

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, December 18, 2020
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by MPO Board Chair/City of Bonita Councilmember Fred Forbes.

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 (arrived at 9:11 a.m.), Raymond Sandelli (left at 9:43 a.m.), Cecil Pendergrass (arrived at 9:11 a.m.), and Brian Hamman; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Dan Sheppard and Tom Hayden; 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 (arrived at 9:11 a.m.); and Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble.

Others in attendance included L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, and Victoria Peters with FDOT; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Lee Tran Director Robert Codie; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Dave Loveland and Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Ned Baier with Volkert; Sergeant James Lear with the Cape Coral Police Department; Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver; a member of the public Denise Diamond; and a member of the public Robert Wilgosz.

In order to allow additional time for MPO Board members to arrive to achieve quorum, Chair Forbes moved to Agenda Item #11 – Public Comment on Items not the Agenda.

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

Ms. Denise Diamond, a member of the public, commented on the SR 80 pathway/sidewalk projects. A quorum was achieved at 9:11 a.m. with the arrival of Commissioner Frank Mann, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, and Councilmember Laura Carr. Mr. Robert Wilgosz, a member of the public, commented on the SR 80 pathway/sidewalk projects.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Chair 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 November 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of \$500 in Local Funds for MPOAC Legislative Advocacy Activities

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Tom Hayden 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 Items

Agenda Item #4 - ^Adoption of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Summary Report

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review, comment, and MPO adoption of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan as outlined in the Summary Report that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Mr. Scott gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on vision, population data, FDOT Regional map, cost feasible alternative improvements models, Federal and State project time lines, constrained roadways map, public involvement, repeated comments/numbers, additional public comments, changes from last month, roadway needs, and new schools in Lehigh. The MPO Board briefly discussed the new Lehigh schools projected opening dates, Sunshine connection to SR 80, involving residents of the area in the planning process, previous reaction of residents to inclusion of the SR 80 connection in the LRTP, prior removal of the connection from the LRTP, footbridge in Lehigh destroyed during Hurricane Irma, issues with School District funding new footbridge, involving LA-MSID in the footbridge project discussion, ensuring notification of residents in the SR 80 connection area, and inclusion of that project in the needs plan. Mr. Scott said he would notify the residents of the area and if necessary the project can be amended back out. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on cost feasible roadway projects, existing priority projects tables, SIS cost feasible plan, transit needs plan, transit cost feasible plan, bike ped facilities, and bike ped cost feasible list table. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments. A brief discussion followed on local impact fees distribution, language added by FDOT, projects in area that have impact fees, and compliment of LRTP presentation/plan. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item. There were none. The MPO Board discussed the Lockett Road project, inclusion of the Lockett Road project in the needs plan, modeling scenario with lack of traffic in that area, running alternative models to test different scenarios for that area, possibility that the Lockett Road project would eliminate the need for the SR 80 connection project, continued growth in Lehigh, determining if Lockett or SR 80 connection is least disruptive, and route/location of projects. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-2045-LRTP.pdf>

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to adopt the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - ^Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add FTA Section 5310 grant funding for LeeTran in the current fiscal year. The draft TIP page was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Mr. Scott explained the FY 2021 through FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add FTA Section 5310 grant funding for LeeTran, this includes operating funds in the amount of \$200,000 and the FPN is 448461-1. He added the TAC and CAC unanimously approved this item at their respective meetings held on December 3, 2020. He asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item. There were none.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #6 - *Adopt Resolution Endorsing Applications for FY 2021 Safe Routes to School Funds

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of Resolution #20-11 endorsing the two applications in Lee County for FY 2021 Safe Route to School Funds (SRTS) and authorizing MPO staff to sign the applications. The resolution was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Mr. Gogoi gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the following project applications:

City of Cape Coral Application

The project proposal in this application calls for sidewalks that will benefit multiple schools within Cape Coral including Skyline Elementary, Challenger Middle, and Patriot Elementary. Sidewalks are proposed on (1) the east side of Skyline Boulevard from SR 78 to Trafalgar Parkway and (2) the north side of SW 10th Street from Skyline Boulevard to Chiquita Boulevard.

Funding Request: \$621,978

(Includes City of Cape Coral Local Match for design and CEI)

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Fort Myers/LCBOCC Joint Application

The project proposal in this application calls for sidewalks that will benefit multiple schools including Fort Myers Middle Academy, Allen Park Elementary and Fort Myers High. Sidewalks are proposed on (1) the south side of Hanson Street from Royal Palm Avenue to Cleveland Avenue (2) south side of Braman Avenue from Central Avenue to Fowler Street (3) south side of Braman Avenue from Broadway to Grande Avenue (4) north side of Moreno Avenue from Fowler Street to Broadway Avenue and (5) south side of Unity Avenue/Kennesaw Street from Fowler Street to Broadway Avenue.

Funding Request: \$813,005

City of Fort Myers Local Match (Design): \$106,044

Maintaining Agency: City of Fort Myers and Lee County BOCC

Mr. Gogoi concluded his presentation with information on the SRTS schedule, timeline, and suggested action. Mr. Gogoi's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-SRTS-Endorsement.pdf>

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to Adopt the Resolution Endorsing Applications for FY 2021 Safe Routes to School Funds. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Approval of the Scanner Selection Committee Recommendations

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the Approval of (1) the selection committee rankings of Scanner Proposals and (2) the committees' recommendation to purchase the top ranked scanner system and enter into contract negotiations with the Vendor. Mr. Gogoi gave a brief Power Point presentation with slides that included information on RFP explanation, vendor proposals, field demonstration photographs, selection committee rankings, and requested action. Mr. Gogoi also provided information in his presentation on the cost estimates received from each vendor. Commissioner Sandelli left at 9:43 a.m. Mr. Gogoi noted that the ranking placed Leica first, Faro second, and Riegl third. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Scanner.pdf> Chair Forbes asked for a motion.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Selection Committee Rankings and their Recommendation to Purchase the Top Ranked Scanner System and Enter Into Contract Negotiations with the Vendor. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Election of Officers for 2021

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to call for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer and to hold elections for those offices. Each year the MPO Board holds the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair and the new term for these officers will begin on February 1, 2021 and run through January 31, 2022. Mr. Scott said in the past the MPO Board has followed a rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair from the municipalities/county and the current order is listed below:

City of Bonita Springs (Current Chair - Councilman Fred Forbes)

Village of Estero (Current Vice Chair – Mayor Bill Ribble)

City of Fort Myers

Lee County (Current Treasurer - Kevin Ruane)

City of Cape Coral

Fort Myers Beach

City of Sanibel

He added, if the Board agrees, the Village of Estero member will then become the MPO Chair and a representative from the City of Fort Myers will be the Vice-Chair with Commissioner Ruane remaining in the role of MPO Board Treasurer.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion for Estero to become MPO Chair and City of Fort Myers to become Vice-Chair. Mr. Derek Rooney noted a member from each jurisdiction needed to be selected to fill the spot. **Commissioner Hamman then amended his motion to nominate Mayor William Ribble to fill the Chair position for the Village of Estero, Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown to fill the Vice-Chair position for the City of Fort Myers, and Commissioner Kevin Ruane to continue in his role as MPO Treasurer. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #9 - *Election of the 2021 MPOAC Representatives

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to appoint an MPO voting member to be the Lee County MPO representative on the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) Governing Board and appoint at least one additional voting member to be an alternate MPOAC representative. He said currently, Councilman Fred Forbes is serving as the voting member and Councilman Fred Burson is serving as the alternate. He added participation in the MPOAC for the upcoming year involves attending the four scheduled meetings in Orlando on January 28, 2021, April 29, 2021, July 29, 2021 and October 28, 2021.

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to appoint Councilmember Fred Forbes to continue as the MPO Representative on the MPOAC Advisory Council. Commissioner Hamman seconded the motion. Commissioner Mann then amended the original motion to include Councilmember Fred Burson to continue in his role as alternate. Commissioner Hamman seconded the amended motion. There were no objections, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - *Approval of an Extension to the Executive Director Employment Agreement

Mr. Derek Rooney presented this agenda item for the review and approval of an extension to the Executive Director employment agreement which was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Mr. Rooney noted this would extend the contract for three years. Mr. Rooney also mentioned the Executive Committee had reviewed competing salaries for other Executive Directors in the state of Florida and voted to increase Mr. Scott's base pay by five percent to more closely reflect the competing salaries. Mr. Rooney added this raise was a recommendation of the Executive Committee and was not requested by Mr. Scott. The updated agreement, based on the input received from the Executive Committee and the MPO Attorney,

was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Rooney noted the approval of this item includes a 3% cost of living adjustment for the MPO staff (last adjustment was received in June of 2019).

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Extension of the Executive Director Employment Agreement and a three percent cost of living adjustment for all staff. Mayor Joe Coviello and Mayor William Ribble simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report. His report included information on the downtown trolley service, fast fare box launch in August, and full implementation of the system beginning Monday.

Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT report. Ms. Peters' report contained information on the release of the new draft Work Program for fiscal years 2022 through 2026, public hearing period from January 11 through January 15, in-person Work Program event being held at the Southwest Area Office/Sun Guide Center on January 12 from ten until noon, and FDOT engineers/staff addressing concerns with the intersection at Veronica and MLK. Mr. L. K. Nandam thanked Commissioner Pendergrass and Mr. Scott for their participation on the M-Cores task force that had recently concluded.

Agenda Item #14 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the FDOT RoadWatch Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/12-18-2020-mpowma>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items *May Require Action

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