

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 18, 2021
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by MPO Board Chair/Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington. 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 and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Dan Sheppard, Tom Hayden, Jessica Cosden, and Jennifer Nelson; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Teresa Watkins Brown and Johnny Streets Jr.; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson; City of Sanibel Councilmember Mike Miller; Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr.

Others in attendance included the following - L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, Allison Evanitz, and Victoria Peters with FDOT; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Jorge Puente and Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; Dave Loveland with Lee County; and member of the public John Majka.

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 May 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Appointment of a CAC Member

Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass and Councilmember Laura Carr simultaneously made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Jessica Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Public Hearing Item

Agenda Item #4 - ^Adoption of the FY 2021/2022 through FY 2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the adoption of the recommended FY 2021/2022 through FY2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program. A link to the document was included in the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and can be accessed here: [DRAFT TIP](#). Mr. Scott provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on an overview of the TIP, performance measures, Five year summary, SR 31 TIP project page, and transit projects TIP pages. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none. His entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-FY-22-26-TIP.pdf>. Chair Errington asked if there was a motion.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Adoption of the FY 2021/2022 through FY 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr.

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - ^Approval of the Multi-modal Box Funded Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the recommended 2021 Multimodal Box Fund Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and can be viewed at the following link: [Multimodal Priorities](#). He provided a brief presentation that included slides with information on a review of the project priority tables, Five year Work Program funding explanation, and Federal/State priority table. Mr. Gogoi added MPO staff is looking for approval of the priorities and asked if there were any questions. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-7-Multimodal-Box-Fund-Priorities.pdf> Chair Errington asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Multimodal Box Fund Priorities. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - ^Approve Amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to add the construction of a sidewalk on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge and to add transit technology capital purchases. The amendment information was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and can be viewed here: [LRTP Amendments](#). He provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the updated Federal/State funding table, transit cost feasible implementation plan table, and TMA box funds table. His presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-2045-Long-range-Plan-Amendments.pdf> Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Chair Errington asked if there were any questions from the Board members. Councilmember Carr asked about the LeeTran bus replacement funding. Mr. Scott explained. Councilmember Carr commented on the growth in Bonita and inquired on getting Bonita projects on the list. Mr. Scott explained Bonita does have projects and Bonita staff is working on gaining LAP certification from FDOT. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Gogoi if the LAP process was complete yet for Bonita. Mr. Gogoi responded no. Mr. Scott added the MPO is trying to get all local municipalities LAP certified in order to qualify them for additional Federal funding. Chair Errington asked what the acronym LAP stands for. Mr. Scott replied Local Agency Program, noting that MPO staff is working with Estero staff on this as well. Chair Errington asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Amendments to 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.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - *Approval of Highway Safety Program Funds

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the staff recommended priorities for Highway Safety Program funds. The list was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and can be viewed here: [Highway Safety Program Funds](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the table of Highway Safety Program Funds priorities. He said MPO staff is seeking approval from the Board. His presentation can be accessed here, see slide six: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-7-Multimodal-Box-Fund-Priorities.pdf> Chair Errington asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Frank Mann inquired on the time frame for the Buckingham roundabout. Mr. Gogoi responded that staff is trying to get funding by 2026. Commissioner Mann responded this is a long time frame for a project that is rated

number one on the list. Mr. Gogoi explained the highway safety funds distribution, possibility of using MPO funds, project design underway, and advancing project if MPO funds are used. Commissioner Mann noted the need for this project. Mr. Gogoi reiterated the project design is underway but the earliest construction is most likely 2025. Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson noted the rapid growth in our area and asked if projects will ever catch up. Mr. L. K. Nandam commented on the project programming process and timeframes, possibility of local governments enacting sales tax referendums to assist in project funding, limited funding sources for Buckingham project as it is off system, and the success in partnerships. Chair Errington asked if the comments will be taken into consideration if this agenda item is approved by consensus. Mr. Gogoi replied yes. Councilmember Carr asked about the displaced left turn. Mr. Gogoi explained and referred to the local example at SR 82.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Highway Safety Program Funds. Councilmember Jennifer Nelson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Commute Connector Presentation

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT. Mr. Gaither briefly explained the Commute Connector program and introduced Ms. Allison Evanitz with FDOT's Commute Connector program who presented this agenda item. She provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the Commute Connector program, services provided, employer services, LeeTran advertising, ride matching and incentives, regional van pool program, van pool benefits, program features, Lee County recorded trips, safety message, and Commute Connector program contact information. Her presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-Commute-Connector-Lee-County-MPO-updates-6182021-final.pdf> Vice-Mayor Johnson commented on the value of the program, opportunity to relieve roadway pressure with van pooling/ride-sharing, and the feasibility for use on Sanibel. He asked for additional information from Ms. Evanitz on the program. Chair Errington asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

Other Business

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

Mr. Scott informed the committee that he had printed and passed out copies of public comment handouts regarding projects on SR 80 from members of the public, Ms. Denise Diamond and Mr. John Majka. Ms. Diamond's handout can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Public-Comment-before-the-FTC-by-D.-Diamond.pdf> Mr. Majka's handout can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/S.O.S.-Save-Our-Fort-Myers-Shores-RE-SR80-6-17-21.pdf> Mr. Scott then played a Power Point slide show of the handout with audio commentary from Ms. Diamond. Ms. Diamond's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Public-Comment-before-the-FTC-by-D.-Diamond-2-minute-Slide-show-with-audio-commentary.pptx> Mr. John Majka then gave a Power Point presentation of his handout. Mr. Majka's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/S.O.S.-Save-Our-Fort-Myers-Shores-RE-SR80-6-17-21.pdf>

Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran said that LeeTran had nothing to report at this meeting but would present the TD report for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT commented on the new programming period for the upcoming draft tentative Work Program for FY 2023 through 2027. She added that the governor should be approving

the existing work program by July 1. Mr. Nandam commented on improving goals of safety and enhancing mobility, Vision Zero, working to bring numbers down, creation of Safety Administrator position in each district, and working with Vision Zero Network and CUTR to develop strategies and solutions for local communities. Chair Errington asked if this would include red light running. Mr. Nandam responded that it would include issues like that as well as intersection improvements, enforcement, and education. Mr. Nandam also mentioned the state adopted Strategic Highway Safety Plan that involves working with communities. Chair Errington thanked Mr. Nandam. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown asked about the constant replacement of a railing at Veronica Shoemaker due to accidents and asked if FDOT was keeping track of intersections like this with frequent repairs. Mr. Nandam said he would look into it and get back with the Board. Commissioner Pendergrass added this happens at the intersection of Canal and Veronica and accidents cause vehicles to hit the rail. Chair Errington asked if Mr. Nandam would get back with the Board on this area. Mr. Nandam replied yes.

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

Mr. Scott announced there would be no July or August MPO Board meetings, and the next MPO Board meeting would be held in September.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/06-18-2021-mpowma>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

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