

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 17, 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 9:02 a.m. by MPO Board Chair/City of Fort Myers Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown. 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 Brian Hamman, Raymond Sandelli, Kevin Ruane, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter (9:05 a.m.); City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Tom Hayden, Jessica Cosden, and Dan Sheppard; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Teresa Watkins Brown, Fred Burson, and Johnny Streets Jr.; City of Sanibel Councilmember Michael Miller; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Laura Carr and Fred Forbes.

Others in attendance included the following - Wayne Gaither and Victoria Peters, with FDOT; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Calandra Barraco, and Ron Gogoi; Derek Rooney with Gray Robinson; Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; Matt Dockins with RK&K; Stacey Rohland with Lee County BOCC; Chris Magnus with Quality State Investment; members of the public Charlotte Wheatcraft and Eli Enders; Spanish Wells residents Eric Myburgh, Carol Brady, Rick Bowlus, Steve Cohen, James Wiant, William Simon, and Ruth Condit; and Rob Price, Warren Baucom, and Dave Loveland with Lee County.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items**

Chair Watkins Brown asked if there were public comments on consent agenda items. There were no public comments on Consent Agenda Items.

### **Agenda Item #2 - \*Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the May 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the General Transportation Planning Consultant Contracts
- C. Ratification of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Amended Bylaws
- D. Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Certification
- E. Modification of the LRTP Bike Ped Table to Match TIP Project Timing and Costs

Mr. Scott mentioned that Commissioner Hamman sent an email request to pull Consent Agenda Item #2C for further discussion. The email sent can be viewed here: [Commissioner Hamman Email](#) Chair Watkins Brown said that the Consent Agenda items A, B, D, and E could still be approved with a motion.

**Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. made the motion to approve Items A, B, D, and E of the Consent Agenda Items. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously**

### **Agenda Item #2 – Consent Agenda**

- C. Ratification of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Amended Bylaws

Commissioner Hamman explained his email noting he was fine with all of the proposed changes to the BPCC Bylaws except for adding Blue Zones as a member, and he requested they be pulled from the roster as they are an advocacy group.

**Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the amended BPC Bylaws without adding Blue Zones to the roster/membership. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There was one objection from Councilmember Jessica Cosden, and the motion passed.**

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

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

### **Public Hearing Items**

### **Agenda Item #4 - Adoption of the FY 2022/2023 through FY 2026/2027 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to hold a public hearing on the recommended FY 2022/2023 through FY2026/2027 [Transportation Improvement Program](#), make any changes to the recommended Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that the MPO may consider appropriate while taking into consideration public input, and then by roll call vote, adopt Resolution 22-09 (attached) endorsing the recommended FY 2022/2023 through FY 2026/2027 TIP. Mr. Scott provided a presentation that included slides with information on funding, changes made, and comments addressed. His presentation can be viewed here: [TIP Presentation](#) Mr. Scott mentioned there were public comments sent in and they were printed by staff and handed out at the meeting. Councilmember Carr mentioned motorized bicycles on sidewalks and asked about possible indications for faster traffic to keep to one side. Mr. Scott said he hasn't heard of any but some jurisdictions are prohibiting e-bikes on sidewalks or limiting speeds. He added this issue will come up more, due to the increase of micromobility. Councilmember Carr asked if there would be speed designations or separations on new pathways. Mr. Scott noted it was difficult enough to try and separate bicycles and pedestrians, but he would research and bring back best practices related to this. Councilmember Forbes mentioned legislation that allowed micromobility devices to operate where bicycles are allowed to operate adding speed could be limited, but it would be difficult to enforce. Mr. Scott added there are many roads without bicycle lanes so relegating bicycles to only use them would be difficult. Mr. Scott then reviewed public comments emailed in from [Mr. Louis Fratarelli](#) on advancing the Corkscrew project, [Mr. John Majka](#) on the SR 80 median project, and the [Estero Council of Community Leaders](#) (ECCL) on requests regarding Estero. Mr. Scott asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the FY 2022/23 through FY 2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program. Councilmember Fred Forbes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5- Approval of the FY 2027/2028 Federal and State Funded Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review changes, hold a public hearing, and make a decision on the project priority order to approve the FY 2027/2028 Federal and State Funded Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott reviewed the priority lists and asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Chair Watkins Brown asked if there was a motion.

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the FY 2027/28 Federal and State Funded Priorities. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #6 - ^Approval of the Multimodal Box Funded Priorities**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the recommended 2022 Multimodal Box Fund Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as a slide at the meeting. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on a review of the priorities, funding sources and amounts, and Lee MPO and District One Allocation Formula Fund Distribution. His presentation can be viewed here: [Multimodal Presentation](#). The Board discussed carbon reduction studies, carbon reduction program, carbon reduction project types, estimated costs of priorities, expectations for projects on list to be funded, present day cost versus year of funding costs, possibility of adding more projects, inflation, wanting to ensure all funds are spent, adding projects from Bonita Springs to share in funding, percentage of funding that goes to Federal/State projects, and adding projects each year. Chair Watkins Brown asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. made the motion to approve the Multimodal Box Funded Priorities. Commissioner Brian Hamman 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 the Updated Lee and Collier Transportation Regional Improvement Program (TRIP) Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the updated Lee and Collier and MPO TRIP priorities that were attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as a slide at the meeting. He reviewed the Lee Collier TRIP priorities. Chair Watkins Brown asked if there were any questions or a motion. There were no questions.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the updated Lee and Collier Transportation Regional Improvement Program Priorities. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #8 - Old US 41 PD&E Study Presentation**

Mr. Richard Oujevolk with FDOT introduced this agenda item for the Old US 41 PD&E Study presentation. Mr. Oujevolk provided two slides on the stages in the process of projects and FDOT partnership. His slides can be viewed here: [Introduction Slides](#). He introduced Mr. Matt Dockins with RK&K, FDOT's consultant for the study, to provide a Power Point presentation on the study. Mr. Dockins presentation included slides with information on project goals/needs, alternatives, new quadrant roadway, new traffic signals, U-turn bulb outs, public workshop, comments, next steps, and project contact information. The presentation can be viewed here: [Old US 41 PD&E Study](#). Chair Watkins Brown then took in-person public comments/presentations on the Old US 41 PD&E study from Bonita Springs business owner [Mr. Chris Magnus](#) and from the [Spanish Wells Community Association](#) members Mr. Eric Myburgh, Ms. Carol Brady, Mr. Rick Bowlus, Mr. Steve Cohen, and Mr. Jim Wiant. The Board discussed coordination with Collier on project, recommendations for design team to meet with concerned citizens before the next public meeting scheduled for spring 2023, consultant drawing, relocation of retention pond, elimination of Spanish Wells proposed bulb out, adding roundabout, Veteran's Parkway completion date, dealing with truck traffic near Bonita Commerce Park, old flyover project in Bonita Springs, multiple entrances to Spanish Wells community, ensuring all comments are heard, working from regional model to start, completion of Veteran's project assumed in model, continued cooperation with residents and businesses, balancing safety needs, long project processes, funding, extended project time, congestion in Bonita area, local funds, example of Pine Island Road, inclusion of project in Bonita Capital Improvement Plan, length of PD&E process, stage of project in process, meetings held and scheduled, adhering to strict Federal

process requirements, NEPA, community involvement, contributions of all to Federal funding, Bonita traffic counts from Assistant Manager of the City of Bonita Springs, and cooperation on project.

## **Other Business**

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

Mr. Scott played a short video of a FedEx truck backing into a parking lot on SR 80 that was emailed in from Mr. John Majka. The video can be viewed here: [SR 80 Video](#) There were no other public comments on items not on the agenda.

### **Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran/TD Report**

Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran provided the LeeTran/TD report that included information on the Rosa Parks project, TD trips, and the mobility-on-demand project in Bonita Springs.

### **Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report**

Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT provided a brief report on the final budget, priority projects, increasing costs, and funding. Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT presented an additional FDOT report that included information on improvements coordinated by FDOT and LCDOT at the intersection of Veronica and MLK. Councilmember Streets Jr. and Chair Watkins Brown thanked everyone involved for the quick response.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Announcements**

Mr. Scott announced the next MPO Board meeting was scheduled for September 16 and wished everyone a good summer.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included a comment from Commissioner Hamman on Consent Agenda Item #2 and public comment handouts from Mr. Louis Fratarelli, Mr. John Majka, the Estero Council of Community Leaders, Mr. Chris Magnus, and the Spanish Wells Community Association.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:37 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: [MPO Board June 17, 2022](#)**

**^Roll Call Vote \*Action Items +May Require Action**

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