

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2:00p.m., April 12, 2017**  
Cape Coral Public Works Building  
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL  
Green Room/A200



## Meeting Summary

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The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Chair Rick Williams.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included MEC members Rick Williams, Tracey Gore, Jim Boesch, and Kevin Ruane. Mike Flanders arrived at 2:08 p.m. Others in attendance included MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco, and MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney.

### **New Business**

#### **Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items**

There were no public comments on new business items as there were no members of the public present.

#### **Agenda Item #2 - \*Review and Approval of the February 8, 2017 Meeting Summary**

Calandra Barraco introduced this agenda item for the approval of the February 8, 2017 Meeting Summary.

**Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the February 8, 2017 meeting summary. Tracey Gore seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #3 - Update on the Infrastructure Projects Discussions**

Don Scott presented this agenda item to provide additional information on the proposed infrastructure funding program discussions. He explained that since the previous discussion on the submittal of projects, there has been more information that has come out on the background to the initial project list. It was noted that in several articles on the subject, a list of 428 infrastructure projects from forty-nine states were submitted from the National Governor's Association. The list is not going to be made public at this point but there have been projects listed in various articles from around the Country and the initial list that we reviewed at the February meeting included projects from this list. The state of Florida was the only state that did not submit a list. The Governor stated that he had a close relationship with the administration and that he has had separate conversations with them about his priorities, which he identified as funding for seaport projects. Mr. Scott said he asked Tallahassee why there was a Florida project on the list if Florida did not submit one. They said that maybe Miami submitted the project directly. Mr. Scott continued his presentation giving examples of projects and costs from each state, adding that all of the projects were large scale public-private partnerships. He said with those factors, we may not receive any project funding for our area. A question was asked why the military project mentioned didn't go through the Pentagon. Mr. Scott said there were a wide range of projects in the last infrastructure bill but only 6% were transportation related. He added that the definition of readiness in 90 days was difficult to determine.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - Discussion and Provide Input on the Priority Trail Coordination East to the Okeechobee Trail**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss and provide input on the options and coordination activities for upgrading an east-west land opportunity trail to a priority trail on the Sun Trail network.

He explained that as part of the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) led Priority Trail Update, the MPO has been working with the OGT staff, the Committees, and the neighboring Counties on considering an east-west regional trail that will connect the SUN Trail in Fort Myers to the east coast trails via the Okeechobee Scenic Trail. Mr. Scott said there are two types of trails, high priority and opportunity. He would like to raise the network from an opportunity trail to a priority trail. The two options for upgrade from land opportunity trail to priority trail are the SR 78/80 corridor or the Colonial/Able Canal trails (**attached** to the agenda packet were the SUN Trail network map and the two highlighted opportunity trails). An east-west regional trail provides us with an opportunity to include another corridor on the SUN Trail Network thus allowing us to develop another statewide corridor and tap into SUN Trail funding opportunities for the trail development. Mr. Scott provided an update on the coordination activities and sought input on the options.

Ms. Gore asked if this was the same trail mentioned at the joint Collier meeting that the tribe came out against. Mr. Scott said no. He added that the Board had voted to take that trail off but it just hasn't been taken off the map yet. Mr. Boesch asked if Bonita and Estero were looking to join together to work something out. Mr. Scott said that would be the north/south part. Mr. Boesch asked if it would be applicable to that. Mr. Scott said yes for the network as a whole. Mr. Scott said he will be coordinating with Hendry County to determine routes and right of way. He added this needs to be submitted in June but they hope to have a draft in May to submit to the MPO Board. Mr. Flanders asked about the criteria used for the prioritization of the routes. Mr. Scott said scenery, economic development, and tourism could all be factors. He added there may be a way to come out of the back of Babcock. There was a brief discussion that followed about the amount of lanes and right of way on SR 80. Mr. Flanders asked if this will go to the MPO Board. Mr. Scott said if there are any updates, he would bring them to the next MPO Board meeting. The committee also discussed the possibility of alternate routes across the state past Labelle and the issues with those routes. Mr. Flanders asked if Mr. Scott could find out about Old US 27 and who owns it. Mr. Scott said he would find out. He said he would also find out if there are any opportunity trails near Okeechobee.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Review of the Replacement MPO Position Description**

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item for review and input on the position description prior to advertising. Mr. Scott explained that the replacement position description for Johnny Limbaugh was **attached** to the agenda packet for review and input prior to advertising. The position description includes some of the upcoming MPO requirements, such as the development of performance measures and targets, along with duties that were covered under Mr. Limbaugh's job description. Mr. Limbaugh's title was project manager due to the TIGER project and that part of the description was removed. The position is a senior planner level. The position also includes grant writing, safety outreach activities, and complete streets review. Ms. Gore asked the major difference between this description and the previous one for Mr. Limbaugh. Mr. Scott said the major difference is they took off TIGER project manager. The committee discussed the education/experience requirements of the position. They also discussed the salary range for the position. Mr. Ruane asked that the lower limit of the salary range be moved from \$45,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Williams agreed. Mr. Ruane asked if there was a motion required. Mr. Rooney said it was not necessary.

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Update on MPO Projects and Overview of MPO Board Agenda Items**

Mr. Scott gave an update on the MPO projects that included the status of the TIGER project. He said the TIGER project is still addressing two punch list items on completed segments. He said the Wayfinding project has a change order submitted to FHWA. He added fabrication and installation will take 120 days.

Mr. Scott said the Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plan was approved by the City Council last Monday.

He commented that the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan will hold meetings on April 26 for the PAC and the Public. Ms. Gore mentioned that after some members of the public requested the January 31 meeting to be open to the public, attendance was low at the subsequent meetings.

Mr. Scott announced that the draft scopes for Sanibel and Estero Bike Ped Master Plans were upcoming MPO projects.

He said there was an RFQ (Respond to Questions) for the upcoming Fort Myers Beach Lighting Study. Ms. Gore asked if the scope was done. Mr. Scott said it was and had already come to the MPO Board. He said he would send it to Ms. Gore.

Mr. Scott added they are beginning work on the scoping update to the Bike Ped Safety Action Plan. Mr. Scott mentioned that Commissioner Hamman made a comment about the selection process for consultants for this study. Mr. Scott asked if this was something they wanted to go out for RFP on or use MPO general planning consultants. Ms. Gore asked for an explanation. Mr. Scott explained that the MPO has a list of consultants. Mr. Scott said that staff, local jurisdictions' employees, and committee members help to choose the consultant. Ms. Gore asked if there was a policy that had to be followed. Mr. Scott said yes there is a procurement handbook. A discussion followed as to the policy and process regarding consultants.

Mr. Scott stated the Winkler Canal scope is being revisited to consider a pathway along the golf course. He added that the John Yarbrough feasibility scope is being finalized.

In addition, he handed out the MPO Board meeting agenda. He provided an overview of the upcoming MPO Board agenda that will include a presentation on the I-75/Colonial Boulevard improvements. He briefly went over a few of the projects planned for the I-75/Colonial improvements. Ms. Gore asked where this item was located on the agenda. Mr. Scott said it was agenda item seven. Mr. Flanders asked if the DDI was elevated. Mr. Scott said it was all underneath, similar to the University intersection. Mr. Flanders asked where that was. Mr. Scott said it was in Sarasota. Mr. Scott mentioned the cost of the project was \$45 million. Ms. Gore asked why it is less expensive. Mr. Scott said it is mainly due to the existing bridges not having to be replaced. He said FDOT will also present on the US 41 Winkler to SR 82 project.

Mr. Scott handed out a copy of the audit. He said Clifton Larson Allen will be at the MPO Board meeting to present. Mr. Ruane said there were comments from the audit due in part to the current bookkeeper's continued struggles. Mr. Scott said the MPO now uses QuickBooks and this should make it easier. Mr. Ruane asked which version. Ms. Barraco said it is QuickBooks Pro online. She added it provides greater accessibility than the desktop version which is useful to the MPO. Mr. Ruane commented that the desktop version works better. Mr. Scott said FDOT recently changed their invoicing process as well. Mr. Scott said the MPO is also working on an RFP for an accountant. Mr. Ruane said it only requires the accountant to provide an adjusted trial balance and documentation. He also suggested letting Clifton Larson Allen know that the MPO Treasurer will be making some adjustments to QuickBooks online before they come. Mr. Scott added that his travel documentation now needed to be signed by the Chair. Mr. Ruane said that is common.

Mr. Scott then handed out the MPOAC legislative update with an additional page from FDOT's Bill from the Florida House. This page was on researching the costs of relocating the FDOT District 1 offices to Lee County. The committee discussed the benefits of moving the offices. The discussion shifted to the districts, their histories, and their boundaries. Ms. Gore asked for a map of the FDOT Districts. Mr. Scott said he would send a map to Ms. Gore.

Mr. Flanders asked about the funding for John Yarbrough. Mr. Scott said it is on the list. Mr. Flanders asked about the funding source. Mr. Scott said it comes from FDOT state funding.

Mr. Rooney brought up the time limit issue raised by Mr. Hamman at a previous meeting. He suggested there be one set of time limits for the public and one for groups. Mr. Rooney added there were no current guidelines in the bylaws. The committee members gave examples of how each of their municipalities deal with the issue of public speaking time limits at their respective meetings. Mr. Rooney

said he would prepare an amendment to the bylaws with the recommendation of three to five minutes and bring it before the Board to decide.

### **Other Business**

#### **Agenda Item #7 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

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

#### **Agenda Item #8 - Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### **Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution item that was included in the packet was the MPOAC legislative update. Mr. Scott also handed out the auditor's report, the MPO Board agenda for April 21, and a Florida House of Representatives Legislative Item.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.**

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\* Action Items    + May Require Action

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