

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 22, 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 9:00 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, Cecil Pendergrass, Frank Mann, and Larry Kiker (9:04 a.m.); City of Cape Coral Councilmembers John Gunter and Jessica Cosden; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony, Johnny Streets Jr., Teresa Watkins Brown, 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 Councilmember Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch.

Others in attendance included D’Juan Harris, John Kubler, and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Dave Loveland, Randy Cerchie, and Doug Mueller 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; Lee County IT Services; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; Johnny Limbaugh with Wright Construction; Yvonne McClellan with Quest; and Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Chair Gore asked if there were any public comments on consent agenda items. There were none.

Agenda Item #2 - Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the May 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the General Planning Consultant Scope of Services
- C. Approval of the General Public Involvement Scope of Services
- D. Approval of Appointments to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
- E. Approval of the Lee and Collier TRIP Priorities and Joint Resolution
- F. Approval of the Round-a-bout Safety Project Priorities

Mr. Don Scott noted there was a change to Consent Agenda Item 2D as Beth Anne Algie withdrew her application for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). He continued that with this revision, 2D is only for the approval of one application, Mr. Moses Jackson.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items with the revision mentioned by Mr. Scott. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gore stated that public comments would be taken at each item.

Public Hearing Items

Agenda Item #4 - Adoption of the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to make any changes to the recommended TIP that the MPO may consider appropriate, take into consideration public input from the public hearing, and by roll call vote, adopt

Resolution 18-06 endorsing the recommended FY 2018/2019 through 2022/2023 TIP. A link to the TIP was included in the agenda packet and also distributed for public viewing at all branches of the Lee County Public Library and also on the Lee County MPO website. The TIP can be found here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/M04b.Draft-TIP-for-MPO-Board.pdf> . He continued that the adoption of this TIP will conclude the annual project prioritization and programming cycle that began last spring with the development of the MPO's transportation project priorities. He reviewed the public and FDOT comments received to date including adding the adopted date to the cover page and addressing the freight and asset management performance measures. He added the Board will need to choose performance measures by November so this item will be brought back in September. He said in addition the public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the program of projects grant requirements for LeeTran, along with this public hearing that will satisfy the public hearing requirements for 5307 funding. Mr. Scott also mentioned the adjustments made to the project limits for the Connecticut Street project. He asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Gore asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Public comment was closed on this agenda item.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the adoption of the FY 2018/19 through FY 2022/23 Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Larry Kiker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - ^*Approval of the FY 2023/2024 Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the purpose of holding a public hearing and approving the FY 2023/2024 Federal and State Funded Priorities. The priorities were attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He mentioned the revisions including adding the US 41/Bonita Beach Road project, funding the SR 31 design phase, and moving up the Six Mile operational study. He referred to a conversation with FDOT's District One Secretary, L. K. Nandam, in which box funding and advancing projects were discussed. He said we should be able to get further down the list. Chair Gore asked if there was any public comment. There was none. Public comment was closed on this item. Chair Gore asked if there were any questions from the Board. Commissioner Kiker asked Mr. Scott to further describe where the City of Bonita Springs is in the process regarding the Bonita Beach Road project. Mr. Scott gave a brief history referencing the amendment in February to add the project to make it eligible for PD&E phases. He said Bonita has discussed moving forward with FDOT, but said he is not sure where exactly the City of Bonita Springs is in the process. Commissioner Kiker asked if they are just looking at one quadrant or all four. Mr. Scott replied that FDOT will look at all four. Commissioner Mann asked if the SR 31 widening project includes four-laning the bridge and funding as well. Mr. Scott said it includes four-laning the bridge but there isn't currently funding programmed beyond the PD&E study, and this priority is seeking the design funding. Commissioner Mann asked if it is a state obligation. Mr. Scott said SR 31 was recently designated a strategic intermodal system (SIS) facility which opens it up for additional sources of funding. Mr. Scott further explained that SIS facilities receive approximately 75% of state available funding and that this funding is what we are hoping to receive. Commissioner Mann asked if the \$4 million includes the design of the bridge as well. Mr. Scott replied yes, noting it is an expensive project. Commissioner Mann commented that it would be designed years before it will be built. Mr. Scott replied that it takes a while to go through the process. Councilmember Forbes noted that completing the design phase puts us in a better position for the BUILD grants. Chair Gore asked if there was a motion.

Commissioner Brain Hamman made the motion to approve the FY 2023/24 Federal and State Funded Priorities. Commissioner Larry Kiker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - ^*Approval of the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Management & Operations Projects

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the list of federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) and Surface Transportation Program Urban Area (SU) Multi-modal Box Funded Priorities, that were attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide. He reviewed the bicycle pedestrian evaluations and the priorities for TA and Multi-modal Box funds for MPO Board input. He said among the project priorities were two traffic operations improvements (Priorities 5 and 6) that are eligible only for multimodal SU box funds. He mentioned

the BPCC, TAC and CAC committees have approved these priorities at each of their meetings. He added the projects are also supported by the Traffic Management Operations Committee. He asked the MPO Board for a recommendation for approval. Chair Gore asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment. Public comment was closed on this agenda item.

Commissioner Larry Kiker made the motion to approve the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Management & Operations Projects. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - *Proposal from FDOT for Funding a Portion of the Big Carlos Bridge Project

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and provide a recommendation regarding the funding option outlined by FDOT for the Big Carlos Bridge. He said the Big Carlos Bridge project has been the MPO's number one roadway project for the last three years seeking \$25 million in federal funding, which is about half of the construction cost. He explained the project is currently in the Project Development and Environment phase studying either a new or rehabilitated bridge. He said recently, the Florida Department of Transportation Secretary met with the County and MPO to discuss the funding issues and to find a way to start moving the priority forward. He said following that coordination, FDOT is proposing providing \$10 million in federal any area funds that would be matched with \$15 million in our federal allocation funding in FY 2025, 2026 and 2027. He explained this will require a reduction of at least \$1 million per year in those three years from the \$5 million in off the top box funded items. He added that Lee County is still considering other funding options, but FDOT's District One Secretary requested MPO Board support before moving forward. Mr. Scott then said we are seeking a recommendation from the MPO Board on moving forward with this proposal. He noted that once this is approved, discussions can move forward with Lee County and FDOT. Chair Gore clarified that this was only for funding and has nothing to do with design. Mr. Scott replied yes, only funding. Chair Gore mentioned that the Town of Fort Myers Beach Council made recommendations on the height of the bridge and also mentioned there were questions as to the height of the bridge. Mr. Scott commented that the end result is the County's determination. Commissioner Kiker said we aren't even at a point to make a recommendation on the design. Commissioner Kiker asked if once the study is completed it will be brought to the Board. Mr. Scott replied yes. Chair Gore asked if there was a motion.

Commissioner Brain Hamman made the motion to approve the proposal from FDOT for Funding a Portion of the Big Carlos Bridge Project. Commissioner Larry Kiker seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Review and Approval of the Revisions to the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the revised FY 2018/2019 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Funds for Lee County and approve resolution 18-08 authorizing the MPO Executive Director to execute the Agreement, that was attached to the agenda packet. He said last month the MPO Board approved the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement between the MPO and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. He said due to the way the planning funds were approved by the Legislature, this year's allocation was lumped in with the trip and equipment funding for the local Community Transportation Coordinator, Good Wheels Inc. for Lee County. He noted as a result, for this year only, each of the Planning agencies now have to enter into an agreement with their Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) to receive the planning grant funds. He mentioned that the revised agreement and resolution that now includes an agreement between the MPO and Good Wheels, Inc. for the planning activities for the Transportation Disadvantaged program was attached to the agenda packet. He asked Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels to further explain. Mr. Mandel said the legislature didn't specify how the funds were to be disbursed so the TD Commission placed all of the funds in one container. He said all of the funds were distributed to the CTCs and the CTCs are now be asked to fund the MPO through these funds. He noted one of the changes to the program for this year is that the CTC evaluation process will not occur as the agency being paid (MPO) should not be evaluating the agency paying them (Good Wheels). He added that there was good news in that they are also receiving additional funds. Chair Gore asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Forbes asked the percent increase the city will need to come up with. Mr. Mandel said there is a shortfall of \$42,000. Councilmember Forbes asked if this will be spread amongst all of the municipalities. Mr.

Mandel replied in the past, the City of Cape Coral and the City of Fort Myers have contributed. Mr. Scott said that this agenda item is for the MPO to enter into an agreement with Good Wheels.

Commissioner Frank Mann made the motion to approve the Revisions to the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant. Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - *Review and Approval of the Consultant Ranking for the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and approve the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian study selection committee ranking and the Village Council recommendation to negotiate a contract with the number one ranked firm. He said this would have been a consent agenda item, but it was just recently approved. He explained the development of a Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan for the Village of Estero was funded as part of the priorities submitted to FDOT in 2016. He said the funding is included in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program for this next fiscal year starting July 1, 2018. He added the MPO has a list of general planning consultants under contract with the MPO. He continued these consultants were invited to respond to a list of Estero specific questions to help MPO and Village staff select the best qualified consultant for the study. He said a consultant selection team was formed comprised of Mary Gibbs, Village of Estero Community Development Director; David Willems, Village of Estero Public Works Director; Ron Gogoi, Lee MPO Transportation Planning Administrator; Doug Saxton, the Village representative on the Lee MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee; and Robert King, the Village representative on the Lee MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee. He said the selection committee met on May 22, 2018 and selected Jacobs as its number one ranked firm for conducting the study. He referred to the selection committee ranking sheet that includes all five consultants who submitted responses, that was attached to the agenda packet. He also said the Estero Village Council met on Wednesday and recommended Jacobs. He concluded that the Board is being asked to approve the ranking and authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the number one ranked firm and issue a work order.

Chair Gore questioned the scoring sheet. Mr. Scott explained how it was scored. Commissioner Hamman asked if the Mayor of Estero was good with this recommendation. Mayor Boesch responded yes.

Commissioner Frank Mann made the motion to approve the Consultant Ranking for the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - *Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the MPO Chair and Director to Execute Administrative Action taken by the MPO Board

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the resolution authorizing the MPO Chair and Executive Director to execute administrative documents implementing actions taken by the Board, that was attached to the agenda packet. He said during the last federal certification, a recommendation was made to provide the Executive Director increased ability to process project modifications in the event of short notice events. He noted in addition, with a gap in meetings over the summer, staff has been identifying further authorizations that could be provided to process administrative changes in previously approved documents, agreements and contracts to implement actions taken by the Board in a timely manner. He noted any changes made will also be approved by FDOT and our attorney. There was a brief discussion on whether this involved funding. Mr. Scott clarified that his authorization level is currently set for approvals up to \$25,000. Councilmember Cosden asked if the Board will be made aware of any changes made at the next meeting following the change. Mr. Scott replied yes, and noted that is also why the MPO Board Chair is required to sign. Councilmember Cosden clarified this would only be for changes to existing items. Mr. Scott replied yes. Commissioner Mann asked if a dollar limit could be placed on the resolution. Commissioner Hamman noted the county has limited the signing authority for the manager and suggested asking the MPO legal counsel. Vice-Mayor Denham asked if this was only for items already approved by the MPO Board. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mr. Derek Rooney, MPO legal counsel, noted that this can only be used for items that have already been approved by the Board, also referencing the requirement for the Chair to sign. The discussion continued on the possible need to add language limiting the approval amount to \$25,000. To further clarify, Commissioner Mann referred to Item #1 of the resolution that limited the approval to actions already taken by the Board.

Commissioner Frank Mann made the motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the MPO Chair and Director to Execute Administrative Action taken by the MPO Board. Councilmember Jessica Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #11 - Overview of the Previous Presentations on the Benefits of Round-a-bouts

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a follow-up to a discussion at the last meeting. He said at the last meeting the Board members asked about providing better information for the public regarding the benefits of round-a-bouts. He explained there was a suggestion to bring back some of the previous round-a-bout presentations to provide an update to the new members along with working with FDOT on existing informational brochures, PSA's etc. that would be useful to educate local users on the use and benefits of round-a-bouts. He referred to the handouts that were given to the Board members and to a portion of the presentation that was given back in 2012 that was attached to the agenda packet. He added that he can get more flyers and there are also YouTube videos that are helpful. He added that FDOT will provide more information. He concluded that the municipalities could also present this information at their respective council meetings. Councilmember Anthony asked Mr. Scott to email her the flyer. Mr. Scott said he would. Vice-Mayor Denham commented on the general confusion regarding roundabouts briefly giving an explanation of their use. Chair Gore asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #13 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran said LeeTran had nothing to report.

Agenda Item #14 - TD Report

Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels gave the TD report. He requested additional funding to meet the needs of Good Wheels.

Agenda Item #15 - FDOT Report

Mr. D'Juan Harris with FDOT said FDOT had nothing to report.

Agenda Item #16 – Announcements

Mr. Scott announced the July and August meetings have been cancelled. He said the next MPO Board meeting is in September.

Chair Gore announced that the Town of Fort Myers Beach broke the world record for the largest human seashell with 1,093 people participating. She also thanked Mayor Ruane for his continued efforts to raise awareness and improve water quality. Commissioner Kiker added that Commissioner Pendergrass would be travelling to Washington, D. C. in an effort to improve water quality as well.

Agenda Item #17 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items handed out at the meeting included several roundabout informational items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 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.