

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00p.m., February 8, 2017
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Mike Flanders presided as acting Chair since MEC Chair Rick Williams had a conflict and arrived at 2:50 p.m.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Committee members in attendance were Mick Denham, Mike Flanders, Nick Batos, Peter O'Flinn, Rick Williams (2:50 p.m.), and Tracey Gore (2:20 p.m.). Others in attendance were MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney and Lee MPO staff Don Scott.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

There were no public comments as no members of the public were present.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the December 14, 2016 Meeting Summary

Mick Denham made the motion to approve the December 14, 2016 Meeting Summary. Nick Batos seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3 - Infrastructure Projects Information

Don Scott presented additional information that has come out on the proposed infrastructure program.

The White House provided a list of fifty proposed infrastructure projects from around the Country (link is below) as a starting point for a potential infrastructure program. The projects listed are planned to be funded with 50% federal funding (at a cost of \$137.5 billion) and 50% from the private sector. These projects are listed as Emergency and National Security projects and are all very large projects. There is one project in Florida (number 35 on link below), which is the I-395/I-95 reconstruction at an estimated cost of \$800 million.

In addition to the list, other information that has been discussed about the requirements are the following:

- A national security or public safety emergency
- Shovel ready with at least 30% of the initial design and engineering work complete
- Direct job creator
- Project with potential for increased US manufacturing

Infrastructure Project List:

<http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MEC03a.Emergency-NatSec50Projects-.pdf>

Mick Denham asked if there were any local MPO projects that would be going before the Florida Legislature in the coming year. Mr. Scott said they are asking for state funding for a multi-use feasibility study for a downtown portion of a pathway under SUN Trail. Mr. Scott stated that outside of that there are probably appropriations from the local jurisdictions that are going as well.

Peter O'Flinn asked how the White House list was built up. Mr. Scott said it may have been projects proposed by each state but not necessarily one project from each state. Mr. Scott said there may

have been more projects submitted from Florida and mentioned the I 4 project that could have generated numerous jobs.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation on Status of Performance Measures

Mr. Scott presented the status of the implementation of performance measures. He recently attended a meeting in Bartow with FDOT and was informed that the performance data and targets would be forthcoming. FDOT provided the Federal requirements to each of the MPOs with calculations being sent in April. The state will provide an additional 10 measurements, from ones suggested by the MPOAC.

The Federal requirements for the development of safety, preservation, mobility, economic, and environmental performance measures have been ongoing. Mr. Scott reported on our upcoming responsibilities that include establishing targets, incorporating national goals and measures into plans and programs, and reporting back progress. He discussed our minimum requirements and showed a map of the National Highway System (NHS).

Mr. Denham asked what the information will be used for. Mr. Scott responded that it will be used to determine how the money is spent. Mike Flanders asked if this was new information for the state and if the state knew the percentages of roads that are paved well and those that are not. Mr. Scott responded that the state had a fairly good idea in the past but now the information will be collected in one location. Mr. Denham asked how the information will be broken down. Mr. Scott said it will be by MPO area and reported annually in the TIP and used in the Long-Range Plan every five years. The MPO could set performance measures above the Federal minimum requirements. After the adoption of the Federal requirements, the state has a year to set the target, and then the MPO has six months after that. It is uncertain how the President's moratorium on new policies will affect this. There was a brief discussion as to which roadways this applies to and Mr. Scott described the different performance measure requirements and what roadway network that applies to.

Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on the Southwest Coast Connector and Developing a Priority Trail Corridor to the East

Mr. Scott reviewed the proposal to add the Coastal Loop to the Lee County portion of the Gulf Coast Trail and discussed the development of a priority trail to connect the Gulf Coast Trail to the Okeechobee Trail.

Recently the MPO staff and the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation discussed the idea of adding a loop to the Lee County portion of the Gulf Coast Trail (aka Southwest Coastal Regional Trail) that would run along Gladiolus Drive, Summerlin Road, San Carlos Boulevard, Estero Boulevard and Hickory Boulevard as shown on the map attached to the agenda packet. While the original route along the Seminole Gulf Railroad (SGL) will continue to remain the primary spine for the Southwest Coast Connector, the loop will provide a coastal detour that enables a scenic alternative while the project development issues are addressed along the SGL right of way. The loop will expand the SUN (Shared Use Network) Trail network in Lee County providing us with potential opportunities for SUN Trail funds, and will also facilitate the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian tourism along the scenic coastal route. Lee County had an existing map that these local trails were on. There was a brief discussion of the trails on the map and the Abel Canal controversy was mentioned. Last year, Kismet was submitted and also John Yarbrough to the north. Fort Myers Beach and the trails along Estero were discussed. Mr. Flanders asked if the part of the trail going through the Everglades in Collier County was approved and Mr. Scott stated it is on the SUN Trail map but it isn't part of the Southwest Coast Regional Trail south of CR 92. He continued that this issue is on the MPO Board meeting agenda for Collier on Friday and he is unsure what will happen then. The Committee discussed the width of the trails and how they would have to vary to accommodate the different segments in various locations.

Mr. Scott then explained the concept of the loop to Tracey Gore who joined the meeting late. A committee member questioned if Corkscrew was still on the map and Mr. Scott said he would find out.

Mr. Scott discussed the current feasibility study being done by the City of Fort Myers regarding the extension of John Yarbrough up to Hanson Street. The design portion of this study was funded with SUN Trail funds. There was a discussion that followed on the City of Fort Myers Master Plan and the best way to connect the trail.

Mr. O'Flinn made a comment about the MPO asking the municipalities where they would like feasibility studies done and why this isn't the process. Mr. Scott responded that there was a push from the Office of Greenways and Trails on this loop and that is why they were trying to identify this project in areas along the existing corridor.

Mr. Flanders discussed the Caloosahatchee Bridge and the San Carlos Bridge and the differences between the two regarding adding an extra lane to the outside. Mr. Scott said the Caloosahatchee Bridge is over 50 years old but they just spent \$5 million for refurbishment which could add 20 or so years of life.

Mr. O'Flinn again brought up the point that there are other municipalities that may have been interested in this but were never asked to participate. He wanted to know why it is being done that way. Mr. Scott responded that it should be opened to include others. Mr. Scott asked where they would look for a feasibility study in these other areas. Mr. O'Flinn said that the other municipalities should have been asked that to begin with and it is a question of process. The discussion continued with the reasons the Fort Myers section had been proposed and that included the heavy amount of bicycle and pedestrian traffic in an urban area along with the high number of crashes. A comment was made that this was a way to get possible funding for the whole corridor. Mr. Scott said it didn't need to be included in comprehensive plans yet because a specific location, if it changes, hasn't been determined.

Mr. Flanders felt this was a flexible plan that could be worked with and an opportunity to gain funding. He then asked if there was a motion to approve.

Mr. O'Flinn made the motion to approve and was seconded by Nick Batos. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scott said that in addition, at the January 23rd Gulf Coast Regional Summit in Venice, the Office of Greenways and Trails presentation included comments about the need for an east west trail south of the Coast to Coast Trail north of the Orlando area (attached is the statewide SUN Trail priority network map). The Lee MPO had included two different opportunity trails to the east into Hendry County (attached is the opportunity map showing the SR 78/SR 80 corridor and the Lehigh/Central Hendry corridor) on previous submittals of the maps but we now have the opportunity to get one of these options (or a better option if it is identified) as a priority trail. There is a June deadline for these submittals. Mr. O'Flinn suggested this go to the MPO Board and then the MPO Board can decide which projects to submit.

The committee asked if Mr. Williams would like to Chair the meeting from this point on. Mr. Williams apologized for being late and stated it would be acceptable for Mr. Flanders to continue as acting chair.

Agenda Item #6 - Update on the TIGER Project

Don Scott gave an update on the status of developing signed and sealed design plans for fabricating and installing the wayfinding signs and any updated information on the estimated cost to complete the

project. He stated they are working through punch list to determine the completion of any remaining items. They are coordinating with FDOT to determine what is required for design plans for review that includes exact locations. Mr. Scott is working on a memo, including a resolution, to all the jurisdictions as to where all the signs are in their locations. Mr. Denham asked if there was a deadline. Mr. Scott responded that the construction firm is in suspension so they will not receive damages. The ultimate deadline/timeframe for TIGER is further out so at this time they are okay with Federal Highway. Mr. Scott mentioned that Federal Highway in Washington asked when there would be a ribbon cutting. He said it should be around the end of April. Mr. Scott also said that they should have some of the signs up at that time. The maintenance of the signs will also be included in the memo. Mr. Denham asked if the memo could be ready before the next MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott said he would try.

Agenda Item #7 - Report on the Regional Chairs Meeting

Don Scott presented the agenda item on the Regional Chairs Meeting. The District MPO's held a meeting of the MPO Chairs and the MPO Staff Directors on January 31st as part of the previous discussions regarding forming an alliance of the MPO's for regional planning efforts. The meeting was held in Sarasota and Mr. Williams also attended. The discussion at the meeting did not come up with specific recommendations beyond having staff work towards developing regional priorities, most likely a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) priorities list to start with, at upcoming quarterly meetings that could be reviewed and approved by each of the MPO's in the future. Mr. O'Flinn asked if US 41 was on the SIS and Mr. Scott said it is not. Mr. Williams added that the chance of us getting money is stronger when we are coordinating on projects. A member asked how many MPOs attended and Mr. Scott said that the six MPOs in our region did.

Other Business

Agenda Item #8 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda as no members of the public were present.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Mr. O'Flinn complimented Mr. Scott on his presentation at the TBARTA Summit. Mr. Scott stated that the meeting was heavily attended, more than he had expected but the interest is building. There was a brief discussion about the meeting.

Tracey Gore brought up the Town of Fort Myers Beach's last council meeting and asked for guidance from the other MEC members. She said that Anita Cereceda and Rexann Hosafros were perturbed that the MPO wanted to pause the FDOT study on Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Scott stated the study was not stopped it was only paused to reevaluate. Ms. Gore said she was shocked because after the MPO Board meeting discussion on the study, she felt there was a consensus in favor of pausing the study. She then learned that two MPO Board members had called Anita Cereceda and asked why they would want to stop the study. Mr. Flanders reiterated the study is not being stopped, it is only being refined. He felt that sometimes engineers do not consider all of the regulations, like ADA standards, involved in constructing projects and knew from previous experience when looking at the flyover pedestrian bridges proposed for Estero that something had to be done regarding the direction of that study. There was a brief discussion on the roles of the MPO Board members in their respective municipalities. Derek Rooney clarified by saying as an MPO Board member you are serving ex officio and your discussion is supposed to be on the broader transportation system. He

continued that if your council is unhappy with you, they may replace you. Mr. Rooney also said if you feel you need more direction then you can go back to your council and ask for it. Mr. Flanders said that ideally the Town Manager will look at the agenda and let the MPO member know the details and impact for the town. Another suggestion was to send the agenda to the whole council and if there are any comments they can bring them to the city manager who will contact the Board member before the meeting. The discussion continued with more suggestions such as having the Town Manager attend the MPO Board meetings and maintaining transparency. Ms. Gore said she will always do what she believes is right for her community. She expressed that she is relatively new to this process and would like to do the best possible job.

The ribbon cutting location was questioned and Mr. Scott said possibly along Daniels. A suggestion was made to have it at the entrance to FGCU.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

All information and distribution items were included in the agenda packet.

The meeting was adjourned.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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