

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, January 20, 2023
Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 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 Mike Greenwell (9:05 a.m.) and Brian Hamman; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr. and Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Tom Hayden, Keith Long, Patty Cummings, and Jessica Cosden; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King; City of Sanibel Councilmember Michael Miller; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Laura Carr; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Jon McLain (9:12 a.m.).

Others in attendance included the following – Carlos Gonzalez with FHWA; L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, Victoria Peters, Josh Jester, and Keith Robbins with FDOT; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Derek Rooney with Gray Robinson; Robert Codie with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; Bill Howell with Lochner; Nicole Harris with Stantec; Dave Loveland, Rob Price, and Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Andy Getch with McCormick Taylor; and members of the public Marsha Ellis, Patty Whitehead, Tom Rubbelke, Holly Schwartz, Quinn Stahl, Kevin Wyman, Kim Wallen, Tara Cooley, Charles Morris, Kendelle Harder, Tonia Harder, Darla McIntosh, Beth Anne Algie, Jodi Walborn, Teresa Lewis, Dirk Kruzan, Tony Cameratta, Deb Orton, Emily Porter, and John Majka.

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 November 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- B. Adoption of FDOT's New Bridge, Pavement and System Performance Targets
- C. Approval of the Executive Director Contract Extension
- D. Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Certification

Mayor John Gunter made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Commissioner Brian Hamman 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 Watkins Brown noted public comments would be taken at each new business item. Mr. Scott noted that the public comments received via email prior to the meeting were printed and provided to the MPO Board members present at the meeting. The emails, public comment cards from the meeting, and presentation provided by Ms. Marsha Ellis at the meeting can be found at the following link: [Public Comments](#)

Public Hearing Items

Agenda Item #4 - ^Review and Approve Amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to add in the widening of Corkscrew Road projects, the Kingston Development roadway connection, the Sunshine Boulevard Extension and to make changes to match programmed and planned projects

Mr. Don Scott presented this public hearing item for the review and approval of the Amendments to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on a map of the Corkscrew area, traffic volumes, updated needs plan, updated language, updated project tables, review of projects, funding and revenues, and a map of the Hickey Creek area with respect to the Sunshine Boulevard extension project. His presentation can be found here: [LRTP Amendments](#) Mr. Scott mentioned the public comments regarding the Kingston development and the Sunshine Extension project that were emailed prior to the meeting that were printed and handed out to the MPO Board members present at the meeting and can be found at the following link – [public comments](#). The MPO Board members discussed carbon reduction funding, amount, and carbon reduction projects. Chair Watkins Brown asked if there were any public comments. The following members of the public provided in-person public comments on this agenda item: Ms. Marsha Ellis (provided a Power Point presentation that can be found in the public comments link above), Ms. Beth Anne Algie, Ms. Patty Whitehead, Ms. Holly Schwartz, Ms. Quinn Stahl, Mr. Charles Morris, Mr. Kevin Wyman, and Mr. Tony Cameratta.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the LRTP Amendments. Councilmember Mike Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with two objections, and twelve in favor. The motion passed with a majority vote.

There were brief additional discussions regarding the Sunshine Extension project, design process, traffic, configuration of the roadway, working with the community, and facilitating growth with properly placed infrastructure.

New Business

Agenda Item #5 - *Election Of Officers for 2023

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to call for nominations for MPO Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer and to hold elections for those offices. He explained that based on the current rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair from the municipalities/county, and if the Board agrees, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass will become the MPO Chair and a representative from the City of Cape Coral will be the Vice-Chair. He added, the Board also needs to nominate and hold an election for the Treasurer position, and Commissioner Ruane is the current Treasurer.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to elect Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass as MPO Board Chair. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to elect Mayor John Gunter as Vice-Chair. Councilmember Jessica Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott asked if there were changes to MPO Board Treasurer.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to retain Commissioner Kevin Ruane as MPO Board Treasurer. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Federal Certification Review Close Out Presentation

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Carlos Gonzalez with FHWA to present this agenda item on the Federal Highways (FHWA) Federal Certification Review Close Out. Mr. Gonzalez then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the Federal Review Team members, purpose of the certification review, overview of the certification process, summary of the risk assessment, overview of the certification report, noteworthy practices, recommendations, and review findings. The presentation can be found here: [FHWA Certification](#) Mr. Gonzalez also provided his contact information to those present. The Board discussed bicycle pedestrian impact from Hurricane Ian, cost effectiveness of mobility on demand service in Bonita Springs, LeeTran partnerships with local jurisdictions, increased trips, adding fourth vehicle, and expanding footprint. Members of the public, Ms. Marsha Ellis and Ms. Patty Whitehead, provided public comments. Mr. Gonzalez noted public comments could also be sent to himself and FDOT staff.

Agenda Item #7 - I-75 Master Plan Update for the South Corridor

Mr. Josh Jester with FDOT presented this agenda item on the status of the I-75 South Corridor Master Plan. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on an introduction to the Mater Plan, 2045 No-Build Year of Need, preliminary list of proposed projects, proposed typical sections, weave section, public outreach, and next steps. The presentation was also attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). The Board discussed the limits of the study, Del Prado North extension, the North and Central I-75 corridor plans and limits, setting up future meeting with Charlotte/Lee/Cape staff, adding interchange, development, Cape Coral Master Plan development, secondary evacuation route, Urban Land Institute study, growth patterns, area between Bayshore and Tuckers Grade, Corkscrew interchange, improving adjacent intersections, landscaping, potential impacts, evaluating alternatives in PD&E study, future widening plan for Corkscrew, timing of project, SIS Cost Feasible Plan, example of SR 31 right-of-way, funding constraints, lane configurations, existing right-of-way, drainage, speed concerns, design for interstate speeds, service level, and corridor limits. Members of the public, Ms. Marsha Ellis and Ms. Teresa Lewis, provided public comments. Mr. Jester mentioned 2045 development and buildout maximum. Mr. Scott commented on the additional development in the area. Mr. L. K. Nandam commented on the Master Plan and SIS Cost Feasible update.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2024-2028

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT presented this agenda item on the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2024-2028. She showed a video from FDOT on the District One Draft Tentative Work Program. The video can be found here: [FDOT Work Program Video](#) She then reviewed the highlights of the work program. Commissioner Hamman asked about an update on Pine Island Road. Mr. Nandam mentioned a conversation with Cape Coral on the project development, local funding, systems management, operations management, improvements, and coordination with Cape Coral staff. Commissioner Hamman commented on inspections, system restorations, and traffic. Mr. Nandam said he would speak with Lee County and FDOT staff. Members of the public, Ms. Beth Anne Algie and Mr. John Majka, provided public comments.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT District One Safety Office Presentation

Mr. Keith Robbins with the FDOT Safety Office provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on an introduction to District One Safety Administrator Mr. Robbins, changing the culture, heat map of District One crashes, District One crashes by emphasis area, community engagement, our path forward, vision zero public service announcement, and contact information. The presentation can be viewed here: [Safety Office](#) The Board discussed crash dashboard, road design, enforcement, percent increase over the past few years, Estero concerns, increased fatalities with decreased crashes, working with law enforcement, speed management workshop, too many

warnings and not enough tickets from law enforcement, running red lights, speeding, and assistance available. Members of the public, Mr. John Majka and Ms. Marsha Ellis provided public comments.

Other Business

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

Members of the public, Mr. Tom Rubbelke, Ms. Deb Orton, Ms. Emily Porter, Mr. John Majka, Ms. Patty Whitehead, Ms. Beth Anne Algie, and Ms. Marsha Ellis provided public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Robert Codie with LeeTran provided the LeeTran/TD report that included information on the mobility-on-demand project in Bonita Springs, Ultra project beginning in Lehigh, and the South Area Transfer Center.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

Ms. Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT report that included information on the upcoming SR 31 public meeting, the upcoming I-75 corridor workshop, and the recent regional grant/SIS Plan update workshops.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Mr. Scott mentioned the next MPO Board meeting would be a joint meeting with Charlotte County on February 17.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott mentioned the SR 31 public meeting notice that was included in the Information and Distribution section of the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MPO Board January 20, 2023](#)

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items †May Require Action

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