

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MEC)**

2:00p.m., June 14, 2017
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Williams at 2:00 p.m.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Cape Coral Councilmember Rick Williams, Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Tracey Gore, Estero Mayor Jim Boesch, Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman, and Sanibel Vice Mayor Mick Denham. Others in attendance included MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

There were no public comments on new business items.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the April 12, 2017 Meeting Summary

Calandra Barraco introduced this agenda item for the approval of the April 12, 2017 Meeting Summary.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the April 12, 2017 meeting summary. Councilmember Tracey Gore seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review of the Proposed MPO Bylaw Revisions to add Public Comment Time Limits

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for input from the MEC on the proposed revisions to the bylaws to add a public involvement procedure that includes public speaking time limits. He explained that at a prior MEC meeting, there was a short discussion about including time limits on public comments at the MPO Board meeting in the MPO bylaws. Mr. Scott then discussed the draft of the language in section 2.06 on page 13 of the MPO Bylaws, that were attached to the agenda packet, with the Committee. He added that MPO legal counsel Derek Rooney had reviewed the document and had no additional comments to make at this time. Mr. Scott explained that he included time limits for individual speakers and a time limit for items not on the agenda while giving the Board the flexibility to include it as an agenda item at a future meeting. Mr. Scott opened the floor for comments and questions. Commissioner Hamman asked if the 15 minute time limit on non-agenda items was a total or per speaker. Mr. Scott said it was total. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested the wording in number four to be more general for Chair discretion. A brief discussion followed on limiting the time for speakers on items not on the agenda and including those items as future agenda items. Mayor Boesch stressed the importance of ensuring there is a clear understanding of the rules for speakers and time limits. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested making it clear that the Chair has discretion. Chair Williams added it could be the Chair or the Board. The MEC discussed the policies in place regarding this for the meetings in their municipalities. Chair Williams proposed adding wording to number three that additional time may be granted by the Board and that the Board has the discretion

to modify this at any time. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested that could apply to any of the procedures in the section. Chair Williams asked if a vote was necessary. Mr. Scott said a vote was not required. He said the changes would be made to the wording, and it would then go through the MPO Board.

Agenda Item #4 - +Provide Input on Requests for Funding Public Service Announcements and a Gulf Coast Trail Video

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for input on a request for funding Round-a-bout public service announcements (PSA) and for funding a portion of a Gulf Coast Trail video. Mr. Scott explained that the MPO has had two recent requests for funding, with the first being the request for funding for airtime to run the Lee County Round-a-bout PSA on fifty cable stations in our local communities. He showed the Round-a-bout PSA to the MEC. Mr. Scott reviewed some of the costs associated with running the PSA. Commissioner Hamman asked how long the ad has been running. Mr. Scott said approximately a month. Commissioner Hamman verified that was funded by the non-profit Injury Prevention Coalition (IPC) so it was not taxpayer dollars. Mr. Scott said yes. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn commented that education on round-a-bouts is a good thing but the cost to run the PSA is high. He questioned if there was a more cost efficient way to spread the word. Commissioner Hamman and Vice-Mayor Denham agreed that it was a large amount of money.

Mr. Scott continued his presentation explaining the second request which is for \$3,000 to fund a portion of the production of a promotional video for the Gulf Coast Trail. He added that the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) is a partner in the Gulf Coast Trail. He said a 22-minute video has been done for the Coast-to-Coast Trail (C2C) and TBARTA would like to make a similar video for the Gulf Coast Trail. Mr. Scott commented that he asked if they would take private donations. He did not have a solid answer but was told they didn't think it would be a problem. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn felt this was a modest investment and it would be good for economic development and tourism. The discussion continued on the wording of the funding request.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn made the motion to approve \$3,000 for funding a portion of the Gulf Coast Trail promotional video with the understanding that this is not to be cast in any political way and has no expected political results. Mayor Boesch seconded the motion. Commissioner Hamman and Councilmember Gore opposed. The motion carried 4-2 in favor of funding.

The MEC then voted on the first funding proposal, the Round-a-bout PSA.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn made the motion to oppose funding for the Round-a-bout PSA. Commissioner Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion to oppose funding carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on the Maintenance Agreements for Shared Use Pathways within FDOT Road Right-of-Way

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item regarding the FDOT maintenance agreements. He continued that this had been discussed in the past, FDOT staff has had numerous conversations with the County and the MPO over the last three years about the maintenance of multi-use pathways within State owned right-of-way. He said it was our understanding previous to this, that the surface would be maintained by FDOT but other amenities such as wayfinding signs, benches, landscaping etc. would require a maintenance agreement. Mr. Scott added that FDOT will now require the signing of a maintenance agreement for pathway/trail related design standard features included within the construction of a project. He said these features may include railings, slopes, boardwalks, gravity walls, traffic barriers guardrail, signing, pavement markings, pedestrian/bicycle signals, lighting etc. He noted the requirements will not affect projects that were completed in the past but are going to affect projects like

SR 82 that will soon be constructed. He said as we have just received this, we still have questions to get answered, but can say that this will greatly affect what gets built on the State roads in the County including SR 80, SR 78, SR 31, and SR 82 versus what was previously assumed to be built on these roadways. Mayor Boesch asked if there will be an answer at Friday's MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott said no, it will be further down the road. The discussion continued on how long the surface on pathways last. Mr. Scott pulled up a map to show the roads this would effect. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked how FDOT could be engaged in this discussion. Mayor Boesch suggested a member of the MEC could accompany the MPO in this discussion with FDOT. Mr. Scott said that would be helpful but no more than one member so it would not have to be advertised. Commissioner Hamman clarified that the agreement would be between the county and the state. Mr. Scott said yes. Commissioner Hamman then stated he would like to speak with the county on this. Mr. Scott said the county was at the meeting as well and are informed. Commissioner Hamman asked if there was a deadline. Mr. Scott said SR 82 is beginning soon. The discussion continued on coordination between the county, FDOT, and the MPO on these agreements. Mr. Scott said plans might change depending on where the conversations go. Commissioner Hamman suggested FDOT is attempting to eliminate recurring costs.

Agenda Item #6 - Review of the FY 2018 USDOT Budget Proposal

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review the FY 2018 USDOT Budget Proposal. He explained the administration's proposed USDOT budget proposes 12.7 percent in cuts and includes \$95 billion less in spending for transportation through 2027. He added the proposed budget also includes cutting the funding for the TIGER discretionary program and Amtrak. He then reviewed tables in the attachment. The MEC discussed ways to possibly increase funding opportunities for our area. Mr. Scott then explained the budget proposal also includes creating \$200 billion in infrastructure program funding as part of a trillion dollar infrastructure initiative that assumes the remaining \$800 billion would come from regulatory reforms, expansion of tolling, and encouraging private investment in public infrastructure. Mr. Scott added that some of the initiatives being discussed to gain private investment include liberalizing the ability of states to toll Interstate Highways. The MEC discussion continued on toll roads.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on the MPO Projects and Overview of MPO Board Agenda Items

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the upcoming MPO Board agenda. He said the agenda items included adopting the TIP, amendments to the 2040 LRTP, and amendments to the UPWP. He further explained the additional funding in the UPWP is being used to conduct the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action plan update, continue the rail feasibility study recommendations, and begin the Fort Myers Beach Lighting Study. Councilmember Gore asked about the lighting study. Mr. Scott said it was due to scoping and other issues. He explained that projects must be spread out as the MPO must front the funds and is then reimbursed for those expenditures. Mr. Scott added it will begin after July 1. He continued his review of the agenda stating the remaining items include approval of the update to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and adding the Three/Oaks and Imperial Corridor to the Land Opportunity Trail Map. Mayor Boesch brought up 951 and SR 82. A brief discussion followed. Commissioner Hamman asked about studying an I-75 to Del Prado interchange. Mr. Scott said there is a Cape Evacuation study that was prioritized to be done. The discussion continued on this project. Councilmember Williams then brought up the issue of Cape Coral residents trying to get to Fort Myers. The MEC discussed the bridges in Cape Coral and ways to alleviate traffic on them. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked about item number seven on the agenda and if there was outreach to the municipalities on the list. Mr. Scott said yes. A brief discussion followed on the process to get projects on the list. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn then asked the process to get projects on the list on agenda item nine. Mr. Scott said it goes through staff, committees, and each jurisdiction. He added that the list is older as they didn't ask for new projects since only a few were funded. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn brought up the Bonita

Master Plan. He requested a complete written explanation of the process to get projects on lists. Mr. Scott said we could open it up for new projects next year.

Other Business

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

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

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Mr. Scott announced that the July meeting would most likely be cancelled.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

Councilmember Gore brought up the Connecticut sidewalk project on Fort Myers Beach. She expressed her concern that residents are informing her they do not want the project. She asked the other MEC members how to deal with this situation. She questioned why FDOT didn't talk with the neighbors first. Councilmember Williams said there is always public input as part of the projects. Commissioner Hamman said it is possible people have moved. Mr. Scott said even though it was funded in 2011, this goes back to 2009. Councilmember Gore asked if it was an MPO project. Mr. Scott said it is an MPO prioritized project funded with federal dollars. He added that FDOT is in charge since Fort Myers Beach is not LAP certified. Mr. Scott suggested to talk with FDOT. Councilmember Williams suggested bringing it up to FDOT at the MPO Board meeting Friday. Councilmember Gore asked if she should bring it up during the meeting. Mr. Scott said he will talk with FDOT and Councilmember Gore on Friday, separate from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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