

# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 16, 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/Lee County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass. 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 Cecil Pendergrass, Raymond Sandelli, Brian Hamman, and Kevin Ruane; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Teresa Watkins Brown (9:05 a.m.), Johnny Streets Jr., and Fred Burson; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Dan Sheppard, Tom Hayden, and Patty Cummings (9:10 a.m.); Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Michael Miller; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Laura Carr; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember/Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes.

Others in attendance included the following – Abra Horne, Patrick Bateman, Lori Albritton, Jack Freeman, Craig Fox, Wayne Gaither, and Victoria Peters with FDOT; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Derek Rooney/MPO Legal; Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; Rob Price, Randy Cerchie, and Farhan Butt with Lee County; and Nancy Morgan with Quest.

Chair Pendergrass commented on the order and structure of the meeting with regard to designated spaces for the general public off to the side of the room near the large glass windows and designated space for staff near the front of the room by the podium. He also discussed public comment procedure with regard to stepping up to the podium to make a public comment and then returning to the designated public seating area directly after.

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

Chair Pendergrass asked if there were public comments on consent agenda items. There were none.

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

- A. Approve the May 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Appointment of a City of Sanibel CAC Member
- C. Approve the Updated Lee and Collier TRIP Priority List
- D. Approve Local Coordinating Board Member Appointments

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 Pendergrass noted public comments would be taken at each new business item.

## Public Hearing Items

### **Agenda Item #4 - ^Review and Approve an Amendment to the FY 2022/2023 through FY 2026/2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add a Safety Project**

Mr. Don Scott presented this public hearing agenda item to review and approve an Amendment to the FY 2022/2023 through FY 2026/2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a rumble

strip safety project. He reviewed the staff report information that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). There were no MPO Board comments or public comments on this agenda item.

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2022/2023 to FY 2026/2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #5 - ^Adoption of the FY 2023/2024 to FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Scott presented this public hearing agenda item to adopt the FY 2023/2024 through FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [FY 24 to FY 28 TIP](#) There were no MPO Board comments or public comments on this agenda item.

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the FY 2023/2024 to FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #6 - ^Approve the Federal and State Funded Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this public hearing agenda item to approve the Federal and State Funded Priorities which were attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as slides at the meeting. There were no MPO Board comments or public comments on this agenda item.

**Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Federal and State Funded Priorities. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #7 - ^Approve the Multimodal Box Funded Priorities**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this public hearing agenda item to approve the Multimodal (TA/SU/CARU) Box Funded Priorities. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be found at the following link: [Multimodal Priorities](#) Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any questions. Vice-Mayor Miller asked about annual funding. Mr. Gogoi and Mr. Scott provided additional information on funding. Commissioner Ruane asked about the number of buses being acquired. Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran responded three diesel buses could be purchased with the allotted \$1.5 million each year, and the buses are on a twelve year replacement cycle. Councilmember Carr questioned the funding for the purchase of electric buses. Mr. Gemelli noted that was a separate funding source. There was no public comment on this agenda item.

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Multimodal Box Funded Priorities. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**New Business**

**Agenda Item #8 - \*Approve the Safe Streets for All Grant Agreement**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to approve the Safe Streets for All Grant Agreement which was attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as slides at the meeting. There were no MPO Board comments or public comments for this agenda item.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Safe Streets for All Grant Agreement. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #9 - \*Adopt a Resolution for Administrative Document Approval by the MPO Chair**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to adopt a resolution for Administrative Document Approval by the MPO Chair. The resolution was attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and shown as slides at the meeting. Councilmember Carr clarified the alternate signer for approval. Mr. Scott said it was the MPO Board Vice-Chair. Chair Pendergrass noted the current Vice-Chair was Mayor Gunter.

**Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to adopt a Resolution for Administrative Document Approval by the MPO Chair or designee/Vice-Chair. Commissioner Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #10 - \*Adopt a Resolution Supporting the LeeTran Safety Performance Targets for CY 2023**

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to adopt a resolution supporting the LeeTran Safety Performance Targets for CY 2023. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be found at the following link: [LeeTran Safety Targets](#) Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Hamman asked if LeeTran staff could address the targets not met and plans to meet the targets in the future. Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran provided an explanation of the rolling averages, improvement, mechanical failure, supply chain issues, and more frequent breakdown due to orders for new vehicles not being met. Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Gemelli and offered continued support for LeeTran. Mr. Gogoi further explained the safety events and provided examples. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments. There were none. He asked for a motion.

**Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to adopt a Resolution Supporting the LeeTran Safety Performance Targets for CY 2023. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #11 - US 41 and Bonita Beach Road Project Development & Environment Study Presentation**

Mr. Patrick Bateman with FDOT presented this agenda item on the US 41 and Bonita Beach Road Project Development & Environment Study. He provided a Power Point presentation that was included in the agenda packet and can be viewed at the following link: [US 41 and Bonita Beach Road PD&E](#) Mr. Bateman asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Carr asked about U-turn movements. Mr. Bateman explained that due to the configuration, a U-turn wasn't possible. Chair Pendergrass referred to the design drawing and no place for a U-turn movement in the design. Mr. Bateman further explained the configuration, movements, and alternate access points. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any other questions. There were none. He thanked Mr. Bateman for his presentation.

**Other Business**

**Agenda Item #12 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Scott handed out printed copies of an emailed public comment from a member of the public Mr. John Majka that was received after the start of the May 19, 2023 MPO Board meeting. Mr. Majka's public comment can be found at the following link: [John Majka Public Comment](#) The committee briefly discussed the photographs in the public comment.

### **Agenda Item #13 - LeeTran/TD Report**

Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report which included information on the South Transfer station opening, ridership, mobility-on-demand in Lehigh and Bonita, the Build a Better Mousetrap competition award, and the update of the Transportation Development Plan.

### **Agenda Item #14 - FDOT Report**

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT report that included information on the Freight Mobility Trade Plan meetings and the SR 78 corridor plan meetings.

### **Agenda Item #15 - Announcements**

Mr. Scott announced there was no MPO Board meeting scheduled in July. Chair Pendergrass announced the Big Carlos Bridge groundbreaking. The MPO Board members briefly discussed the full Federal funding for the Big Carlos Bridge, other legislation funding items, and the upcoming Father's Day holiday.

### **Agenda Item #16 - Information and Distribution Items**

Mr. Scott mentioned the SR 78 public meeting information and distribution item that was attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and mentioned by Ms. Peters in her FDOT report.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MPO Board June 16, 2023](#)**

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

---

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at [cbarraco@leempo.com](mailto:cbarraco@leempo.com) at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.