

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, October 16, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

www.leempo.com

239-244-2220



Meeting Minutes

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by MPO Board Chair/City of Bonita Councilmember Fred Forbes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called by MPO staff. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Raymond Sandelli, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmember John Carioscia; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers 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 Wayne Gaither, Zachary Burch, Sean Pugh, JoAnn May, and Michael Tisch with FDOT; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; LeeTran Director Robert Codie; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Charlotte Codie and Matt Spielman with Lee County; a member of the public Denise Diamond; a member of the public Larissa Chanzas; and Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Chair Fred Forbes asked if there were any public comments on Consent Agenda Items. He noted there was a three minute time limit for public comment. Mr. Scott mentioned that Mr. John Majka requested the link to his public comment in the September 18, 2020 Minutes be updated to an Adobe pdf file instead of a Word doc file. MPO staff updated the minutes with this requested change. There were no comments on consent agenda items.

Agenda Item #2. *Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the September 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve the Appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee
- C. Approve the Rail Trail Study Request for Proposal
- D. Approve the Forensic Scanner Request for Proposal

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - 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 #4 - ^Approval of the Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the revisions to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) following the public review and comment period. The PIP was attached to the agenda packet and posted on the MPO website. Mr. Scott noted MPO staff updated the *Public*

Involvement Plan (PIP) and the document has been out for public review since May. He added following additional revisions based on comments received, we are now seeking final approval and reviewed the changes that have been made from the previously adopted version as follows: emergency provisions for public involvement activities during events have been added, additional community newspaper outreach for CAC meetings has been added, updates to outreach wording and current priority processes have been revised, examples of the outreach for other planning documents has been updated, the technology improvements to the website for outreach has been updated, and the regional coordination public involvement activities have been updated. The TAC unanimously approved this item at their September meeting, and the CAC unanimously approved at their October meeting. Mr. Scott asked if there were any comments. There were no public comments. Chair Forbes asked if there were any Board member comments. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the revisions to the Public Involvement Plan. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown and Commissioner Raymond Sandelli simultaneously 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 Approval of the Cape Coral Evacuation Scope of Services

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Cape Coral Evacuation Scope of Services. Mr. Scott mentioned the funding for a Cape Coral evacuation study was first proposed back in 2015 as part of a discussion about trying to move up the development of the I-75/Del Prado Interchange. He said when the 2040 Long Range Plan was developed, a line item for this study was included that later got prioritized and funded in the TIP under the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program project number for this year. He added the thought behind the study is to help show the need and justification for a new access to the City of Cape Coral for evacuation purposes during an emergency event. He referred to the scope, that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website, which has been drafted to look at the evacuation needs of the community and the roadway network that would be required, under certain scenarios, to meet reasonable clearance times. Mr. Scott noted that Cape Coral will be managing the study, and MPO staff will take care of the administrative side. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Cape Coral Evacuation Study Scope of Services. Commissioner Raymond Sandelli seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5a – Walk-On Item - Review and Approval of Amendments to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mr. Scott presented this walk-on agenda item for the review and approval of amendments to the CAC bylaws that were emailed to the MPO Board prior to the meeting and posted to the website. Mr. Scott said the CAC bylaws are being amended to accommodate an anticipated reduction of in-person attendance following the ending of virtual meetings on November 1, 2020. He added the amendment includes lowering the quorum to seven members, which currently is eleven based on the number of members, to help accommodate potentially vulnerable members and social distancing in the meeting room. He noted the changes to page five of the bylaws are shown in underline and strike through format and are intended to allow flexibility for conducting the meetings. He asked if there were any comments or questions. Mayor Ribble asked if Zoom meetings were included in the addition. Mr. Scott said Mr. Derek Rooney had used the word "electronic" to include other technology methods for meetings. Vice-Mayor Denham questioned if the meetings could continue virtually with Zoom. Commissioner Pendergrass asked about the timeline. Mr. Scott said it was discussed but not decided

on. Mr. Rooney explained the changes, their purpose, and the benefits they provide. Vice-Mayor Denham asked if the meeting needed to be in person for it to be valid. Mr. Scott replied yes. The MPO Board briefly discussed ratification, total number for quorum, and the permanence of the amendment. Mr. Rooney clarified this amendment only applied to the CAC. Mr. Scott also added this change was only for the CAC and their bylaws. Councilmember Carr thanked Mr. Rooney and Mr. Scott for clarifying.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Amendments to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws with re-examination in the future. Mayor William Ribble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - +Provide Input on the Draft Preliminary 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Roadway Cost Feasible Projects

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for input on the Draft Preliminary 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Roadway Cost Feasible Projects lists that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Scott gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the cost feasible map, cost feasible project tables, SIS cost feasible project tables, draft cost feasible projects for Lee County, draft cost feasible projects for Cape Coral, draft cost feasible projects for Fort Myers, draft cost feasible projects for Bonita Springs, draft cost feasible projects for Estero, needs projects map, public comments, transit needs, and travel survey. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions. Mayor Ribble asked about removing the CR 951 extension. Mr. Scott said that I-75 expansion will help accommodate the growth that the CR 951 extension project was addressing. Chair Forbes asked if there was any other discussion. There was none. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-2045-LRTP.pdf>

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the CAV Modeling White Paper to be Included in the 2045 LRTP

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Modeling White Paper to be included in the 2045 LRTP. He said as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, the projected development and use of Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) vehicles are being tested as part of different modeling scenarios to determine what impacts this may have in the future. He referred to the CAV Modeling White Paper document that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Scott then gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on model runs, levels of automation, projected benefits/impacts, AV scenarios, District One regional model improvements, and roadway capacity factors. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments. A brief discussion followed on the possibility that autonomous and electric vehicles will not come to fruition, modeling, vehicle collisions, self-driving semi-trucks, and possible malfunctions of technology. Commissioner Mann noted that he had voted yes for the roll call vote of Agenda Item #4 and had been having difficulty with his audio, but he was able to hear the entire meeting. Chair Forbes asked if the discussion on this agenda item was done. There were no more comments. Mr. Scott noted this was an information only agenda item. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-CAV-Modeling.pdf>

Agenda Item #8 - Information on the I-75 Project Development & Environment Study

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for information on the I-75 Project Development and Environment Study. He said the I-75 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study is currently underway and has been going on for about a year. The project schedule was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. He mentioned the project information that is available through the FDOT virtual meeting website that was developed as an alternative to the kickoff meetings that were postponed back in March. He gave a short Power Point presentation that included slides from the project

website with information on program description, project description, project schedule, traffic data, noise barriers, managed lane types, and volume information for various interchanges. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Vice-Mayor Denham asked for an explanation of the slides showing the percentages. Mr. Scott explained. Chair Forbes asked if there were other questions. There were none. The following link was also included that provides additional information: www.swflinterstates.com/i75-connect-south-corridor. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-I-75-Study.pdf>

Other Business

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

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran gave the LeeTran Report. He said the TDP will go to the Board of County Commissioners in November to align with the LRTP. He added that LeeTran had returned to fixed route service with limited seating capacity due to COVID and CDC requirements. He also mentioned the Rosa Parks kick-off.

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He noted that the SR 82 project had won several awards. He added that SR 82 from Alabama to the Hendry County line had an expected completion date of January 2021. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Forbes asked if there were any comments or questions. Councilmember Carr congratulated FDOT on the SR 82 project awards. Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT commented on the delay for work program allocations due to COVID and discussed estimated funding deficits. He also announced that all six lanes of travel on SR 82 from Shawnee to Alabama are now open. Councilmember Carr thanked Mr. Gaither. Mr. Scott asked if the numbers presented by Mr. Gaither were statewide numbers or district numbers. Mr. Gaither replied both estimated numbers were given. He noted they were still waiting on actual numbers.

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

Mr. Scott announced the next meeting would be held in person. He added MPO staff had met with Lee County IT staff to discuss the logistics for an in person meeting. He said he appreciated the assistance of Lee County staff.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the FDOT Roadwatch Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The entire meeting audio can be accessed here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/10-16-2020-mpo>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.