

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

2:00p.m., August 9, 2017
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Room A 200



Meeting Minutes

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

The roll was called. A quorum was not present. Those MEC members in attendance included Cape Coral Councilmember Rick Williams, Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Tracey Gore, and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney and 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 June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

There were no comments or changes proposed to the June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motions were not made for approval as the MEC did not have a quorum.

Agenda Item #3 - +Review and Comment on the Revised MPO Bylaws

Don Scott introduced this agenda item for the review and comment on the updated bylaw revisions. He explained the additional changes that were made to the MPO bylaws to address the input given at the last meeting and prior to bringing them to the August MPO Board meeting. The updated draft language, section 2.06 on page 13 of the MPO Bylaws, was underlined and the entire Bylaws document was attached to the agenda packet. Councilmember Gore pointed out several other underlined areas in the document and asked if they were up for approval as well. Derek Rooney mentioned that the address for the MPO Board meeting was also underlined. Mr. Scott responded that those items were already approved. He said he would remove the line from under them before it went for approval at the MPO Board meeting. He clarified that the only item up for approval is the time limits for speakers, section 2.06 on page 13. Commissioner Hamman asked how the time will be kept. Mr. Scott said the MPO has a timer that will be used. There was a brief discussion on the MPO rules for Citizens Advisory Committee members running for public office.

The vote was moved to the MPO Board meeting as the MEC did not have a quorum.

Agenda Item #4 - Update on the Performance Measure Requirements and Schedule for Implementation

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item as an update on the performance measure requirements and schedule for implementation. He said the Federal Highway Administration has provided additional information on the performance measure rules along with the deadlines that are now set for the States and MPOs for implementation. A summary outlining the requirements and deadlines was attached to

the agenda packet. There was a brief discussion regarding the prior presidential administration and requirements. Mr. Scott continued his presentation adding that the first deadline is for the safety targets, which requires FDOT to provide the targets by the end of August. He noted FDOT indicated they will be going with vision zero. He was unclear on the time that would be given to reach vision zero. He also mentioned the MPO will be required to establish safety targets by February 27, 2018 that can be the same as FDOT's. He mentioned the MPO would probably be consistent with FDOT safety targets, but it would ultimately be up to the Board. Councilmember Gore asked if there would be grant money involved. Mr. Scott explained it would not have as much of an effect in Florida as safety money in Florida is already spent on safety projects. He discussed planning requirements that were included on the summary sheets attached to the agenda packet, along with the MPO requirements to include the implementation of the measures in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He continued to explain the table on performance measure requirements, due date overview, the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the National Highway System, and a summary of performance measures and target dates. Mr. Scott then covered all measures, core measures, supplementary measures, and next steps. He added there would be more discussion at the end of the month after the FDOT meeting.

Agenda Item #5 - Information on the Federal Infrastructure Program Efforts

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item on the Federal Infrastructure Program Efforts. He said there is more information coming out on the proposed federal infrastructure program and a recent notice on Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants. He commented on the role of the public-private partnership. He said this would require the selling of public assets and using the money for infrastructure. He mentioned an article that indicated the federal government owns about \$277 billion in non-defense fixed assets. He added, as discussed previously, the federal infrastructure program assumes private funding investment around \$800 billion to push the \$200 billion in public funds to a trillion dollar infrastructure program. He noted these figures do not include the State and local government fixed assets. Commissioner Hamman asked for a basic explanation. Mr. Scott said, for example, we sell buildings we own and use the money to build roads and now pay rent for the building or some other building. Commissioner Hamman asked how this helps as now a recurring expense is created. Mr. Scott agreed. Mr. Rooney said this was a way to shift short term money to long term money, paying less long term in exchange for a large cash infusion up front. Mr. Scott added the other way to generate money was to toll and in this area we aren't necessarily ready for that. He explained the INFRA grants are making \$1.5 billion available for large, at least \$25 million, and small, at least \$5 million, nationally significant freight and highway projects that include significant local investment and can move rapidly to construction. He said the interstate was the only system locally that we could use this grant money for. There was a brief discussion on the rail corridor. Mr. Scott continued his presentation explaining FDOT could put in three projects and local agencies could put in as well. He added the local agencies asked about getting a letter of support from FDOT and were refused as they will be supporting their own project priorities. There was a short discussion on FDOT's District 1 boundaries and possible changes. Mr. Scott commented that the bigger picture doesn't include much for our area at this time. He mentioned a recent MPOAC meeting discussion on the impact electric/autonomous vehicles will have on the future revenues from the gas tax. Mr. Scott quoted Bloomberg's prediction that 55% of vehicles will be electric by 2040. A discussion followed about electric vehicles and hybrids. Commissioner Hamman commented on his recent visit to the White House. He noted there were a total of 120 County Commissioners that attended. He added Deputy White House Chief of Staff Rick Dearborn gave a presentation indicating the infrastructure bill would be a priority and likely out next year. Mr. Scott brought up the idea of attracting private funding and gave the example of SR 31. He also commented it is too early to toll I 75. Mr. Rooney discussed the last proposal to toll Alligator Alley. Mr. Scott brought up the concept of a phantom toll and explained it to Councilmember Gore.

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

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item to give an update on the MPO projects that included the status of the current/upcoming MPO projects and review of the MPO Board agenda. He began by handing out and reviewing a draft copy of the August MPO Board agenda. Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Scott for including the presentation from Randy Cerchie also commenting on the great work done by Mr. Cerchie and his team. Councilmember Williams brought up the problems with the Cape Coral bridges. Mr. Scott mentioned the upcoming Lee County project on Colonial at the other bridge. Mr. Scott also noted there are no large capacity improvements planned to address the Cape Coral bridges at this time. A discussion followed on how to get the process started, possible locations for a new bridge or tunnel, the lack of funding, and possible short term solutions to congestion. There was also a brief discussion for clarification on the bridge names. Mr. Scott commented on the Del Prado interchange idea, adding the volume of traffic on SR 31 might require something to be done. Councilmember Williams asked about the warning signs to alert of delays. Mr. Scott gave a history of the ITS signs. He continued his presentation on MPO projects discussing the list of TIGER punch list items being finalized, the completion of the change order for Wayfinding, and the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan presentation due to be made in September. Councilmember Gore asked who will make the presentation and to whom. Mr. Scott replied it would be the consultant to the Fort Myers Beach Town Council and the MPO. Councilmember Gore asked about a traffic presentation, and Mr. Scott referred her to Steve Walls. There was a brief discussion on the Big Carlos Pass bridge replacement.

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 - Announcements

Mr. Scott announced the August MPO Board meeting was one week later due to the Florida League of Cities meetings.

Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott passed out the MPO Board agenda for the August 25, 2017 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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