

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, November 20, 2020
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Meeting Minutes

The 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 Kevin Ruane, Frank Mann, Raymond Sandelli, and Brian Hamman; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Jessica Cosden, John Gunter, Dan Sheppard, and Robert Welsh; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr; and Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble.

Others in attendance included L. K. Nandam and Victoria Peters 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; Mayor Kevin Anderson with the City of Fort Myers; and Dave Loveland with Lee County.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Chair Fred Forbes asked if there were any public comments on Consent Agenda Items. There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #2. *Consent Agenda

A. Approve the October 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Commissioner Kevin Ruane and Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion simultaneously. 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.

Old Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Approve Resolution Ratifying the Virtual MPO Board Meeting Agenda Items from May to October

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to approve Resolution 20-09 ratifying the Board and Committee action items that were conducted virtually from May to October during the declared emergency for Covid-19. He said at the May 15, 2020 MPO Board meeting, the Board approved Resolution 20-03 authorizing the MPO Board and Committees to conduct business by holding virtual public meetings consistent with the Governor's order. He continued that order expired on November 1, 2020 and now the meetings are being conducted with a quorum in the room. He added the resolution approved in May requires the MPO Board to ratify the action items that took place virtually from May to October and Resolution 20-09 is presented for this purpose. There were no comments or questions on this agenda item.

Commission Brian Hamman made the motion to approve Resolution 20-9 ratifying the Board and Committee actions items that were conducted virtually from May to October during the declared emergency for Covid-19. Councilmember Laura Carr and Commissioner Kevin Ruane simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing Item

Agenda Item #5 - ^Review and Approve the Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments to move funding to cover upcoming projects and to revise task language to match current efforts. The tasks sheets were in underline and strike through format and attached to the agenda packet/posted to the website. Mr. Scott reviewed the following amendments proposed for the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program tasks to cover upcoming project funding needs and changes in consultant tasks:

- Add \$10,000 in funding to the consultant services portion of Task 4.5 Lee County Compete Streets Initiative for the survey data collection requirements for the TIGER grant agreement.
- Under Task 4.4 Administrative and Planning Consultant Services, move \$14,000 in funding from the development of the LRTP to the Goods and Freight Element from to match current funding levels.
- Add local match in the amount of \$150,000 to the Cape Coral evacuation study under Task 4.4 Administrative and Planning Consultant Services and remove \$30,000 origin destination study analysis into a separate task to be conducted at a later date. Revise language in the task descriptions to match the scope of the projects.

Mr. Scott added the TAC and CAC unanimously approved this item at their respective meetings held on November 5, 2020. There were no comments or questions on this agenda item.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program. Councilmember John Gunter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approve the SUN Trail Agreement

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to review and adopt Resolution 20-10 approving a Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized Trail Network Agreement between FDOT and Lee MPO to provide for FDOT's participation in the Estero Bonita Rail Trail Feasibility Study and authorize the MPO Chair to execute the agreement. Mr. Gogoi referred to the copy of the Resolution and the Sun Trail Agreement that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. He explained the purpose of the SUN Trail Agreement is to provide for FDOT's participation in the Estero Bonita Rail Trail Feasibility Study which will be managed by the MPO. He noted the agreement states the terms and conditions upon which FDOT funds will be provided and sets forth the way in which the project will be undertaken and completed. He added the advertisement for the RFP related to the study is currently out, and the project is expected to be underway in February 2021. He said the TAC and CAC unanimously approved the agreement at their respective meetings held on November 5, 2020.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the SUN Trail Agreement. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion.

Chair Forbes asked if there were any comments or questions. Commissioner Hamman and Councilmember Carr thanked FDOT for the funds to accomplish this study.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approve the TIGER Project Performance Measure Data Collection Scope

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the TIGER performance data collection scope of services that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. He said the MPO is required to collect performance measure data for the next four years as part of the performance data collection and reporting requirements that came with the TIGER grant requirements back when it was awarded in 2013. He noted the baseline data was collected in 2015, just prior to construction starting. He continued the first year of performance data, after construction completion, was collected last year in mid-December, that was based on the date of project completion. He added the collection of bicycle pedestrian counts, crash data analysis and transit ridership are required to be collected each year whereas the survey data collection is required to be collected in 2020 and 2023, this was also collected for the baseline prior to construction. He reviewed the locations identified to collect the counts and survey data illustrated on the exhibits and consistent with the prior data collection locations. The TAC and CAC unanimously approved the scope at their respective meetings held on November 5, 2020. Mr. Scott commented on the last collection dates and the less than favorable weather on those days. He also mentioned the data is used to illustrate the benefits provided to the community by the project. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Commissioner Raymond Sandelli asked about grant funding availability. Mr. Scott explained that TIGER transitioned to BUILD, and it is very difficult to obtain these funds now as it is extremely competitive. Commissioner Ruane asked how many counties have been awarded more than one TIGER/BUILD grant. Mr. Scott said he is not sure in other states but Tampa's second TIGER/BUILD project is an extension of the first and that is why it is important to collect the data that shows use of the project. Commissioner Frank Mann asked what the TIGER acronym stands for. Mr. Scott explained it is Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the TIGER Project Performance Measure Data Collection Scope. Mayor William Ribble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - +Review and Comment on the Draft 2045 LRTP Adoption Summary Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and provide comments on the draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) adoption summary report that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. He gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on explanation of the plan, vision/plan goals, evaluation criteria, project timeline, population data, cost feasible map, Federal and State projects, constrained roadways, public involvement, overview of public comments, sample of travel survey results, roadway needs plan map, funding programs and sources, cost feasible plan, existing priority projects, cost feasible project tables by jurisdiction, SIS cost feasible plan explanation/map, transit needs, transit cost feasible plan/project table, bike ped facilities map, and bike ped cost feasible project table. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-2045-LRTP.pptx> Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown asked about crash locations and gave an example of a high crash location along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Mr. L.. K. Nandam said he would look into that location. Councilmember Robert Welsh asked if the Board was adopting this or making changes. Mr. Scott said he was looking for comments today and then approval at the next meeting. Councilmember Welsh asked if he could contact Mr. Scott for additional information. Mr. Scott replied yes and added that Lee County staff could also be

involved. Commissioner Hamman suggested Councilmember Welsh watch the recording of the workshop that was held on Tuesday afternoon as one of the topics discussed was the improvements to the Cape Coral bridges. The Board continued to discuss the Cape Coral bridges, congestion, tolls, ideas to address, Executive Committee meetings, using toll revenue to address capacity on bridges, bridge span replacement, interim improvement projects to address capacity issues, new signal at SR 31 and North River Road, and widening of SR 31. Mr. L. K. Nandam commented on the widening of SR 31. Commissioner Frank Mann expressed his concern for four lanes on SR 31 converging into two lanes at the bridge. Commissioner Mann also mentioned coordination with Charlotte County and ensuring this area is addressed in the LRTP. Mr. Nandam said a separate meeting could be set up to discuss these projects. Commissioner Mann asked for meetings twice a year for the next four years.

Agenda Item #9 - Information on the FDOT Work Program Funding Issues and Schedule

Mr. Scott presented this informational agenda item on the FDOT Work Program Funding Issues and Schedule. He gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the Secretary of DOT's recent presentation at the MPOAC meeting in Orlando and the Governor's Executive Order 20-275. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-9-FDOT-Funding-Information.pptx> He asked if there were any comments. He added there would be a better idea of impacts in two months when the projects are out. Councilmember Carr asked about how the shares of funding will be decided. Mr. Nandam said the Executive Order relieves FDOT of statutory requirements and there will be some redistribution.

Other Business

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. Scott showed a public comment Power Point presentation provided by Ms. Denise Diamond, a member of the public, regarding the SR 80 bike ped projects. The pdf and Power Point versions of her public comment can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Public-Comment-for-BPCC.pdf> AND <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Public-Comment-for-BPCC.pptx> The committee briefly discussed the SR 80 bike ped projects. There were no other public comments.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran gave the LeeTran Report. He noted that seasonal service begins on Sunday, November 22 including the Downtown Fort Myers Blue/Gold line. He added the TDP was adopted by the BOCC. He also mentioned the Rosa Parks project. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

Mr. L. K. Nandam with FDOT gave the FDOT Report. His report included updates on the Work Program and the M-Cores task force. He then introduced Ms. Victoria Peters, the new FDOT liaison for Lee County. Ms. Peters gave a brief report that included information on allocations, work program, and I-75 public meetings. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Mr. Scott polled the Board members on their preferred location for the December MPO Board meeting, either the Lee County Admin East Building as usual or the Lee County BOCC Chambers. The Board agreed by general consensus to hold the December meeting in the Lee County Admin East Building. Chair Forbes asked if the next meeting would include a virtual component. Mr. Scott said that it could be watched on LeeTV.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the FDOT RoadWatch Report.

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

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/11-20-2020-mpowma>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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