

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, October 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 9:02 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, and Mike Greenwell; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr. and Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Dan Sheppard, Keith Long, and Patty Cummings; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Michael Miller; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Laura Carr and Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Jon McLain.

Others in attendance included the following – Victoria Peters, L. K. Nandam, and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Derek Rooney/MPO Legal; Randy Cerchie with Lee County; Blanca Contreras with the City of Fort Myers; Tim Morris with the Lee County Port Authority; Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputies; Laura Dodd with Cape Coral; Mary Drazan with Friends of BERT (Bonita Estero Rail Trail); and member of the public John Majka.

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 September 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve the 2024 MPO Meeting Schedule

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember John R. King 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

Public comments will be taken at each new business item and are limited to three minutes.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approve the SS4A Safety Action Plan Scope of Services

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan Scope of Services that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [SS4A Scope](#) The Board discussed public survey, distribution of public survey, design of public survey by consultant, bringing public survey to MPO Board for review, ways to increase safety, infrastructure and non-infrastructure strategies, and texting while driving. Chair Pendergrass asked if there was public comment on this agenda item. There was none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the SS4A Safety Action Plan Scope of Services. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Adoption of the 2024 Highway Safety Targets

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of the 2024 Highway Safety Targets that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Safety Targets](#) The Board discussed average annual fatalities, economy and growth of Lee County, impact of Covid, fatalities in nineties, incident rate, example of manufacturing, targets versus numbers, target of zero, plans to achieve target, plan for percent reduction, vision for state, countermeasures planned, driving down the numbers, planning with relation to target, role of enforcement, targeting age groups, resources for education/enforcement/engineering, percent of unlicensed drivers, vehicle miles traveled, example in Broward County of remembrance day, state action plan, providing future presentation from the FDOT safety office to MPO Board, comprehensive action plan, adding lighting and signage, impacts of speeding, and aggressive driving. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments. Mr. John Majka provided a public comment.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to adopt the 2024 Highway Safety Targets. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Approve the SUN Trail Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the SUN Trail Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [SUN Trail Priorities](#) Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments on this item. Mr. John Majka provided a public comment. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any additional comments on this item. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the SUN Trail Priorities. Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2025-2029

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT presented this agenda item for the review of the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2025 through FY 2029. The work program was emailed to the MPO Board and [posted to the MPO website](#) on Friday, October 13, 2023. The Summary of Changes Report was also emailed to the MPO Board and [posted to the MPO website](#) on Friday, October 13, 2023. Ms. Peters showed the FDOT Work Program overview YouTube video and also reviewed the highlights of the Lee County work program. The video shown can be viewed at the following link: [Work Program Video](#) The Board discussed the limits and timeline of a project on Fort Myers Beach, SR 31 phases and timelines, SR 78 widening projects, I-75 widening, Moving Florida Forward, and pavement only projects instead of full resurfacing projects. Mr. Gogoi then provided a Power Point presentation review of the MPO priorities that can be viewed at the following link: [MPO Priorities](#) Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item. Mr. John Majka provided a public comment. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were other comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #8 - Review and Comment on the Proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and comment on the Proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [LRTP Amendments](#) Mr. Scott said this item would come back for approval at the next meeting. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item. There were none.

Other Business

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

Mr. John Majka provided a public comment on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #10 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report which included information on seasonal service and the capital improvement plan. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT Report

Ms. Vicotria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT report that included information on the upcoming SR 31 public meeting. Information on the SR 31 public meeting was also provided in Agenda Item #13.

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes commented on the Lee and Collier MPOs and the SR 951 extension. The Board discussed the Lee and Collier MPOs, limitations of the legislation, urban areas, regional coordination, funding, example of Bonita Beach Road, core services in Lee County, lack of quorum at joint meeting, other prior commitments/schedules, addressing coordination between the MPOs, Corkscrew Road, Coconut Road, and coordination between local jurisdictions.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott noted the information and/or distribution items included a notice for the SR 31 public meeting that was also [posted to the website](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items *May Require Action

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