



**JOINT COLLIER AND LEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD MEETING  
Collier County School Board  
Administration Building  
5775 Osceola Trail  
Naples, FL**

**October 20, 2017  
9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Call to Order Lee County MPO/Roll Call**

**2. Lee County MPO Action Items**

Items 1 and 2 on the agenda were skipped, and the meeting commenced with item 3; call to order and roll call of the Joint Lee-Collier MPO Board meeting.

**3. Call to Order Joint MPO Board Meeting/Roll Call**

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Ms. Brandy Otero, Collier MPO Senior Planner, called the roll for Collier MPO and confirmed that a quorum was present. Ms. Calandra Barraco, Lee MPO Administrative Assistant, called the roll for Lee MPO and stated that a quorum was not present.

**Lee MPO Members Present**

Commissioner Brian Hamman, Lee County  
Commissioner Larry Kiker, Lee County  
Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Lee County  
Councilman Rick Williams, City of Cape Coral  
Councilman Jim Burch, City of Cape Coral  
Councilwoman Tracey Gore, Town of Fort Myers Beach  
Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, City of Bonita Springs  
Mayor Jim Boesch, Village of Estero

**Collier MPO Members Present**

Commissioner Penny Taylor, Collier County District 4  
Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Collier County District 5



**5. Election of Chair Person**

Commissioner Taylor entertained a motion to elect a Chairperson.

**Councilman Reg Buxton: I move to elect Commissioner Taylor.**

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel: I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Public Comments will be taken at each item**

There were no public comments.

**7. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Anne McLaughlin, Collier MPO Executive Director, proposed that item 8.B. be continued to each separate MPO Board's meeting so that staff can have more time to work on language and further review. Lee and Collier MPOs legal staff stated that once the language is agreed to, the document can be adopted separately.

**Councilman Jim Burch: I move to continue item 8.B.**

**Commissioner Larry Kiker: I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Taylor entertained a motion for approval of the agenda.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman: I move to approve the agenda as amended.**

**Vice-Mayor Linda Penniman: I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Action Items**

- A. Approval of the Revised Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network and Joint Resolution

Mr. Ortman stated that the Collier MPO Board approved several changes to the map at their May meeting. The changes included removing the River of Grass alignment, deleting the northern end of the FPL corridor (north of Radio Rd before the canal at Golden Gate Pkwy) and moving it to Livingston Rd. Other changes included the addition of the path in Rookery Bay, the addition of Oil Well Rd. (between Camp Keais Rd. and SR 29), as well as the addition of the Gordon River inset. Mr. Ortman stated that the TAC and CAC voted to add a section on SR29 between downtown Immokalee and Oil Well Rd. He stated that the MPO had yet to vote on this segment. Mr. Ortman also stated that the Collier MPO Board considered the addition of SR29

from Oil Well to Everglades City but decided not to add that segment until further study and public involvement is conducted.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if the body could take up a vote on this item as Lee MPO Board did not have a quorum present.

Collier and Lee MPO's legal counsel stated that they recommended that going forward all joint action items would be subject to ratification by the individual Boards at their separate meetings. This way a discussion could be had and some action could be taken as a joint body. The ratification after the fact would ensure that all action taken is proper.

Some members expressed concern with this method, but there was consensus that this was the best means by which to proceed.

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel:** **I move to recommend that the individual Boards accept the amendments to this item as presented.**

**Councilman Reg Buxton:** **I second the motion.**

A Lee MPO Board member asked Mr. Don Scott whether he had any information to present before a vote was taken. Mr. Scott stated that this map was originally put together several years ago to acquire funding. He stated that the map was no longer showing phase or status but simply showing the desired network.

Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn stated that there have been discussions about a crossing on the Caloosahatchee and he wanted to make sure this was covered. He also stated that the Lee MPO had requested adding the extension of Imperial and Three Oaks through Bonita Springs and Estero to the Opportunity Trails Map of the Office of Greenways and Trails. He stated that the segment would connect to Livingston Rd. in Collier County.

Commissioner Brian Hamman stated that he is very supportive of what Deputy Mayor O'Flinn has requested. He stated that it was very important to connect the south and the north shore of the Caloosahatchee River together. Commissioner Hamman stated that he believed the north shore of the Caloosahatchee could develop in the same way as downtown Fort Myers has and for both sides of the river to work together they need to be connected. He also added that the current bridge was very dangerous and people risk their lives walking and biking it daily. Commissioner Hamman added that he has spoken to FDOT and they've stated that work has recently been done on the bridge and it is not due for replacement any time soon. He brought forth a request to put the trail over the Caloosahatchee Bridge instead of over the Edison Bridge. This would allow for an opportunity to put sidewalks and a path over the bridge but also open an opportunity for greater tourism and economic development. Commissioner Hamman asked if this was the appropriate time to amend the map to add this segment. Mr. Don Scott stated that this could be added. Commissioner Hamman asked the motion maker to amend his motion to include Lee County's amendments to add the trail over the Caloosahatchee Bridge and the amendments that Vice-Mayor O'Flinn pointed out.

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel:** **I amend my motion to include those changes.**

Further discussion ensued concerning this topic. Commissioner Larry Kiker asked if perhaps it would be appropriate to broaden the motion to include all bridges. He also asked about a trail that was excluded from the map and whether this motion would add that trail back onto the map. Mayor O'Flinn stated that Commissioner Kiker was referring to the priority trail through Bonita and Estero that was taken off the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) Map, which was separate from this regional map. Mr. Don Scott stated that the trail they were referring to was on the Lee-Collier regional map but not on the OGT map.

There was further discussion on this subject and how Lee County's priority trail fell off the OGT map. Commissioner McDaniel suggested withdrawing his motion as it seemed Lee County had further matters to discuss concerning the map being voted on. He stated that he would be happy to withdraw or amend his motion to move things along. Commissioner Taylor stated that the body needed to follow the counsel's suggestion which was to agree on the items as a body and take a vote, then go back to individual Boards for ratification.

Discussion continued, members expressed a desire to add all bridges on to this map. Mr. Don Scott stated that the Lee MPO Master Plan included all bridges and that this map was simply showing the regional network.

Commissioner Taylor noted that the FPL easement was not shown on the map. Mr. Ortman stated that the Rich King Memorial is on the FPL easement. He added that the Collier MPO will be reviewing the FPL easement in the near future. Ms. Scott clarified that the map slightly modifies the alignment of the FPL corridor. She stated that currently the alignment ends on Radio Rd. but, it was previously shown continuing further north. Ms. Scott stated that at its current alignment the corridor would go west along Radio Rd. and utilize some existing right of way that is available. Commissioner Taylor asked whether the alignment continues into Lee County. Ms. Scott stated that it continues up Livingston Rd., connecting with Imperial in Lee County.

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel:** **I move that we move item 8A forward with amendments made here today.**

**Councilman Jim Burch:** **I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Approval of the Updated Lee-Collier Interlocal Agreement 2009

This item was removed from the meeting's agenda earlier in the meeting. See item 7 for discussion.

**9. Reports and Presentations**

A. Presentation on Automated and Connected Vehicle Technology

Mr. Don Scott gave a Power Point presentation on this topic. The presentation covered levels of autonomous vehicles, the difference between autonomous, connected, and automated connected vehicles, and potential cost saving projections of switching to fully autonomous vehicles. The presentation also discussed a timeline for the surge of autonomous/connected vehicles in the market. The Power Point can be made available to anyone who requests it.

Councilman Jim Burch commended FDOT for all their forward thinking and progress in this field. He added that the \$1 equivalent for charging vs. gas should decrease as time goes by. He also asked whether FDOT studies autonomous vehicles in continuous flow intersections and what was being planned for the future with autonomous vehicles.

Mr. L.K. Nandam, FDOT District 1 Secretary, stated that the department is pursuing many different things in this field. He stated that they have partnered with Florida Polytechnic University and are building a test track that would offer different scenarios for manufacturers to bring their vehicles and test them. This would allow the department to figure out what infrastructure changes are needed and for vehicle manufacturers to figure out how their vehicles will interact with infrastructure that is currently in place.

Councilman Burch expressed concern with counties having different infrastructure in place for autonomous vehicle as this could be a potential issue for the vehicles when crossing county lines.

Vice-Mayor Penniman stated that she was curious to see how transit would fit into all of this as that would skew the results during long-range planning processes. Mr. Scott stated that some transit agencies are now working with Uber to do the first and/or last mile of their trips. He also stated that for ADA trips, autonomous vehicles would probably still need to have an attendant on board to assist people in getting on and off.

#### B. Update and Discussion on MPO Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Ortman gave a Power Point presentation on this topic. The presentation covered FDOT's "vision zero" target and analysis of crash data and fatalities done by Collier MPO staff. Mr. Ortman stated that the Collier MPO staff would be suggesting that the Board adopt FDOT's target.

Mr. Scott stated that the safety numbers should match up with what FDOT was doing. He stated that FDOT provided a total interim target that included the entire state, but he was curious to know what Lee and Collier County's total was.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that Collier MPO staff had looked at their own data so that they weren't caught by surprise when FDOT put out their targets. She stated that by February staff needed to bring something solid for the Board to adopt. Ms. McLaughlin also stated that she would be meeting with FDOT the following week for a debriefing and further information, which she would bring before the Board.

#### C. Regional Transit Update

Ms. Michelle Arnold (Collier Area Transit) discussed the experiences with Hurricane Irma stating that Collier's Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) department was heavily involved in pre-and post-evacuation trips. She added that PTNE provided free trips to evacuation centers and provided trips to and from medical appointments to evacuees. Ms. Arnold also stated that staff picked up nurses from airports and coordinated heavily with LeeTran. Ms. Arnold stated that the beach route would be starting in December, running over the weekends through April, and serving the Vanderbilt Beaches. She added that the route would connect with LeeTran. Ms. Arnold also stated that PTNE was working on improvements for a transfer location in Immokalee. She also stated that she recently attended a conference in Atlanta where she was able to ride in some autonomous buses. She added that communities were using them for connectivity to larger

transit routes and that this seemed like an opportunity to meet the transit need in gated communities and should be considered as part of the next LRTP.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that CAT offered trips to residents in eastern Collier County after the hurricane. He asked Ms. Arnold what the fees were at that time. Ms. Arnold stated that fees were suspended from the Friday before Hurricane Irma to the 22 when the last shelter was closed. She added that the public was thrilled to see the service out there to help them get to available resources after the storm.

Councilwoman Elaine Middelstaedt stated that the use of CAT buses as cooling stations was much appreciated in Everglades City. She stated that CAT also provided trips to shower facilities for people whose homes had been destroyed. Councilwoman Middelstaedt asked if there was a possibility for the current route that goes from Immokalee to Marco Island to go to Everglades City. Ms. Arnold stated that this had been explored in the past, and she'd like to discuss this again with the Councilwoman.

Mr. Wayne Gaither (Lee Tran) stated that they are hoping to have the new park and ride facility, located on Summerlin/Pine Ridge Road, open before the end of 2017. He stated that the Ride LeeTran application was now up and running and allows passengers to check schedules and bus routes. He added that there were kiosks located in high traffic locations which were designed to allow interaction with transit riding public to gather information about trips. Mr. Gaither stated that Hurricane Irma was also a big impact for their area, adding that they implemented an evacuation plan beginning Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> at about 3 p.m. He stated that they too suspended fares and worked with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to pick up those that were transit dependent. Mr. Gaither stated that LeeTran was down Sunday and Monday due to the storm but went back to work on Monday, with limited capabilities. Full service was regained Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gaither added that their August data showed a downward trend of 3.8% and it looked like they'd be down for the entire year.

Councilwoman Tracey Gore asked Mr. Gaither about the previous decision for Lee Tran to have smaller buses. Mr. Gaither stated that there were ongoing discussions on this, and they were working with Lee County Administration to have everything in place by January 4. He added that he didn't believe everything would be complete by then but are currently still working towards that goal.

## **10. Florida Department of Transportation**

Mr. Nandam stated that Mr. Steve Walls had taken a position in Indiana to be closer to family and that the department would go through the hiring process for a replacement as soon as possible. He stated that the department was focused on hiring someone who would continue building relationships as Mr. Walls had.

Ms. Victoria Peters, FDOT District 1 Liaison, stated that FDOT had rolled out the Draft Tentative Work Program and public outreach began on October 16<sup>th</sup>. She added that the e-public comment period would go through October 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Peters added that herself and Collier MPO staff would be conducting public outreach at the Collier County CAT transfer station and Government Center that afternoon. Ms. Peters also stated that the new date for the Context Classification Workshop was November 6<sup>th</sup> in Bartow. She added that the department was working to host something similar in the Lee County area possibly in February.

**11. Members Comments**

Councilman Rick Williams stated that the issue with lacking a quorum at joint meetings needed to be addressed. He stated that there needed to be something in writing to formalize how to deal with this. Councilman Williams suggested that the MPO directors work together to solve this issue.

Commissioner Hamman asked what could be done to make joint meetings more meaningful. He suggested that the setting and topics be relevant to the Joint Board meetings. Commissioner Hamman also suggested a different location so that members could sit around a table and have a discussion. He stated that FGCU may be a good location for joint meetings and added that discussion should be based on how we will move people between Lee and Collier County in the years to come.

Commissioner Fiala suggested adjusting the time to 30 minutes later.

There was a consensus from the body to move forward with these suggestions. Councilman Williams asked Mr. Don Scott to put this on the next executive committee agenda. Mr. Don Scott stated that the new Interlocal Agreement touched on this topic and that joint meetings would now be held on an as needed basis.

**12. Information Items**

None.

**13. Adjournment of Meeting**

With no further comments or discussion Commissioner Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.