

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, January 18, 2019
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 Vice-Chair Mick Denham.

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 Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers John Gunter and John Carioscia; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr., Teresa Watkins-Brown, and Gaile Anthony; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor/MPO Board Vice-Chair Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Councilmember Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch and Councilmember William Ribble.

Others in attendance included Lawrence Massey, Michael Tisch, Wayne Gaither, and L. K. Nandam with FDOT; Dave Loveland and Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Robert Codie and Levi McCollum with LeeTran; Lee County IT Services; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; Denise Diamond; and John Majka.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Mr. John Majka said he would like to address two statements in the minutes from the December 14, 2018 MPO Board meeting. Vice-Chair Denham suggested Mr. Majka could review his issues with MPO staff, and the minutes could be brought back for approval. Mr. Majka agreed. Mr. Scott agreed.

Agenda Item #2 - Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the General Transportation Planning Consultant Contracts

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve only the Consent Agenda item #2B for the General Transportation Planning Consultant Contracts. Commissioner Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hamman clarified that this approval was for the consent agenda item without approval of the minutes. Vice-Chair Denham replied yes, this will allow staff time to review the minutes and bring them back at the next meeting.

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

Vice-Chair Denham noted that public comments will be taken at each item.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Approval of the Safe Routes to School Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the Approval of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Priorities. He said in response to FDOT's call for proposals for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure funds, the School District of Lee County is submitting three applications. He reviewed the following school district priorities:

Priority #1: This is a resubmitted application that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposal calls for sidewalks on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Childers Avenue to Dean Street. Cost: \$205,609 Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

Priority #2: This is a new project application that will benefit Lehigh Elementary located in Lehigh Acres. The proposal calls for (1) sidewalk on west side of Schoolside Court and north side of Schoolside Drive and (2) replacement of the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge over the Able Canal. The existing bridge was destroyed during Hurricane Irma. Cost: \$816,738 Maintaining Agency: Lee County BOCC

Commissioner Pendergrass noted the Richmond Avenue Bridge had been down since Hurricane Irma. He added it was originally built by Lehigh Corp with no maintenance from Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LA-MSID) or Lee County. He said they have been working over the past year to get the bridge replaced as there is currently only pedestrian access across the canal via the roadway.

Priority #3: This is a resubmitted application that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposal calls for sidewalks on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle, and on one side of Gator Circle from Averill Boulevard to Ramsey Boulevard. Cost: \$862,032 Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

The Project location maps were included as attachments to the agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi then asked for the MPO Board's endorsement of the prioritized proposals.

Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn made the motion to endorse the Safe Routes to School Priorities. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Approval of the FDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2019

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the FDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2019. FDOT's updated safety performance measures were attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott said a year ago the MPO voted to support FDOT's safety target of zero for the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries. He added the MPOs are required to re-adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets by February 27th each year in order to meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. He said FDOT has again adopted zero as their target for each of the performance measures. He discussed the fatality and injury statistics for Lee County, that were attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides. He said they indicate that our five year rolling averages increased for 2013 to 2017 over the previous year for fatalities, serious injuries, and fatality rates. He noted the serious injury rates are the only category that indicated a slight reduction. He said the bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and injuries remain about the same for the comparison from 2018 to 2017. He showed additional slides on the Lee County crash analysis over the last five years, daily vehicle miles traveled in Lee County, state pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities, and national information on fatalities and injuries. He recommended the MPO keep the targets at zero as well. Mr. Scott then asked if there were any questions or comments. Vice-Chair Denham asked if any action was needed from the MPO other than approval of the targets. Mr. Scott replied no. He also mentioned that the Dangerous by Design report would be out soon, noting our area was number one last year. He said we still may be near the top, and he will bring back more information on it. Vice-Chair Denham asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Scott asked for a vote.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn made the motion to approve the FDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2019. Commissioner Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Federal Certification Review Close Out Presentation

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Certification Review Report. The letter and report from FHWA on the 2018 TMA Certification were attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott said the FHWA staff will be at the next meeting to present, but there are issues that need to be addressed before then. He showed slides on the overview of the process, the identified corrective action, the Long Range Transportation Plan table, the cost feasible table and what was going to be modified. Vice-Chair Denham clarified that the corrective action was being dealt with. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Agenda Item #7 - Provide Input on the Proposed Joint Lee Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a discussion on topics for the proposed Joint Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO meeting in February. He said the following items have been identified to date: Updated Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda TRIP Priorities, Status of the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements, Status of the SR 31 Corridor Improvements and Babcock Development, and Information on the I-75 Purple Heart Highway designation efforts. He said the Lee County MPO will meet first and then the Joint-meeting will follow. He asked if there were any additional items to discuss at the Joint-meeting. Vice-Chair Denham asked if there were any suggestions. There were none. Vice-Chair Denham asked if the Joint-meeting will be held in the usual meeting room at the Lee County Administration East building. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Other Business

Agenda Item #8 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a business owner on SR 80, gave an update on his issue with the proposed improvements on the SR 80 sidewalk project, noting his case was closed. He said he agreed to work toward a resolution, and FDOT has sent him a notice to attend another hearing.

Ms. Denise Diamond, an employee of one of the businesses on SR 80, commented on the impact she feels the proposed improvements will have on SR 80, including forcing businesses to close. She said she hopes that FDOT will coordinate with Mr. Majka to make a driveway that will work.

Vice-Chair Denham asked if there were any additional comments. There were none.

Mr. Scott noted that Commissioner Hamman asked for other projects to be brought back. He said these will be presented at the next Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee and brought back to the MPO Board.

Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said the seasonal schedule kicked off January 3rd. He added there have been seventy five riders per hour on the Fort Myers Beach tram. He noted there was a rise in ridership on the trolleys and trams. He also mentioned that Mr. Levi McCollum had been promoted to Principal Planner. He concluded his report stating that LeeTran continues to review routes to improve performance and increase frequency while reaching out to the community for feedback.

Agenda Item #10 - TD Report

Mr. Alan Mandell gave the Good Wheels report. He noted that the Federal Funds had finally been authorized.

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report

Mr. L. K. Nandam with FDOT reported that the new governor has recently taken over and this is a transition period. He said they are also searching for a new secretary for FDOT, with the field narrowed to three candidates. He said there have been other additional staff changes as well. Mr. Michael Tisch then reported that the Work Program had been mailed out to the MPO Board members. He said if there were any questions, the Board members could contact him. He also mentioned the TransForum, that was also included as an information and distribution item. He said the TransForum will be held on January 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the cost is \$15. He asked if there were any questions. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn gave a compliment on the restriping and overlay on US 41, noting the additional room for bike lanes. He asked how it came about. Mr. Nandam said this was due to new standards for lanes and with any new resurfacing they strive for seven foot bike lanes. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn again expressed his thanks. Vice-Chair Denham asked if there were any requirements for shared use paths. Mr. Nandam said design standards do define these, with the minimum being eight feet but ten to twelve feet is the standard. Vice-Chair Denham asked if this was different than bike lanes. Mr. Nandam replied yes and explained the difference.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott mentioned the SWFL TransForum information that was attached to the agenda packet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items *May Require Action

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