

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 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, Kevin Ruane, and Brian Hamman; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Cape Coral Councilmembers Dan Sheppard, Keith Long, Jessica Cosden, and Robert Welsh; 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 and Vice-Mayor Joanne Ribble.

Others in attendance included the following – Victoria Peters, L. K. Nandam, Keith Robbins, and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Derek Rooney/MPO Legal; Dave Harner and Robert Codie with Lee County; Blanca Contreras with the City of Fort Myers; Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran; Lee County IT staff; LCSO deputy; and member of the public Derek Felder.

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. Approval of the October 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the Appointment of CAC Member to fill an At-Large Vacancy
- C. Approval of an Appointment of an Alternate BPCC Member for the City of Sanibel

Mr. Don Scott noted there was a question regarding the residency status of the alternate BPCC member for the City of Sanibel so Consent Agenda Item 2C will be pulled for staff to gather additional information.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to pull item 2C and only approve the Consent Agenda Items 2A and 2B. 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

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

Public Hearing Items

Agenda Item #4 - *Approval of Amendments to the FY 2024 through FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust the Funding for the Metro Parkway from Daniels to Winkler Project and to Add the I 75 Moving Florida Forward Project

Mr. Scott presented this public hearing item for the approval of the Amendments to the FY 2024 through FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the funding for the Metro Parkway from Daniels to Winkler project and to add the I-75 Moving Florida Forward Project that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Chair Pendergrass asked about the

Metro project timeline. Mr. Scott provided the time frame information for the project. Chair Pendergrass commented on the changing area, hurricane impact, and safety issues. Mr. Scott asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the FY 2024 through FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. Councilmember John R. King seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Approval of the Proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Mr. Scott presented this public hearing agenda item for the approval of the proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation (LRTP) 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](#). Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any MPO Board member questions or comments. He then asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #6 - *Adoption of a Passenger Rail Program Priority for a Southwest Florida Intercity Rail Study

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the adoption of a Passenger Rail Program Priority for a Southwest Florida Intercity Rail study. The updated FDOT Freight and Rail Plan map and the resolution 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: [Rail Priority](#). Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any questions. The Board discussed sustainability of costs to run, time frame, planning, feasibility, ridership, Amtrak and Brightline models, examples in other areas in the US and Europe, potential speeds, connectivity, use of I-75 corridor, existing railroad facility, Rails-to-Trails, multimodal considerations, connections to other cities from Fort Myers, master plan to study area, and support of other area MPOs. Chair Pendergrass asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Derek Felder, a member of the public, provided a public comment on this agenda item.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to adopt the passenger rail study priority. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Agenda Item #7 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report which included information on The LeeTran presentation can be viewed at the following link: [LeeTran Updates](#). The Board briefly discussed increasing fares, mobility-on-demand in Cape Coral, update of LeeTran's Transit Development Plan (TDP), profitability, funding for transit, bicycle racks on buses, Fort Myers Beach ridership numbers and bus shelters, and repairs after Hurricane Ian.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT introduced Mr. Keith Robbins with the FDOT Safety Office who then provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [FDOT Safety](#) The MPO Board discussed education on speeding, speed as a factor for crashes and fatalities, median projects, traffic analysis, identifying needs through examination of crash history, coordination with access management on addressing movements, visitors, demographics, driver behavior, education efforts, age group study, importance of beginning education at young age, no texting when driving, policy maker resources for enforcement, speed management, safe systems approach, and providing presentation to MPO Board members.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

Mr. Scott noted there was no meeting scheduled for December and the next MPO Board meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2024.

Agenda Item #11 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MPO Board November 17, 2023](#)

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items *May Require Action

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