

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, May 15, 2020  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING



## MEETING MINUTES

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The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by Chair/Bonita Councilmember Fred Forbes at approximately 9:00 a.m. Chair Forbes noted public comments will be limited to three minutes and may not receive a response from the MPO Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Laura Carr.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Brian Hamman, John Manning, Cecil Pendergrass, and Raymond Sandelli; City of Cape Coral Councilmember Lois Welsh; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Ray Murphy; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony, Johnny Streets, Jr., and Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr; and Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble and Vice-Mayor Katy Errington.

Others in attendance included L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, Zachary Burch, D’Juan Harris, Kyle Purvis, Lawrence Massey, and Michael Tisch with FDOT; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Brian Raimondo, and Calandra Barraco; LeeTran Director Robert Codie; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Nancy Crocker with Lee County Schools; a member of the public David Urich; a member of the public Diana Giraldo, a member of the public John Majka; Jorge Sotolongo with Graph Code; Alicia Gonzalez and George Valens with MRG; Jessica Smith with HDR; Babuji Ambikapathy with VHB; Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver; Kelli Muddle with Volkert; Henri Belrose with WG Inc.; Charlotte Codie with Lee County; Saeed Kazemi with the City of Fort Myers; Trinity Scott with Collier County; and a member of the public Alan Mandel.

### **Agenda Item #1 – Approve Emergency Resolution for Holding Virtual Meetings and Information from staff on the Member and Public Communication for this Meeting**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of an Emergency Resolution for Holding Virtual Meetings. Mr. Scott noted Governor Desantis’ Executive Order had been extended through July 7, 2020. He added that any items approved at virtual meetings will need to be brought back and ratified at an in person meeting with a quorum in the room.

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the Emergency Resolution for Holding Virtual Meetings. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on consent agenda items.

### **Agenda Item #3 - \*Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the January 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the February 21, 2020 Joint Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of the Local Coordinating Board Member Certification
- D. Approval of an Appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee
- E. Approval of an At-Large Appointment to the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

- F. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chair to Sign the MOU for the Purchase and Share of Terrestrial Laser Scanner
- G. Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement and Resolution
- H. Approval of Amendments to the TAC Bylaws
- I. Approval of the Public Transportation Grant Agreement and Resolution for FTA 5305 Funding
- J. Approval of the National Highway System Modification to Add SR 82 to the System

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

**Agenda Item #4 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item**

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

**Public Hearing Item**

**Agenda Item #5 - Adoption of the FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program and the MPO Planning Funds Agreement**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the adoption of the FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the MPO Planning Funds Agreement. Ms. Diana Giraldo made a public comment on her request for funding in the amount of \$200,000 per year for the next five years for comprehensive bicycle pedestrian safety outreach for Lee County. Her budget request was included in the UPWP appendices. It can also be accessed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-1-Diana-Giraldo-Public-Comment.pdf> There were no other public comments on this agenda item. Mr. Scott then reviewed the UPWP tasks and budget for the next two years that was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. The UPWP can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/M05-2.pdf> He asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Hamman inquired about adding additional funds to the bicycle pedestrian outreach task. Mr. Scott responded this was increased from \$30,000 or \$40,000 to \$98,000 in response to discussions at the Executive Committee meeting and to address Ms. Giraldo's proposal. Commissioner Hamman expressed his concern with increasing expenses with the uncertainty of revenues. Mr. Scott replied this increase should be good for the next year but it could also be amended/adjusted accordingly. Commissioner Hamman commented that it might be difficult to cut once it is in the approved budget. Commissioner Pendergrass asked if this increase would help facilitate part of the bicycle pedestrian request made by Ms. Giraldo. Mr. Scott replied yes, it would help half way with outreach, for example public service announcements. Commissioner Pendergrass noted the budget covered a short period of only two years, and he would support it. Councilmember Anthony asked if the bulk of the request was the bike ped position. Mr. Scott replied yes and explained the budget presented by Ms. Giraldo. Ms. Barraco asked if public comment was closed for this item. Chair Forbes replied yes. Mr. L. K. Nandam commented that the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area is a high crash area. He added there is an increased need to focus on education. He said he was pleased that the MPO was taking the step to reallocate funding to bicycle pedestrian outreach. He mentioned he would have Ms. Chesna and the FDOT Safety Office coordinate with the MPO and Ms. Giraldo to bring resources together to maximize the effort as FDOT is committed to partnering. He added there is a need for local governments to step in and partner as well. He made a request for all of the local governments to meet with staff and decide what they could bring back to assist with this as well as develop a plan.

**Commissioner John Manning made the motion to adopt the FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program and the MPO Planning Funds Agreement. Councilmember**

**Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with one objection, and the motion passed with a majority in favor.**

#### **New Business**

#### **Agenda Item #6 - +Presentation and Provide Input on the Design Improvements for the SR 865 from Estero Blvd. to North of Hurricane Pass Bridge Project**

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT presented this agenda item to provide input on the Design Improvements for the SR 865 from Estero Boulevard to North of Hurricane Pass Bridge Project. Mr. Harris introduced Mr. Henri Belrose, the EOR for the project. Mr. Harris continued with a Power Point presentation that included information on the project objectives, project timeline, project overview, coordination with other local projects, project website/newsletter and project contacts. Mr. Harris’ presentation can be accessed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Agenda-Item-9-San-Carlos-MPO-Presentation-and-wants-to-move-up-to-3-FDOT-report.pdf> Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions. Mayor Ray Murphy said the projects are eagerly anticipated and will bring improvements. Commissioner Ray Sandelli commented on the numerous meetings in design, interactive process, and appreciation for efforts. Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass questioned the reduction of speed from 45 mph to 35 mph. Mr. Harris replied the flow of traffic is seasonal and in the off-season the average speed is above the limit through the corridor. Commissioner Pendergrass noted there was not a safe place for law enforcement to monitor or enforce and lowered speed might cause more accidents. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional comments. There was a public comment from Mr. Alan Mandel. Mr. Mandel asked if the middle lane could be reversed based on the time of day and traffic flows. Mr. Harris said the operational analysis examined that option, but it was not feasible. Mr. L. K. Nandam added that the feasibility study looked at several options, one of which was reversible lanes, and the benefit was not significant compared to the option chosen. He added that a commitment was made to Fort Myers Beach to monitor and pursue the reversible lane option in the future if needed. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional comments. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - \*Review and Approve the Goods Movement Scope of Services for the 2045 Long Range Plan**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Goods Movement Scope of Services for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Gogoi gave a Power Point presentation that included information on highlights of the scope, impacts of e-commerce, commodity movements and trends, supply chain updates, truck friendly design solutions, and supply chain resiliency. Mr. Gogoi noted the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee both approved this scope at their last meetings. He requested approval from the MPO Board. Mr. Gogoi’s entire Power Point presentation can be accessed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Agenda-Item-7-Freight.pdf>

**Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the Goods Movement Scope of Services for the 2045 LRTP. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion.**

Chair Forbes asked if there was any public comment on this item. A member of the public, Mr. John Majka said “I um appreciate the the effort of I just didn’t hear anything about um public involvement for those businesses that are stuck using um non-conforming grandfathered access a where they might be able to have some kind of input um along the along the development of the project so I would um I would appreciate it if that could be a consideration especially if there’s federal funds involved thank you.” Chair Forbes asked if there were any other public comments. There were none. Chair Forbes then asked if there was any discussion by the MPO Board. There was none.

**There were no objections, and the motion passed.**

## **Agenda Item #8 - \*Review and Approve the Bicycle Pedestrian Long Range Plan Element Update Scope of Services**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Bicycle Pedestrian Long Range Element Update Scope of Services. Mr. Scott's Power Point presentation included information on previous/ongoing studies and tasks. He asked if there were any questions or comments. The full presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-Bike-Ped-Element-Scope.pptx>

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Bicycle Pedestrian Long Range Plan Element Update Scope of Services. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion.**

Chair Forbes asked if there was further discussion by the MPO Board. There was no further discussion by the MPO Board. Mr. Scott said there was public comment. A member of the public, Mr. John Majka, gave a public comment on this agenda item. Mr. Majka said "a thank you Board a I um reviewed a looked at task five and a if I understand the scope correctly it totally excludes public involvement opportunities and they're required for all federally funded projects a under the National Environmental Policy Act so I would recommend the Board review the agenda item further before um moving forward with this to just make sure that it's compliant with federal law." Mr. Scott responded that the public involvement is being done with the LRTP which this element is part of and it will be part of the LRTP public meeting outreach. Mr. Majka again commented. He said "so I know this is not a question and answer but so did you mean that there will be public involvement opportunities even though task five outlines for no public involvement opportunities?" Mr. Scott responded that their task is community outreach and then we take it from staff and include it in the LRTP, so yes, there will be. Mr. Majka said "ok, thank you for your time." Mr. Scott noted there was another public comment, from Ms. Diana Giraldo. A member of the public, Ms. Diana Giraldo, also gave a public comment on this agenda item. Ms. Giraldo asked who does the public outreach. Mr. Scott replied the MPO has committees, public workshops, and public meetings. He noted that it has been less meeting in person lately due to COVID-19, but in the past there have also been neighborhood public meetings. Ms. Giraldo asked who was reaching out to the community. Mr. Scott replied the MPO reaches out – the meetings are on the website, publicly advertised, and emailed. He added that everyone is encouraged to reach out. Chair Forbes asked if there was additional public comment. There was none.

**There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #9 - \*Review and Approve the 45 Day Comment Period for the Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the 45 Day Comment Period for the Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Mr. Scott explained the changes to the PIP like addressing the need for other outreach opportunities under emergency circumstances, identifying latest technologies, and updating regional activities. He said this revised PIP would go out for a 45 day public comment period. Chair Forbes asked if there were any comments. There were none.

**Commissioner Manning made the motion to approve the 45 Day Comment Period for the Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #10 - Review of the Draft FY 2020/2021 through FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Draft FY 2020/2021 through FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Scott said the TIP covers the next five years of projects. He said the TIP is put out for public comment as well. He noted the appendices will be added to the final TIP for approval. He mentioned these are the projects that are programmed for now, but some may slip based on funding. He said the SR 80 comments will be put together for the next meeting. He added the TIP will be brought back for approval at the June meeting as well. Chair Forbes asked if there were any comments. There were none.

## **Other Business**

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

A member of the public, Mr. David Urich, gave a public comment with a presentation. His public comment and presentation included information on future needs, a Mellow/Slater alternative as well as a Gator Slough bridge to connect Burnt Store, that he would like included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Urich's presentation can be accessed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/D-Urich-Presentation-Slides.pdf> Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions for Mr. Urich. There were none. He thanked Mr. Urich and asked if there were any other public comments on non-agenda items. Mr. Scott said that Mr. Majka indicated he would like to comment. A member of the public, Mr. John Majka said "you know has a a the SR you know was considering the comments for um that is received regarding the SR 80 the alignments of the SR 80 projects and I look forward to being able to a um work with him to to try and um voice the community's out concerns out here um thank you." Chair Forbes asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran/TD Report**

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran gave the LeeTran/TD report. Mr. Codie noted the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program has remained consistent since its inception in February and service improvements have integrated TD with the Passport program. He added that ridership has steadily remained the same. Mr. Codie also mentioned that LeeTran's one year extension as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval on May 19, 2020. Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilmember Anthony inquired if all trip needs have been met. Mr. Codie replied yes, noting they have reached out to all to ensure needs are being met and haven't received any complaints. Councilmember Anthony thanked the Board of County Commissioners for picking up the valuable service. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional comments or questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report**

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said he continued to work with MPO staff on the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contract as well as having discussions for the project priorities for the new fifth year. Mr. Tisch mentioned the I-75 managed lanes study link sent out by MPO staff on the virtual meeting website noting there will also be a public meeting in the future. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Agenda item #14 – Announcements**

Chair Forbes asked if there were any announcements. There were no announcements.

### **Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items**

Chair Forbes asked if there were any information and distribution items. Mr. Scott said there were no Information and Distribution Items included in the agenda packet.

At this time in the meeting, and not under the announcements agenda item, Ms. Diana Giraldo asked to speak. She then said there would be a Ride and Walk of Silence on May 20, 2020 virtually hosted on Facebook and explained the intent was to honor those who had been injured or died in the streets.

Chair Forbes asked if there were any additional items to discuss. There were none.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.**

COMPLETE AUDIO OF THIS MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED HERE:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/05-15-2020-mpo>

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

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