

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 21, 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 by Mayor Kevin Ruane at 9:03 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 Commissioner Frank Mann; City of Cape Coral Councilmember Jessica Cosden; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; Town of Fort Myers Beach Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony, Johnny Streets Jr., Teresa Watkins-Brown, and Fred Burson; City of Sanibel Mayor/MPO Board Treasurer Kevin Ruane; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes; Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble; and Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Katy Errington.

Others in attendance included Zachary Burch, Michael Tisch, and Steven Andrews with FDOT; Dave Loveland with Lee County; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Robert Codie with LeeTran; Lee County IT Services; Sergeant James Lear with the Cape Coral Police Department; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Lauren O'Neill with Quest; Johnny Limbaugh with Wright Construction; Matt Dockins with RK&K; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; and a member of the public John Majka.

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 May 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Gaile Anthony made the motion to approve the May 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes portion of the Consent Agenda items. Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointment to the CAC for the Town of Fort Myers Beach

Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy made the motion to approve the Town of Fort Myers Beach Appointment to the CAC portion of the Consent Agenda items. Councilmember Teresa Watkins-Brown and Commissioner Frank Mann simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Ruane noted that public comments will be taken at each item.

Public Hearing items

Agenda Item #4 - Adoption of the FY 2019/2020 through FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to hold a public hearing on the recommended FY 2019/2020 through FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), make any changes to the recommended TIP that the MPO may consider appropriate while taking into consideration public input from the public hearing, and by roll call vote, adopt Resolution 19-0 endorsing the recommended FY 2019/2020 through 2023/2024 TIP. Mr. Scott noted a link was provided to the draft Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 that includes the highway, aviation, transit, transportation disadvantaged, bicycle/pedestrian, intermodal, safety and planning projects within Lee County that are funded with State and Federal money: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/M04b.Lee-MPO-FY-2019-2020-through-FY-2023-2024-TIP-Document-MPO.pdf> Mr. Scott added 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 noted the public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the program of projects requirements for LeeTran. Mr. Scott commented that the TIP was longer due to the addition of performance measures. He said it has been updated to include FDOT comments. He called out the changes to project report page format that involved addition of adopted and amended dates. He asked if there were any public comments. Mr. John Majka gave a public comment, including a PowerPoint presentation, on his driveway access issues to his business on SR 80. Mayor Ruane asked if there was any additional public comment. There was none. Mr. Scott commented this was a roll call vote.

Councilmember Gaile Anthony made the motion to approve the adoption of the FY 2019/2020 through FY 2023/2024 Transportation Improvement Program. Mayor William Ribble seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Approval of the FY 2024/2025 Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to hold a public hearing, make a decision on the project priority order, and approve the FY 2024/2025 Federal and State Funded Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott noted the Federal and State funded priority list is developed from the projects that are consistent with the projects listed in the first five years of the Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan (FY 2021 through FY 2025). He said the federal and state priority list has been updated from last year to reflect the addition of follow-up design phase priorities for the projects that were funded for Project Development and Environment Study in the most recent FDOT work program. He mentioned the three new projects added to the list includes partial funding for the Big Carlos Bridge, an addition of a safety project that straddles the Lee and Collier County lines on Corkscrew Road, and the design phase for a round-a-bout on West Terry Street and Pine Avenue. He noted all other projects on the list are the same. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the adoption of the FY 2024/2025 Federal and State Funded Priorities. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Approval of the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Traffic Management/Operations Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to approve the recommended bicycle/pedestrian and traffic management/operations project priorities for MPO allocated federal funds that were attached to the

agenda packet and shown as slides at the meeting. He said the bicycle pedestrian and traffic management/operations candidate projects for MPO allocated federal funds (TA & SU Box Funds) include those projects that have pre-construction phases programmed or underway, reoccurring annual project funding requests consistent with the MPO Transportation Plan (such as the LeeTran Bus Purchase), unfunded projects from last year's priority list and new projects submitted this year. He added new bicycle pedestrian projects submitted this year were evaluated against the unfunded bicycle pedestrian projects from last year to determine their priority order in this list using the MPO Evaluation Criteria. He said the additional priority list includes a category that has a request (the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge) that involves swapping the funds from a funded project in the FDOT Work Program (Queens Avenue Sidewalk that could not move forward due to the drainage costs), this information was also attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Gogoi said MPO staff is seeking a recommendation unless there were any questions. Mr. Gogoi asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy made the motion to approve the adoption of the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Traffic Management/Operations Priorities. Mayor William Ribble seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - *Approval of the Joint Lee and Collier Regional TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Joint Regional TRIP project priorities and the Joint Resolution for submittal to FDOT. He said the priorities were approved by Collier last week. He said Collier and Lee County jointly prioritize regional projects to be eligible for regional funding. He referred to the new TRIP priorities that were shown as slides and attached to the agenda packet. He commented in addition to the action on the priorities, the MPO staff is also seeking a recommendation from the Board on asking FDOT to move the TRIP funding that was awarded for the Estero Boulevard project to the Corkscrew Road project as the County is no longer able to use the TRIP funding on the Estero project due to the FDOT requirements to re-advertise for services previously selected. He noted the Corkscrew Road project is in the same fiscal year and it scores as a higher priority under our criteria. He added this request is consistent with previous requests that have been made on Lee and Collier TRIP projects that for one reason or another did not move forward (for example, moving TRIP funding on a right-of-way phase on Collier Boulevard to a construction phase for another segment of Collier Boulevard). Commissioner Mann asked how Collier County was involved in the Burnt Store project in Charlotte County that was listed on the TRIP Priority list. Mr. Scott said the regional map includes both Collier and Charlotte as regional partners for Lee County and all of the projects are on the Lee Collier list but only the ones in the north part of the County are on the Lee Charlotte list. A brief discussion followed on coordination and contributions between regional partners. Vice-Mayor Murphy asked why the Estero funds would be transferred to Corkscrew. Mr. Scott gave a brief history of the funding issue noting it was a Lee County issue with rebidding the project and advertisement requirements. Mayor Ruane asked the implications of this and when the Estero project would be back on. Mr. Scott said it is already funded. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any other comments or questions. There were none.

Vice-Mayor Ray Murphy made the motion to approve the Joint Lee and Collier Regional TRIP Priorities. Councilmember Teresa Watkins-Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Approval of the Shared Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to approve the staff recommended priorities for SUN Trail funds. He referred to and reviewed the list of recommended priorities for the Shared Use Non-

Motorized (SUN) Trail Program funds that was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He also reviewed the available funding. In addition, Mr. Gogoi showed the SUN Trail Network map. He said MPO staff was looking for a motion. Commissioner Mann questioned the staff report write-up mentioning there was no guarantee for a call for projects and asked who would trigger the call. Mr. Gogoi replied it would be FDOT. Mr. Gogoi added that MPO staff wanted to be prepared with adopted priorities if there is a call so that this does not have to come back to the MPO Board, especially since there are no meetings in July and August.

Commissioner Frank Mann made the motion to approve the Shared Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Priorities. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. and Mayor William Ribble simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - +Update on the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Funding and Grant Opportunity

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) grant funding discussed at the last MPO Board meeting. He said at the last MPO Board meeting, Alan Mandel with Good Wheels Inc. provided information on the reduction in their funding from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Mr. Scott explained the related calculations and funding history. In addition, he commented on the additional \$10 million in grant funding that was included in SB 7068 that the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC's) could apply for competitively that since the last MPO Board meeting, the Governor did sign the bill but Good Wheels was not selected for funding under the first round of funding. He noted they were encouraged to submit for the second round as it included a note that the project needed to be developed further. He added the second round of funding has now been announced and the applications are due at the end of the month. He noted of the \$10 million in grant funding available for distribution, only \$1,471,976 was approved for funding under the first round of funding and referred to a breakdown of the grant applications and awards that was shown as a slide at the meeting and also attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned a request by Mr. Mandel to send a letter asking for the remainder of the grant funding to be distributed among the counties that did not receive funding or lost money. Mr. Scott also mentioned that the current Executive Director for the TD Commission would be leaving next week. Mr. Mandel said he is working with Mr. Ray Rodrigues to encourage the state to distribute the remaining grant funds among the counties that lost funding. Mr. Mandel suggested sending a letter to the TD Commission on July 1 as the interim director will be in place and their board meeting follows shortly after. Mr. Mandel said he will also reapply June 28, and his request is scaled back to only cover the shortage amount of \$400,000. Mr. Mandel mentioned sending letters to the local municipalities to request funding to cover the respective shortfalls for their areas. He said if the grant funding was awarded, the shortfall funds received from the local municipalities could be refunded. Councilmember Burson suggested speaking directly with the City of Fort Myers manager as it was currently budget prep time. Mr. Mandel replied he sent a letter to City of Fort Myers Mayor Henderson. Councilmember Burson noted it would be best to send the request directly to the manager. A brief discussion followed on the funding shortfall and suggestions to address it.

Mayor Joe Coviello made the motion to write a letter to the TD Commission to distribute the excess grant funding among those counties that lost funding and address the allocation formula to better account for need. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - Information about the Old US 41 Project Development and Environment Study

Mr. Steven Andrews with FDOT gave a presentation on the Old US 41 Project Development and Environment Study. He introduced Mr. Matt Dockins with RK&K, the project consultant. Mr. Andrews

then gave a PowerPoint presentation that included slides on project location, project information, activities to date, agency coordination schedule, public involvement schedule, next steps, and contact information. The full presentation is available here: http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Old-US-41-MPO-Kickoff-Presentation_Lee.pdf Mr. Andrews noted this presentation was part of the kick-off for the project. He said additional information will be available on the project website given at the end of the presentation. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Other Business

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

Mr. John Majka gave another public comment on his SR 80 project issues.

Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said LeeTran is participating in Partnering for Better Transportation that will start with coordination with Mr. Alan Mandel of Good Wheels for an analysis of the fiscal and work flow. He said LeeTran would also be meeting with all of the transportation service providers in Lee County in an effort to provide better service.

Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He updated the MPO Board on the progress of the SR 80 project noting there would be a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) ribbon cutting ceremony invitation sent out soon. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #14 – Announcements

Mr. Scott announced that there would be no MPO Board meetings in July or August, and the next MPO Board meeting would be September 20, 2019.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

The information or distribution items included a handout from Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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