

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

Friday, February 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 Lee County only meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. by Chair Mick Denham.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, John Manning, Brian Hamman, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor/MPO Board Chair Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Councilmember Fred Forbes; Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Tracey Gore; and Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch.

Others in attendance included Lawrence Massey, Michael Tisch, Wayne Gaither, and L. K. Nandam with FDOT; Dave Murphy with Lee County; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Ron Gogoi; Robert Codie with LeeTran; Lee County IT Services; Persides Zambrano with Cape Coral; Derek Rooney and Matt Roepstorff with Gray Robinson; Karen Brunelle with the Federal Highway Administration; Anne Hosford with Raise the Arches Inc.; and John Majka with Superior Sheds.

Chair Mick Denham made a motion for Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn to serve as Vice-Chair of the MPO Board. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott clarified that the municipality to hold the Vice-Chair position, the City of Bonita Springs, was voted on at the December meeting but a specific representative from Bonita was not named.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item**

Chair Denham said that public comment will be taken at each item.

### **Public Hearing Item**

### **Agenda Item #2 - ^\*Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add a Big Carlos Project Phase for FDOT Staff Time**

Mr. Scott presented this roll call vote agenda item for the approval of the Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a Big Carlos Project Phase for FDOT Staff Time.

Commissioner John Manning made the motion to approve the Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add a Big Carlos Project Phase for FDOT Staff Time. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion.

Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

A roll call vote was taken. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Agenda Item #3 – Federal Certification Close Out Presentation**

Mr. Don Scott introduced Ms. Karen Brunelle with the Federal Highway Administration to present this agenda item, the close-out of the MPO's Federal Certification. Ms. Brunelle reviewed the requirements of the federal certification process and discussed the results of the certification. She said three noteworthy practices were found, one corrective action, and no recommendations. She noted that 2014 was the last time a report was done. She said it had one corrective action and five recommendations. She said the 2014 corrective action has since been resolved, and the recommendations have also been addressed. Ms. Brunelle noted the report was originally due out in September but due to staff shortages, it was not out until October. She thanked Mr. Scott and his staff for their cooperation. She mentioned the Lee County MPO was the first MPO to be certified through the new process. Mr. Scott noted the new process was much more streamlined. Ms. Brunelle continued her presentation with the focus areas of the certification that included transit, MPO organization, linking planning and NEPA, and fiscal constraints/financial plan of the LRTP. She reviewed the first of three noteworthy practices, bike ped planning. There was a brief discussion on the validity of the Dangerous by Design Report. She said the freight planning practices and the congestion management process were the other two areas that contained noteworthy practices. She reviewed the corrective action that involved the LRTP financial plan/fiscal constraint, noting that Mr. Scott was already working on resolving that issue. She noted again that there were no recommendations offered. She asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Denham asked the bottom line. Ms. Brunelle said the MPO is fully certified subject to resolving the corrective action, and the certification is good for another four years. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn commented on the importance of bicycle safety and the issue of design for safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Scott mentioned that the high visibility enforcement grants that had been awarded to local law enforcement agencies have produced positive results. Chair Denham thanked Ms. Brunelle.

### **Agenda Item #4 – MPOAC Legislative Update**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the MPOAC Legislative Update, noting that he handed out the latest legislative update from Mr. Carl Mikyska with the MPOAC. He referenced the new bills including one on navigation systems through school zones. Mr. Scott mentioned the recent discussion at the Executive Committee meeting on HB 453 regarding micromobility devices. Chair Denham mentioned the possible preemption issues. Mr. Scott said there are many devices being electrified including skateboards and roller skates. Chair Denham added credit cards could be used to rent the scooters, and the scooters can be left anywhere. He said Sanibel is very concerned about the micromobility issue. Mayor Tracey Gore said the Town of Fort Myers Beach is also looking into the issue on Estero Boulevard.

### **Agenda Item #5 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Scott handed out the Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches presentation. He mentioned that Mr. McDonald had called in but the meeting room phone didn't work, so he was currently on speakerphone on a staff cell phone. Ms. Anne Hosford gave a brief presentation on restoring the arches to Fort Myers Beach. Mayor Tracey Gore said she remembered the arches and the actual location was San Carlos Island, which is not under the jurisdiction of Fort Myers Beach. Mayor Gore suggested possibly doing something off the road on the San Carlos Island side as a welcome. There was a brief discussion as to the cost of the project. Mr. Scott said this group is indicating they will raise the money to fund it. Mr. Scott said one of the issues revolves around the FDOT's possible plans for the roadway. There was a brief discussion on what the residents think of the arches project and conducting a public hearing to determine this. Commissioner Pendergrass asked if this could be off road as a monument as it may not be structurally sound enough to go across the road. Mayor

Gore said she was under the impression they just wanted to bring back some of the history. She suggested this could be done once the roadway project is completed. Mr. Derek Rooney said that there was no longer a quorum and this could be nothing more than public comment. Mr. L. K. Nandam said this is a community issue that should go through the process. Mr. Scott asked if it was taken down when the current bridge was constructed. Mayor Gore said yes. Commissioner Mann commented on the feasibility of the project. Chair Denham said if it becomes an agenda item then it can be discussed further as more information needs to be brought forward. Mayor Boesch said the public comment portion needed to be addressed.

Chair Denham asked if there was any additional public comment.

Mr. John Majka with Superior Sheds commented on his driveway access issues on SR 80. There was a brief discussion on the options available to Mr. Majka.

Chair Denham asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:07 a.m.**

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

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