

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, January 21, 2022  
Lee County Administration East Building  
2201 Second Street, Room 118  
Fort Myers, FL 33901



## Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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, Brian Hamman, Raymond Sandelli, Kevin Ruane, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Keith Long, Tom Hayden, Jessica Cosden, and Gloria Tate; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Teresa Watkins Brown, Darla Betzer Bonk, and Johnny Streets Jr.; MPO Board Chair/Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr.

Others in attendance included the following - L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, Victoria Peters, and Richard Oujevolk with FDOT; Patty Hurd with Kittelson; Steve Ludwinski with Corradino; Persides Zambrano and Mahmoud Khodr with the City of Cape Coral; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Ron Gogoi; Robert Codie with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; members of the public Lark Campisano and Mike Meyer; and Dave Loveland, Randy Cerchie, Farhan Butt, and Rob Price 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. Approval of the November 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. Amendment to the TAC Bylaws
- C. Approval of the Corridor Congestion Dashboard Scope of Services

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously

### **Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments will be taken on Each New Business Item**

Chair Errington said public comments will be taken at each new business item.

## Public Hearing Items

### **Agenda Item #4 - ^Review and Approve Amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to add the widening of Corkscrew Road project east of Alico Road, add in bicycle pedestrian projects in Fort Myers, adjust project limits, advance project phases and adjust cost estimates consistent with recent changes in five-year work programs**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to add the widening of Corkscrew Road east of Alico Road and adjust project costs and project phases consistent with recent changes with programmed projects over the next five years. He provided a Power Point presentation in which he reviewed the amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan that include the following: Add the design, right-of-way and construction project phases for the widening of Corkscrew Road from two to four lanes between Alico Road and Verdana Village as the design and right-of-way phases are included in the 2026 to 2030

time frame and the construction phases is included in the 2031 to 2035 time frame; Add in the list of the City of Fort Myers bicycle pedestrian projects consistent with the projects identified in the recently completed Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan; Adjust project costs and project phases to match the Transportation Improvement Program and local Capital Improvement Program projects; Advance the design phase for the SR 31 project from SR 80 to SR 78 into the 2021-2025 time frame to match the FDOT Tentative Work Program; Extend the Hanson Street project limits from Fowler Street to Veronica Shoemaker to match the previously adopted Cost Feasible map and what was included in the transportation model; Revise the cost feasible map to match the amended project list; and Add in a project identification column to provide a reference for reviewers that are not familiar with the local road names. The proposed underline and strike through changes to the document and tables were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: [L RTP Amendments Presentation](#). He asked if there were any questions or comments from the MPO Board or public comments. There were none. Chair Errington asked for a motion and asked Mr. Scott to restate the motion needed. Mr. Scott restated the motion for approval.

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the amendments to the LRTP. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #5 - ^Review and Approve an Amendment to the FY 2021/2022 through FY 2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Design Phase for a Sidewalk on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge**

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item to review and approve the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the design phase for a sidewalk on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge. The new TIP sheet was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT then introduced Ms. Patty Hurd who provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the existing bridge and demand. Councilmember Laura Carr commented on pedestrians/cyclists wearing dark colors and the lack of lanes. Commissioner Hamman provided an example he had recently seen on the bridge of a father and son walking on the narrow curbing to cross the bridge even though there are signs that forbid pedestrians on bridge. Ms. Hurd continued her presentation with slides on future demand, comparison to other bridges, connectivity, equity, existing facility configuration, options, benefits, and request being made. Her presentation can be viewed here: [Caloosahatchee Bridge Presentation](#). Chair Errington asked if there was a motion. Ms. Barraco asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the amendment to the TIP to add the Design Phase for a Sidewalk on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.**

The MPO Board briefly discussed the process, appreciation for FDOT providing additional detail, learning from November mistakes, project benefit, and project reach.

**Agenda Item #6 - ^Review and Approve an Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program to Reflect the Funding for the Cape Coral Evacuation Study in FY 2021/2022**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments to Task 4.4 consultant planning funds and project timing. The underline and strike through changes to the Task 4.4 sheets to include the Cape Coral evacuation study that was not included in the second year (current year) of the UPWP when it was first developed and to update the timing of several projects were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. David Urich provided a public comment that Mr. Scott printed and handed out to the MPO Board. Mr. Urich's public comment has also been posted to the MPO website and can be found here: [David Urich Public Comment](#). Mr. Scott noted that the study

is being done to examine different scenarios. He said there was another public comment. Mr. Mike Meyer, a member of the public, gave a public comment on his opposition to an extension being constructed near Prairie Pines Preserve. Chair Errington asked if there were any other public comments. Mr. Scott said there were none. Chair Errington asked Mr. Scott to read the motion being requested. Mr. Scott read the motion for approval. Commissioner Hamman asked if the MPO Board was voting on an extension. Mr. Scott replied no, this item was for the approval of the Cape Coral Evacuation Study and provided a brief history. The MPO Board briefly discussed comfort with scope of evacuation study, respect for public comments, preservation of Prairie Pines, promise of connection from Cape Coral to I-75, not removing possible connection to I-75 from plan, ensuring balance, Pine Island Road traffic congestion issues, moving widening of SR 78 forward, Cape Coral projected build out of 2040, Cape Coral goal of adding the widening of SR 78 to the plan, population growth in area, concern for transportation issues and needs, moving forward with an evacuation route, being mindful of the environment, need for study being voted on and approved, meetings between FDOT and Cape staff, performing visioning study for Pine Island Road, importance of partnerships, high level planning analysis for interchange justification, collaboration, holistic view of infrastructure, funding being allocated, importance of role of MPO Board, opportunities moving forward, importance of infrastructure, protecting environment, and achieving balance. Chair Errington asked if the study would be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Scott said it would take approximately eleven months.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the amendment to the UPWP. 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 #7 - \*Adopt the 2022 Update of the Lee MPO Highway Safety Targets**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of the 2022 Highway Safety Performance Targets consistent with FHWA requirements. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on performance measures and statewide and Lee MPO targets. His presentation can be viewed here: [Safety Target Presentation](#) Chair Errington asked for a motion.

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the adoption of the 2022 Highway Safety Targets. Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Scott then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on safety performance measures and crash dashboard data. His presentation can be viewed here: [Safety Performance Measure Presentation](#) He asked if there were any comments. The MPO Board discussed examining speeds, example of MLK with three different speed zones, drivers exceeding speed limits, examining data, speed study, enforcement, excessive speeds not safe for pedestrians, example of fatality and possibility of pedestrian violating law, safety improvements, driver behavior, distracted driving, example of US 17, research on hotspots in Lee County, example of median improvements on US 41, outreach focusing on 4 Ds and aggressive driving, high visibility enforcement grants, importance of design, education, speed management, land use, updating facilities, impact of lowering speed, incapacitating injuries, rapid growth, vehicle miles travelled, growth factor taken into account, categories Lee County is high in, reporting back to the MPO Board on ways to change these numbers, role of lighting, example of Bonita, grants for lighting, high visibility intersection grants, reflective markings on roadways, trees in medians, speed limits and median landscaping restrictions, serious accidents knocking trees down, other landscaping treatments for medians, possibility of lowering speed limit in Estero on US 41, changes in design standards, Cape Coral example, and working with FDOT on resolution. Chair Errington asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Mike Meyer, a member of the public, provided a public comment on lowering speed, shortening red light times, and evacuation in Florida. Chair Errington thanked Mr. Meyer for his

comments. The Board then discussed timing of lights based on time for pedestrians to cross intersection safely, speaking with Lee County staff present if additional questions, email comments being sent to Estero and forwarded to Lee County staff, and providing consistent and factual responses to emails.

### **Agenda Item #8 - \*Election of Officers for 2022**

Mr. Derek Rooney presented this agenda item to call for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer and to hold elections for those offices. Mr. Rooney referenced the following list of the MPO Board past rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair from the municipalities/county and the current order as listed below:

- Village of Estero (Current Chair – Mayor Katy Errington)
- City of Fort Myers (Current Vice Chair – Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown)
- Lee County
- City of Cape Coral
- Fort Myers Beach
- City of Sanibel
- City of Bonita Springs

Mr. Rooney mentioned the Chair/Vice-Chair rotate with jurisdiction but a specific person from the jurisdiction is appointed. He commented on the City of Fort Myers member, Councilmember Watkins Brown, would become the MPO Chair and a representative from the Lee County BOCC would need to be nominated to be the Vice-Chair so Commissioner Ruane could continue as the MPO Treasurer.

**Mayor John Gunter made a motion to elect Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown as Chair of the MPO Board, a representative of the Lee County BOCC to Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Kevin Ruane to continue as MPO Treasurer. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion.**

MPO staff noted the motion need to include the election of a Lee County Commissioner to fill the role of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Hamman commented the Lee County BOCC would be chaired by Commissioner Sandelli and suggested he could also be appointed as Vice-Chair of the MPO Board.

**Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson made the motion to elect Commissioner Raymond Sandelli as Vice-Chair of the MPO Board. Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass seconded the motion.**

Mr. Rooney suggested the original motion made by Mayor Gunter could be modified to include the election of Commissioner Sandelli as Vice-Chair.

**Mayor John Gunter amended his original motion to include the election of Commissioner Raymond Sandelli as Vice-Chair of the MPO. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the amendment to her original motion to second. There were no objections, and the amended motion for the election of Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown as MPO Chair, Commissioner Raymond Sandelli as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Kevin Ruane to continue as MPO Treasurer passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #9 - Update on the SR 865 (San Carlos Blvd) Project Development & Environment Study**

Mr. Gaither with FDOT introduced Mr. Richard Oujevolk, also with FDOT, who then presented this agenda item to provide an update on the San Carlos Boulevard from North of Crescent Street to North of Hurricane Pass Bridge project, ahead of a public meeting that is scheduled for February 3, 2022. Information on the meeting and the attendance options were included in the newsletter that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Oujevolk provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on safety moment, project goals, preferred alternative, project schedule, and project contacts. The presentation can be viewed here: [SR 865](#)

[PD&E Presentation](#) Chair Errington asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chair Errington thanked Mr. Oujevolk for his presentation.

### **Agenda Item #10 - Provide Input on the Joint Lee and Charlotte MPO Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide input on the proposed draft agenda items for the upcoming joint meeting with the Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO. He mentioned the Joint MPO Board meeting with the Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO is scheduled for Friday, February 18 at 10:00am at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church located at 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33955. He reviewed the following suggested topics for the meeting: Status of the Burnt Store Road PD&E study from Van Buren to just north of the Charlotte County line, construction of the south segment in Lee County and the recently completed construction in Charlotte County; Update on the I-75 Southwest Connect Studies; Discussion on the proposal to form a subcommittee of the Collier, Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO Boards to meet on a periodic basis to deal with regional coordination issues that will come back to the each of the MPO Boards at their regular meetings for further discussion, recommendations and action; and Status of the planned SR 31 projects and the staff coordination on future improvements. He asked if the Board had any other items they would like included. There were no additional suggestions. Chair Errington asked if there were any comments. There were none.

### **Other Business**

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

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

### **Agenda Item #12 - LeeTran/TD Report**

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran provided the LeeTran/TD report. He noted transit ridership was up over counts from last year. Commissioner Ruane asked about requirements to wear masks on buses and mentioned an incident had been brought to his attention. Mr. Codie replied the mask requirement was a Federal mandate and added that he had a conversation with the gentleman from the incident. Chair Errington asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #13 - FDOT Report**

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT presented the FDOT report. Ms. Peters mentioned upcoming meetings/public hearings planned for SR 867/McGregor, SR 865/San Carlos, and Fowler Street/SR 884. Chair Errington asked if there were any comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #14 - Announcements**

Mr. Scott again mentioned the next MPO Board meeting would a Joint meeting with Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO on Friday, February 18 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. Councilmember Jessica Cosden clarified the date was February 18 as the staff report stated February 21. Mr. Scott confirmed the correct date of the meeting was Friday, February 18.

### **Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included notifications on upcoming public meetings/hearings and updates on House/Senate Bills.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:23 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/01-21-2022-mpowma>**

## ^Roll Call Vote \*Action Items †May Require Action

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