

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, March 19, 2021
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. by MPO Board Chair/Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington. Chair Errington introduced herself to the MPO Board.

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 Dan Sheppard and Jessica Cosden; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr. and Darla Betzer Bonk; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson; City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr; and Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington.

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; Dawn Huff and Kelley Fernandez with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Lee County IT staff; Matt Wiesenfeld with HDR; and Dave Loveland, Roger Desjarlais, and Randy Cerchie with Lee County.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item #2 - *Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the January 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve the February 19, 2021 Joint Meeting Minutes
- C. Approve the Appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

Chair Errington noted that public comments will be taken at each agenda item and added that the public comment time limit is three minutes.

Public Hearing Item

Agenda Item #4 - ^Review and Approve Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the Review and Approval of the Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted the FY 2021 through FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add a new safety project in FY 2022 to address wrong way driving on various off ramps in the amount of \$1,654,021. He added, an amendment is being made to remove the local and state funding match for the Section 5305 transit planning funding that the MPO receives leaving the \$254,876 in federal funding as the state is now going to match their portion of

funding with toll revenue credits. He referenced the draft TIP pages with additional project information that were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as slides at the meeting. He briefly reviewed the following locations where the wrong way driving would be implemented:

- I-75 at Corkscrew Road, northbound and southbound off ramps (the timing of implementation for this location may be different),
- I-75 at Terminal Access Rd., northbound and southbound off-ramps,
- I-75 at Daniels Pkwy (CR 876), northbound and southbound off-ramps,
- I-75 at MLK Blvd., southbound off-ramp,
- I-75 at Lockett Rd., northbound off-ramp,
- I-75 at Bayshore Rd. (SR 78), northbound and southbound off-ramps,
- Veterans Pkwy. at Del Prado Blvd. S., eastbound and westbound off-ramps,
- Cleveland Ave. at W. First St., southbound off-ramp, and
- Cleveland Ave. at Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd., northbound off-ramp

He mentioned the TAC unanimously approved this item at their March 4th meeting, but the CAC did not approve the Wrong Way Driving project as they voted 6 against and 2 for it. He noted they did not unanimously approve the transit planning funds changes. He added the CAC had concerns as to the amount of money being spent on the project, not knowing what the project would entail, how this would work, how many instances have we had with wrong way driving, and would this really stop wrong way drivers. Mr. Scott also mentioned the additional graphics that were included in the agenda packet related to the wrong way driving project and issues at ramps. Councilmember Laura Carr suggested if drivers are impaired they may not see the signs. Mr. Scott said in addition to the light up signs, there will be notifications for other drivers on the interstate to be alert for a wrong way driver. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. Commissioner Frank Mann referenced the lack of support from the CAC and questioned how often wrong way driving happens. Councilmember Carr recounted a personal experience on US 41 with a wrong way driver even with signs posted. Commissioner Mann asked if there were instances where wrong way driving has occurred. Mr. L. K. Nandam responded there are several instances of wrong way drivers causing accidents resulting in fatalities. He added the system is over 95% effective and noted the investment is divided over ten locations with the expense being worth the rate of return. Councilmember Fred Forbes asked if there was data to show how many of these wrong way driving incidents involve alcohol or drugs. Mr. Nandam replied that the majority of these accidents are caused by impaired drivers. Chair Errington asked for a motion.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Amendments 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.

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

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the Review and Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He said the amendments to the transit planning task are being processed to match the recent change by FDOT to match the FTA Section 5305 funds with toll revenue credits instead of a 10% state and 10% local match. He added the new task table for the transit planning task now reflects the addition of the toll revenue credits for the current year funding along with including the carry forward amounts with the previous approved state and local match amounts. He asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Councilmember Carr asked if the change increases our funding. Mr. Scott replied that ten percent is actually lost but now we are not required to match the funding.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program. Councilmember Fred Forbes 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 Approval of the Public Transportation Grant Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the Review and Approval of the Public Transportation Grant Agreement. He said the Public Transportation Grant Agreement has been developed to match the FY 2021 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 funding that will be used by LeeTran and the MPO for transit planning activities. The agreement was included in the agenda packet and posted to the website as a link that can be reviewed here: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/M06a.410115-1-14-30_5305d-PTGA_Lee-MPO_Legal-Initials.pdf and it includes the federal portion of the funding in the amount of \$254,876. Chair Errington asked if there were any comments. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Public Transportation Grant Agreement. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - +Presentation on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Sidewalk Options

Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT presented this agenda item on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Sidewalk Options. His presentation included slides with information on program review, structural option A, structural option B, and structural option C. The Board briefly discussed the difference in cost between a six foot and eight foot sidewalk and the length of the bridge. Mr. Gaither continued his presentation with a slide on structural option C. A brief discussion followed on the age and life span of the bridge. Mr. Gaither continued his presentation with a slide on switchback ramps. The Board then discussed the impact on the bridge that adding a sidewalk might have, bridge replacement time frame, adding new facilities to the new bridge plan, possibility that the bridge lifespan could be longer than fifteen or twenty years, structural inspections, bridge grades for sufficiency and health, major maintenance done on bridge recently, likelihood bridge might exceed estimated lifespan, erosion to bridge structures, and instances where some bridges have lasted longer than estimated lifespan. Mr. Gaither continued his presentation with slides on context classification, Caloosahatchee bridge remaining life, and considerations. The Board then discussed multimodal path width and variations, dual direction movement, distance between bridges, possibility for cantilevering, use of existing bridge deck in all options, adding sidewalk on mainland to each option, inclusion of mainland sidewalk in estimate, adding healthy options for walkers and cyclists by building this sidewalk, possibility to prolong bridge life, cost benefit analysis, availability of funding, adding to MPO priorities, time frame for design and construction, actual useful life if built, correct order to proceed, options for funding, need to start project soon to ensure worth, project merit, existing parks on both side of bridge, adding facilities, when bridge needs to be replaced, completing list of existing projects instead of adding new ones, possibility of scheduling workshop for this item, action on this item due to timing, reviewing information and bringing back to next meeting, additional funding sources, examining all priorities and taking advantage of possible funding opportunities, LeeTran buses crossing river into North Fort Myers, completing this project quickly, possibility of overhead structure for bike/ped, expense of overhead structure or any new structure, providing additional information at the next meeting, and economic impact to City of Fort Myers. Chair Errington asked if there was a motion for a workshop. Mr. Scott said he could bring this item back to the next meeting as a priority with additional information. Mr. Gaither's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-7-Caloosahatchee-Bridge-Pedestrian-Infrastructure-Feasibility-Review-V2-No-Text.pdf>

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to bring this item back to the next MPO Board meeting as a priority with additional information. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. There was one objection, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item #8 - Lee County Goods Movement Study Presentation

Mr. Ron Gogoi introduced Mr. Matt Wiesenfeld with HDR to present this Lee County Goods Movement Study. Mr. Wiesenfeld then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on goals and objectives, developing objectives, e-commerce overview, current and planned developments, stressed connections, freight activity centers, freight mobility corridors, annual average daily truck traffic, truck crash hot spots, Seminole Gulf Railway, improvement opportunities, air cargo 101, Fed Ex Express and UPS air cargo, commodity flow, and freight volume tables by mode. Councilmember Carr asked for examples from the freight volume tables. Mr. Wiesenfeld further explained and provided tonnage and cost examples. He continued his presentation with slides on truck friendly design solutions, City of Fort Myers example, performance measures, daily truck miles traveled, percent miles heavily congested, vehicle time travel reliability, pavement conditions, freight element components, rail improvements, air cargo improvements, cost feasible highway freight projects, multimodal freight, and recommendations. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Gogoi asked if there were any comments. There were none. Chair Errington asked if a motion was needed. Mr. Gogoi replied no. Chair Errington thanked Mr. Wiesenfeld for his presentation. Mr. Wiesenfeld's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-8-Freight-Element.pdf>

Agenda Item #9 - *Review and Approval of the Freight Project Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the Review and Approval of the Freight Project Priorities. He provided a brief Power Point presentation with slides that included information on the proposed Lee MPO freight priorities and map of proposed priorities with relevant data. He asked if there were any questions or approval. Chair Errington asked for a motion. The Board discussed increased demand on the SR 31 bridge from the Babcock Ranch development, requiring developer to pay for fair share, questions on justification to subsidize project driven by development in Charlotte County, capitalizing on all funding opportunities, demand from freight prior to Babcock Ranch, SR 31 designation as SIS facility, process to designate SR 31 as NHS facility, maximizing all funding opportunities for SR 31, approving priorities with hopes to receive future benefits, addressing current traffic, mechanism for developer contribution, current widening of SR 31 by developer, discussions with developer to contribute to bridge project, and suggestion for forming small working group for this area. Chair Errington asked if there were any other comments. There were none. His presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-9-Freight-Priorities.pdf>

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Freight Project Priorities. Commissioner Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

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

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

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran/TD Report

Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report that contained infrastructure updates on the Rosa Parks, South Park and Ride, and Lehigh Acres Park and Ride facilities. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT report that contained information on a project update to the intersection of Veronica Shoemaker and MLK based on a request made at a previous

meeting by Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown. She also mentioned that FDOT staff was preparing for the next Work Program cycle. Mr. L. K. Nandam with FDOT then commented on the COVID-19 Bill relief funding for states and state transportation agencies.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Mr. Scott announced there would be no MPO Board meeting in April and the next MPO Board meeting would be held on May 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

A completed audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/03-19-2021-mpowma>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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