referred to in an earlier agenda item, stating that funding will serve to advance the south county park and ride project. Mr. Myers said there was a slight increase in ridership in April that was a result of the seasonal services on Fort Myers Beach and downtown Fort Myers. He noted that Passport ADA services are up about eight percent for the year. He also mentioned the six dollar premium passenger trips. Councilmember Anthony asked if Passport trips included dialysis. Mr. Myers said yes, they include anyone without Medicaid that is ADA eligible. Councilmember Anthony asked if LeeTran could pick up on the trips that Good Wheels can't cover. Mr. Myers replied yes, possibly. Councilmember Fred Forbes asked if there was a program underway to reduce wait times between transfers. Mr. Myers said LeeTran recently did a redesign that they presented to the Commissioners, and they are currently examining the top ten routes with timing issues. He added there are seven transfer centers spread out over Lee County which contributes to the difficulty. Chair Gore asked how long the Fort Myers Beach tram will run. Mr. Myers said it will run through May 30, 2018. Chair Gore asked when the service will resume. Mr. Myers said January 2019. Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn asked about the routes for the tram and if there was a charge. Mr. Myers clarified that the tram only runs on Fort Myers Beach, and it is free. He also noted that since February 12, 2018 it has provided over 115,000 passenger trips. Chair Gore asked if there would be a charge in the future. Mr. Myers said there is not currently a plan, and it would be difficult to charge as passengers are constantly getting off and on. Councilmember Anthony asked if ridership was up on the downtown Fort Myers tram. Mr. Myers said he would get back with her on the exact numbers. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked if any studies had been done on the south end/Bonita Beach. Mr. Myers said the difficulty is the amount of miles on Hickory, adding there is the current Route 50. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked if Mr. Myers could dig out the data. Commissioner Mann referred to the bigger picture trend of transit ridership declining and its impact on next year's budget. Mr. Myers said the numbers are returning to 2008 totals as there was an elevation in ridership during the recession. He mentioned the beach tram pilot project was successful in increasing ridership. He noted they are looking at overall planning and corridors. He also added there is a correlation between increasing auto sales and declining transit ridership. Commissioner Mann commented on the costs of fuel and bus replacements. He asked when it would be time to direct LeeTran to do something like cut routes or market. Mr. Myers mentioned there are groups of transit dependent residents at the far corners of the county. Councilmember Forbes asked Mr. Myers to look into Bonita Beach as traffic has increased. Mr. Myers said he would look into the information. Councilmember Forbes asked if a meeting could be set up between LeeTran and Bonita Springs as there may be city owned areas that could be used for parking. Vice-Mayor Mick Denham asked what the cost of LeeTran is. Mr. Myers said the county provides \$12.2 million, but the overall cost is approximately \$24 million. Vice-Mayor Denham asked if this has increased. Mr. Myers said it had for matching federal grants

for need based programs. Commissioner Hamman said the focus has been to provide trips for the elderly and medically needy. He added there is a vision for the future to have better transit that is more dense and frequent. He admitted getting to that point may be a challenge. Councilmember William Ribble asked how LeeTran determines the size of the bus for each route. Mr. Myers said vehicle size is based on demand. Chair Gore suggested a tram on the south end of the island. Mr. Myers said he would take comment under advisement, but the routes will remain the same for next year. A brief discussion followed on whether the MPO Board was the correct forum for these discussions. Mr. Myers responded that LeeTran appreciates the support of the MPO Board especially for grant applications. Councilmember Fred Burson asked how LeeTran decides which stop receives a shelter. Mr. Myers said utilization at stops is a factor, and they are also working on bringing all stops into ADA compliance. Councilmember Burson said it might discourage ridership if there is no shelter. Commissioner Mann asked the cost of each shelter. Mr. Myers said they each cost around \$32,000. Commissioner Mann asked how many will be constructed this year. Mr. Myers replied approximately 30. Councilmember Carioscia asked if advertising sponsorship had been considered to offset the costs. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn noted that Bonita pays the county in order to keep advertising off the bus stops and benches. Chair Gore questioned why private funded bus shelters would be discouraged citing an example on Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Myers said it could be that Lee County DOT did not want a bus stop at that location as part of their project.

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report

Mr. L. K. Nandam introduced the new Southwest Area Office Director, Mr. Wayne Gaither. Mr. Gaither thanked the Board, and said he looks forward to serving the county in this new capacity. Mr. D'Juan Harris then reminded the Board about the closure of Daniels/Gunnery at SR 82 from 10:00 p.m. Friday night until 6:00 a.m. Monday. He also mentioned a public workshop on the last segment of SR 82 widening from Alabama to the Hendry County line that will be held at Veterans Park in Lehigh on June 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Anthony asked if any roundabout education was planned. Mr. Nandam said FDOT's website contains information and each project will also include an education campaign. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked about public service announcements. Mr. Zachary Burch said he could check with the safety office in Tallahassee regarding that suggestion. A discussion followed on the importance of education to change the perspective of residents regarding roundabouts. Councilmember Ribble mentioned the roundabout meeting disaster in Estero. Councilmember Forbes suggested presenting the statistics and facts related to roundabouts and their reduction of crashes. Commissioner Mann noted that numerous presentations and discussions have been conducted concerning roundabouts. He suggested that Mr. Scott might be able to do a replay of some of those. Mr. Scott said he would. Chair Gore suggested bringing LeeTran and roundabouts back as future agenda items.

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The LeeTran ridership report was the only information/distribution item handed out at the meeting.

Councilmember Forbes asked if data could be gathered to convince LeeTran that a Bonita tram would be a good idea. Mr. Scott said he could pull the information out although it may be dated. Councilmember Forbes suggested having a meeting with Fort Myers Beach and Bonita to discuss the trams. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn mentioned that Lover's Key has over one million visitors each year.

Chair Gore asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Forbes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.