

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, March 18, 2022
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 Executive Director Don Scott. 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 (9:14 a.m.), Brian Hamman, Kevin Ruane, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Keith Long, Robert Welsh, and Jessica Cosden; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Fred Burson, Darla Betzer Bonk, and Johnny Streets Jr.; Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson (9:11 a.m.); and City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr (9:04 a.m.).

Others in attendance included the following - Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Calandra Barraco, and Ron Gogoi; Robert Codie and Joe McCabe with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; member of the public Peg McDaniel; and D’Juan Harris with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO.

Agenda Item #1 - Election of a Vice-Chair for 2022 who will also Chair this meeting

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to elect a Lee County MPO Board member to serve as the Vice-Chair of the MPO. He explained the MPO Board previously approved a Lee County member to serve as Vice-Chair in January and there has been a request from that member to select an alternate Lee County member to serve as Vice-Chair. He continued that staff is seeking election and approval of a Lee County Commission member to serve as Vice-Chair that will also Chair this meeting as the Chair is not able to attend.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to elect Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass as Vice-Chair of the MPO Board for 2022. Commissioner Brian Hamman and Mayor John Gunter simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Scott read a public comment from Mr. John Majka that had been submitted via email prior to the meeting. Mr. Majka’s public comment can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/John-Majka-Public-Comment-031822.pdf>

Agenda Item #3 - *Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the January 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the January 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously

- B. Approval of the February 18, 2022 Joint Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kevin Ruane and Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. simultaneously made the motion to approve the February 18, 2022 Joint Meeting Minutes. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously

- C. Approval of the Local Coordinating Board Certification

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the Local Coordinating Board Certification. Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item #4 - Public Comments will be taken on Each New Business Item

Vice- Chair Pendergrass said public comments will be taken at each new business item.

Public Hearing Items

Agenda Item #5 - ^Review and Approve an Amendment to the FY 2021/2022 through FY 2025/2026 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Transit Bus Replacements in FY 2021/2022

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a transit project to cover the replacement of four buses in the current fiscal year. The new TIP sheet was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. The information can also be viewed at this link: [TIP Amendment](#) Mr. Scott explained the current FY 2022 through FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add a transit project for bus replacements in the current fiscal year. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments or questions. There were none.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the TIP Amendment to add Transit Bus Replacements in FY 2021/2022. 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 a Resolution Supporting the LeeTran Transit Asset Management and Public Agency Safety Plan Performance Targets for FY 2022

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of the Resolution Supporting the LeeTran Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Performance Targets for FY 2022. The targets and resolution were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. They are also viewable here: [Targets and Resolution](#) Mr. Gogoi then provided a Power Point presentation that showed slides with information on an overview of the agenda item, transit asset targets, and safety performance targets. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-6.Transit-Performance-Targets-1.pdf> Mr. Gogoi said staff was asking for MPO Board adoption of the resolution supporting the performance targets. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to adopt a resolution in support of the LeeTran Transit Asset Management and Public Agency Safety Plan Performance Targets for FY 2022. Commissioner Brian Hamman and Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Expansion of US Bicycle Route 15 through Lee County

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of the resolution supporting the expansion of USBR 15 through Lee County. The staff report including the resolution and route map were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as slides at the meeting. They can also be viewed here: [USBR 15](#) Mr. Gogoi then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on existing route map, proposed expansion in Florida, US Bike Routes cyclist type and route characteristics, proposed USBR 15 through Lee County, route modification requests, and local government support in Lee County. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-7.USBR-15-FL-1.pdf> Mr. Gogoi noted MPO staff was

seeking MPO Board adoption of the resolution in support of the expansion of US BR 15 through Lee County. He asked if there were any questions. Mayor Katy Errington asked where the route through Estero was on the map. Mr. Gogoi showed the route on the map and explained the route. Councilmember Laura Carr asked if the route through Bonita was along Imperial. Mr. Gogoi replied yes. Councilmember Carr asked about use of electric bicycles and ordinances needed. Mr. Gogoi noted most of the route is on the roadway where electric bicycle speeds of up to 30 mph are not an issue. Councilmember Robert Welsh asked if there were any costs associated with the adoption in support of the USBR 15 route through Lee County. Mr. Gogoi replied there were no costs as the route uses existing facilities with bike lanes on road or shared use paths. Mayor Errington clarified that only existing routes are being used. Mr. Gogoi said yes and added that the route alignment may change in the future if better facilities are constructed. He used the example of the SUN Trail network expansion and possible Rail Trail corridor use. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Hamman questioned the current SUN Trail route through North Fort Myers. Mr. Gogoi noted the route uses Littleton and Business 41 to cross the Edison Bridge. Mr. Gogoi also mentioned a request for a SUN Trail feasibility study to examine alternate routes to incorporate John Yarbrough Linear Park as well as the River District, downtown Fort Myers, and Midtown Fort Myers. Commissioner Hamman asked about possible amendments to the USBR 15 route in the future. Mr. Gogoi explained the involvement of Adventure Cycling and AASHTO with possible route alignments in the future. Mayor Errington commented on county owned and Estero owned roadways in the Estero area. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the route does not use the Estero owned section of Estero Parkway and added that the Estero Council had approved the route noting the route avoids the high speed area of US 41. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked for a motion.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to adopt the resolution in support of the expansion of USBR 15 through Lee County. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments on the item. There were none.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - +Review and Provide Input on the Draft Regional Collaborative Subcommittee Language from the Collier MPO

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Derek Rooney, MPO legal counsel, who then presented this agenda item to review and provide input on the Regional Coordination language put forward by the Collier MPO Attorney. Mr. Rooney then provided a brief history of this agenda item including information on lack of quorum at previous joint meetings, conversations at last joint meeting with Charlotte County at which Collier did not show up, Collier initiative to establish two subcommittees that would meet four times per year, and possibility of staff only meetings satisfying this task due to Sunshine requirements for elected officials. Mr. Rooney noted this item was not for adoption only discussion. He also mentioned the possibility of a once per year regional workshop between the three MPOs as another option. Councilmember Carr asked Mr. Rooney to explain the subcommittees. Mr. Rooney explained. Vice-Chair Pendergrass commented on the difficulty to schedule meetings four times per year. Mayor Gunter echoed Vice-Chair Pendergrass's concern adding that four times a year is a bit excessive. Mr. Rooney asked if there would be support for a once per year regional symposium of workshops. Councilmember Cosden said she agreed with Vice-Chair Pendergrass and Mayor Gunter that four times per year is excessive and once a year is sufficient. Councilmember Carr asked who would be responsible for the website. Mr. Rooney replied there would be no formal creation. Vice-Chair Pendergrass commented that there has always been coordination between the neighboring counties. Mr. Scott added that staff of the MPOs meet as needed.

Agenda Item #9 - Information on the FY 2022 Federal Apportionments and the Discretionary Programs from the Infrastructure Bill

Mr. Scott presented this informational agenda item on FY 2022 Federal Apportionments and Discretionary Programs from the Infrastructure Bill. He provided a Power Point presentation that

included slides with information on overview of the IIJA, funding table, Lee MPO allocation and District One formula Federal fund distribution, example of competitive programs, funding program information, transit summary, multimodal and freight summary, aviation summary, and implementation considerations. He asked if there were any comments or questions. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-9-IIJA.pdf>

Other Business

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

Mr. Scott read a public comment from Mr. Robert Wilgosz that had been submitted via email prior to the meeting. Mr. Wilgosz's comment can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Robert-Wilgosz-Public-Comment-031822.pdf> Mr. Scott said he was able to look up the median project and it appears to have started on Monday. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if Mr. Scott would respond to Mr. Wilgosz's comment. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Joe McCabe with LeeTran thanked the MPO Board for supporting the performance measure targets and for the bus funding. Councilmember Carr asked how the mobility on demand (MOD) project was going in Bonita. Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran said the MOD project was very successful and has exceeded expectations and the ridership of the bus route in the area.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT presented the FDOT report. He announced a speed management workshop that would be held sometime in the summer with a virtual option. He said registration information would follow as it becomes available.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Mr. Scott announced there would be an Old 41 PD&E public meeting on April 14 in-person at the Bonita Springs Recreation Center from 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. and a virtual meeting on April 19. Vice-Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any other announcements. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. asked for a meeting between FDOT and Lee County to discuss intersection improvements at the intersection of Veronica Shoemaker and MLK due to numerous incidents. Vice-Chair Pendergrass mentioned there would be dual baseball games on March 20 and March 30 which might result in traffic delays.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:52 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/03-18-2022-mpowma?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

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