

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, March 22, 2019  
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 Mick Denham 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 John Manning and Cecil Pendergrass (9:02 a.m.); City of Cape Coral Councilmembers John Gunter, John Carioscia, and Jessica Cosden; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr., Teresa Watkins-Brown (9:12 a.m.), and Gaile Anthony; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Bruce Butcher; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor/MPO Board Chair Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn; and Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble.

Others in attendance included Zachary Burch, Michael Tisch, and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Able Canal PD&E Study project team Steven Andrews, Kristin Caruso, Brian Malloy, and Jennifer Marshall; Persides Zambrano with Cape Coral; Saeed Kazemi with the City of Fort Myers; Dave Loveland and David Murphy with Lee County; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco; Robert Codie and Levi McCollum with LeeTran; Lee County IT Services; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; members of the public Dave Urich, Lark Campisano, Denise Diamond, and John Majka.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. John Majka again stated his issues with the minutes from the December 14, 2018 meeting minutes noting there might be a possible misinterpretation of Mr. Derek Rooney's comment regarding bypassing the FDOT process. Mr. Rooney said there was pending litigation between Mr. Majka and FDOT adding he stands by his original comment.

### **Agenda Item #2 - \*Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the January 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of the February 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- D. Appointment to the CAC for Lee County
- E. Approval of the Local Coordinating Board Member Certification
- F. Ratification of Amendments to the Traffic Management Operations Committee Bylaws

**Commissioner John Manning made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

After some discussion regarding the approval of consent agenda items, Mr. Scott clarified the original first approval was for the entire consent agenda items A-F.

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

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

## Public Hearing items

### **Agenda Item #4 - ^\*Review and Approve Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add FTA 5310 Operations and Capital Funded Projects**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add FTA 5310 Operations and Capital Funded Projects. He said the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 is being amended to add the FTA 5310 grant funding that is awarded from the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities program to local agencies. He specified the grant awards are for Hope Hospice, Lighthouse of Southwest Florida, Dr. Piper Center, and Good Wheels. He noted the Transportation Improvement Program pages reflecting what projects are being added was attached to the agenda packet for the Board's review and approval. He said as part of this amendment, the MPO staff has also added the transit performance measure documentation to Appendix H that was previously approved by the MPO Board back in September. He mentioned the TAC and CAC unanimously approved this item at their respective meetings held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Chair Denham asked if there were any comments from the Board. There were none.

**Commissioner John Manning made the motion to approve the Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add FTA 5310 Operations and Capital Funded Projects. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## New Business

### **Agenda Item #5 - \*Review and Approve Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program to Revise Task Descriptions/Budget and Update the Certification and Assurances**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program to Revise Task Descriptions/Budget and Update the Certification and Assurances. Mr. Scott said these amendments included revising task descriptions, adjusting funding levels and updating the certification and assurances. He then reviewed the descriptions of the following proposed changes:

- Add a task in FY 2018/2019 to reflect the bicycle and pedestrian safety outreach activities related to upcoming projects.
- Add a task in FY 2019/2020 to include the \$125,000 in SU funds that will be used for the update of the City of Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Adjust the funding levels and Consultant and Staff task descriptions to match current and planned activities. The collection of origin and destination funding is being removed, as FDOT will now be collecting origin and destination data as part of the I-75 PD&E study. Also, the funding for the Cape Coral evacuation study is being reduced in FY 2019/2020, as a result of FDOT providing funding towards the project in FY 2020/2021. The funding that remains in FY 2019/2020 will be used for scoping the project and determining the level of effort to help determine if additional funding will need to be provided to match what FDOT has provided.
- Update the certification and assurances forms for this year.

The proposed changes to the task descriptions and budget sheets were attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. The format used was - additions shown in underline (added) and strike through (removed) format. The TAC and CAC unanimously approved the amendments at their respective meetings held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Scott asked if there were any comments. Chair Denham asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Commissioner John Manning made the motion to approve the Amendments to the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program to Revise Task Descriptions/Budget and Update the Certification and Assurances. Councilmember Jessica Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Scott asked Chair Denham to move to Agenda Item #7 as the project team for the Able Canal presentation had not yet arrived. Councilmember Teresa Watkins-Brown arrived at 9:12 a.m.

**Agenda Item #7 - +Follow up on the SR 80 Sidewalk Project from Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a follow-up on the SR 80 Sidewalk Project from Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road. He said at the December 14<sup>th</sup> MPO Board meeting, the Lee MPO Board provided direction to staff to bring back alternative sidewalk projects that the SR 80 project funding could be spent on if the Board requests FDOT to spend the funding on another project. He added when this was discussed, the project was not shown in the FDOT tentative work program so it was unclear what funding sources were currently being used to fund the project. He noted the tentative work program has now been updated, following the public comment period, and the SR 80 project is funded in FY 2021 and there is a mix of federal and state funding sources being used. In addition, FDOT has informed us that if the project is removed from the work program, only \$222,929 will come back to Lee County as this is the only funding identified for the project that is apportioned to our urban area (the rest is state funding and federal funding that can be spent in any area). He showed the table listed below of the project description from the tentative work program:

FPN: 4298231 Project/Location: SR 80 FROM SHORELAND DRIVE TO CR 80 (BUCKINGHAM RD)  
 Desc: SIDEWALK  
 Project Length : 6.781 Begin Mile Post : 6.080 End Mile Post: 10.555  
 Comments :

Phase	Fund	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024
CST	DDR	\$0	\$889,749	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	SA	\$0	\$564,149	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	SU	\$0	\$222,929	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	TALT	\$0	\$1,011,505	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Project Total:</i>		\$0	\$2,688,332	\$0	\$0	\$0

He said the potential projects that would be considered, if FDOT is asked to move the funds, were listed in Attachment A, that was in the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He explained these projects come from our current federally funded priorities list from January and most of the projects have been through the FDOT priority submittal process to determine construction feasibility. He said based on the \$222,929 in available funds, and the projects that are ready for funding in FY 2021, the design of one or more of the unfunded priorities is the only option to provide as a recommendation (the construction costs are much greater than the available funding or have not been designed where they could be constructed in FY 2021). He then referred to Attachment B that includes what staff has identified for potential projects (highlighted) to fund with the \$222,929 in funding (just the design phase of each of these projects). He noted the projects that have lines through them were removed from consideration either for the design phase already being funded, the design phase is planned to be done by the local jurisdiction or it is not a sidewalk project. He also mentioned at their respective February and March meetings, the BPCC, TAC and CAC recommended continuing with the SR 80 from Shoreland to Buckingham Road project as currently planned. Mr. Scott said MPO staff does not recommend any action at this time. He said unless there were specific questions from the Board, he would open the floor for public comment. Mr. John Majka commented on the SR 80 project costs. He also mentioned Florida statutes and showed a slide of his engineer's

proposal for driveway access to his business on SR 80. He asked the Board for a recommendation or endorsement of his engineer's proposal. Mr. Rooney noted that Mr. Majka's public speaking time limit of three minutes was over. Chair Denham asked if Mr. Scott recommended action from the Board. Mr. Scott said no. He added that FDOT cannot comment due to legal proceedings being underway. Councilmember John Gunter asked if there was a deadline to act before funding is lost. Mr. Scott replied no as the funding is still currently earmarked for the project. Councilmember Cosden asked what has been spent so far on the project. Mr. Scott replied roughly \$800-900 thousand. Chair Denham asked if there were any more comments. There were none. Chair Denham moved to Agenda Item #8 to allow additional time for the Able Canal project team to arrive. Mr. Scott handed out the latest MPOAC Legislative Update.

### **Agenda Item #8 - MPOAC Legislative Update**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update to the legislative session. He said the items in red are the most recent developments. He reviewed several of the legislative items including SB 7068 on Infrastructure and Security, HB 5 on discretionary sales surtaxes, and HB 905 on the Department of Transportation. He asked if any Board members wanted to raise others on the list. Chair Denham brought up HB 453 on the micromobility devices. Mr. Scott said nothing new was added, and it was still going through the subcommittee. There was a brief discussion on the impacts of micromobility devices. Chair Denham asked if there was any public comment on this agenda item. There was none.

### **Agenda Item #6 - Presentation and Update on the Able Canal Project Development and Environment Study**

Mr. Steven Andrews with FDOT presented this agenda item as an update to the Able Canal Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. He introduced the Able Canal PD&E team that was present and then showed a slide presentation on the Able Canal Project Development and Environment Study. The slide show included information on the project limits, purpose and need, planning consistency, pathway details, build alternatives, no-build alternative, evaluation matrix, public involvement, public hearing results, PD&E study schedule, and contact information. The slide show can be viewed here: [http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/3-7-19\\_TAC-CAC-presentation\\_r3.pdf](http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/3-7-19_TAC-CAC-presentation_r3.pdf) Chair Denham asked Mr. Andrews' position on electric vehicles on this pathway. Mr. Andrews replied the pathway was designed for bicycles. Commissioner Pendergrass said the pathway would be a great addition to Lee County, and it would add connectivity. He said there was not enough room on the south side for the project. He mentioned that Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District already allows access on the north side. He then introduced Lee County staff to answer questions. Chair Denham asked if there were additional comments. There were none.

### **Other Business**

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

Mr. David Urich gave a public comment on a news story he heard regarding a possible Del Prado/I-75 interchange. Mr. Scott handed out a map from Mr. Urich. The map showed Mr. Urich's preferred interchange location. Mr. Urich referred to the handout and a slide of his proposed interchange that was further north and in Charlotte County. Mr. Urich also commented on Babcock and connecting Cook Brown to Oil Well. Mr. Rooney noted that Mr. Urich's public speaking time limit of three minutes was up. Mr. Urich thanked the Board. Chair Denham asked if Mr. Scott had any comments. Mr. Scott said that FDOT is looking at the feasibility of an interchange in north Lee or south Charlotte. Chair Denham asked if there were any more comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran Report**

Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran Report. He said there was a seven percent increase in passenger trips on the beach for February 2019. He added the trips had just exceeded 100,000. He also mentioned that April 20, 2019 is Try Transit Day and all fixed route will be fare free. He concluded

his report with a comment on the American Public Transportation Association's Get on Board Day on April 25, 2019. Chair Denham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #11 - TD Report**

Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels gave the TD report. He mentioned additional funding received through the MPO. He also said that the Transportation Disadvantaged service was at full capacity. He added that bills had been introduced for additional funding and asked for support for them in Tallahassee. Chair Denham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report**

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said he will provide MPO staff with information next week for the update of the TIP.

### **Agenda Item #13 – Announcements**

Mr. Scott announced there would not be an April MPO Board meeting, and the next meeting would be in May. Councilmember Anthony said there was a need for more education on roundabouts and asked for updated safety statistics. Mr. Scott said he was trying to show differences between before and after improvements, but this year has not been good so far. There was a brief discussion on roundabout presentations and information. Mr. Scott said another person who wished to speak under public comment had just arrived. The Board agreed to hear the public comment even though public comment had been closed. Ms. Lark Campisano said she lives on Matt Road and is concerned about a news story regarding a possible Del Prado/I-75 interchange. She said the interchange would be better in Charlotte County as it would not disturb the Prairie Pines Preserve and the rural nature of her neighborhood. Chair Denham asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC Legislative Update and a handout from Mr. Dave Urich regarding his proposed I-75 interchange options.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.**

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

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