

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00p.m., November 8, 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 2:02 p.m.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Those MEC members in attendance included City of Cape Coral Councilmember Rick Williams, Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Tracey Gore, City of Fort Myers Councilmember Mike Flanders, Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch, City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O’Flinn, and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney and MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, 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 October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hamman motioned to approve the October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Deputy Mayor O’Flinn seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Update on the Office of Greenways and Trails Draft Maps Comments and Public Meetings

Mr. Don Scott provided an update on the comments that have been made on the Draft Land Trails Opportunity Map and the results of the Office of Greenways and Trails public meeting in North Port last week. He noted he attended the meeting in North Port. He added Mr. Gogoi also attended. He said the Office of Greenways and Trails indicated they have received a substantial number of comments, roughly 250, asking for the Seminole Gulf Rail corridor to be restored as a Priority Trail on the Land Trails Map, consistent with the current adopted priority trail map. He said more comments have been submitted since. He said he will present to the OGT Council at their meeting since they will determine what ends up being on the map. Mayor Boesch asked how much Sarasota paid for their CSX right of way. Deputy Mayor O’Flinn responded that it was \$9 million for the first section, approximately one million per mile, and the second portion will be slightly higher. Mr. Scott said when the Rail Feasibility study was done, the entire corridor was valued at \$15 million. Deputy Mayor O’Flinn thanked Mr. Scott and Mr. Gogoi for their efforts related to the trails. A brief discussion followed on the clarification of the trails requested for our area. Commissioner Hamman stated the Lee County Commission approved a letter to be sent to endorse the trail in our area. The committee then discussed funding of the trails. Commissioner Hamman asked the status of the request to place the alignment of the trail over the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Mr. Scott said it could be added as an opportunity trail right now. Commissioner Hamman asked if there was any action the MEC needed to take. Mr. Scott replied that we need to bring forward a priority to do a feasibility study for our MPO allocated funding in the next cycle of priorities. Deputy Mayor O’Flinn clarified that the bridge would be added as an opportunity trail. Councilmember Flanders asked for a larger scale map to show all bridges, to show congested urban area. Mr. Rooney suggested a slide to list the priorities. Mr. Scott

commented that the discussion at the Joint meeting with Collier focused on addressing bike ped facilities for all of the bridges. There was a discussion on apportionment, a feasibility study, local matches, and the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Councilmember Gore arrived at 2:15 p.m. The discussion on the Caloosahatchee Bridge continued briefly.

Agenda Item #4 - Review of the FDOT Vision Zero Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Scott reviewed FDOT's recently released safety targets, that were attached to the agenda packet, for all five national safety measures. He listed the safety performance measures:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

He stated FDOT has adopted a zero target for all five of the safety performance measures and in the process, Florida has become the only state in the nation to do so. He explained the 0.1 on the Safety Target sheet was due to zero not being an accepted value in FHWA's computer program. He noted, they have provided a narrative that includes the interim numbers to describe what the numbers are currently for each of the categories, but reiterated the target is zero. He continued that the MPOs are required to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets by February 27, 2018 in order to meet new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. Mr. Scott said the MPO staff is leaning toward adopting FDOT's performance measures. He discussed the reactions of the other committees to this agenda item. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked how many fatalities Lee County had last year. Mr. Scott responded 104. The committee discussed causes of accidents including distracted driving and less education for drivers. Mr. Scott then reviewed the dates for inclusion of the performance measures in the LRTP and S/TIP. He said by May 27, 2018, the MPOs must include a narrative description of the safety performance target(s) in their TIPs to address the performance targets, and the anticipated effects the projects will have collectively on meeting these targets. He added, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will also need to include narratives on the performance measures, either by the next major update or when the current LRTP is amended after May of 2018. He questioned whether other funding sources will be impacted in the future since all safety money is currently spent on safety projects. He reviewed all of the different types of measures and noted FDOT will provide numbers soon. The committee discussed the implications of adopting Zero. Commissioner Hamman agreed with aligning the MPO performance measures with FDOT's. There was a brief discussion on the effect autonomous vehicles will have on driving. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn brought up New York as an example of the success of Vision Zero. Mr. Scott said the MPO is monitoring New York as well as Hillsborough County, which is also working on a Vision Zero program.

Agenda Item #5 - Overview of the FDOT Tentative Work Program and the Equity Analysis

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2019 through FY 2023. He said FDOT will present at the MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott reviewed the highlights which include the I 75/Corkscrew interim improvements and the SR 31 PD&E study, but did not include the Big Carlos Pass Bridge. He added that the FDOT District Secretary is looking into the project funding options. Mr. Scott noted it is an off system bridge. Councilmember Gore reminded the committee that some residents only want to repair the bridge, not replace it. Mr. Scott stated that funding was still necessary, even if it is repaired. Commissioner Hamman asked if Lee County staff was aware of the situation. Mr. Scott said they were. He mentioned the LeeTran bus funding, discussed the additions, re-schedulings, and deletions table, and also reviewed the equity analysis. There was a discussion on the study to relocate the FDOT district office to Fort Myers. Mr. Scott stated the study indicated it would be too expensive to move the headquarters. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested redistricting instead. Mr. Scott mentioned the FTC was looking in to how the FDOT districts aligned

with the Water Management Districts and the MPOs/RPCs. He added he will reach out again to see what may have happened with this. The committee continued the discussion on ways to encourage a larger FDOT presence in this area including offering existing unused office space. Commissioner Hamman said he could look into the inventory of county space. He asked who would create a new district. Mr. Scott said Lee, Collier, Charlotte, and Hendry might be part of the discussion and suggested SWFTE might also get involved. Mr. Scott said he would follow up on items for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Scott also mentioned the discussions about a federal gas tax increase to address infrastructure funding.

Agenda Item #6 - Discussion Regarding the SR 78 Sidewalk/Pathway Alternatives

Mr. Ron Gogoi reviewed the SR 78 Sidewalk and Pathway alternatives. He said several years ago a PD&E study was prioritized for SR 78 to look at options for building a sidewalk extending the existing sidewalk west of I-75 to SR 31. He noted the PD&E study is now underway but there have been several issues raised as part of this study that have led FDOT and the MPO to seek input on the preliminary alternatives before proceeding further. He noted newsletters had been sent to over 1,000 residents and only about eight response had been received. He stated one of the recent developments that impacts the study is the addition of SR 78 to FDEP's Draft Land Trails Priority map and the other is the recent analysis of SR 31 and SR 78 as part of the SR 31 PD&E study that is indicating that SR 78 will eventually need to be widened to four lanes. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation with an explanation of the project limits and the alternatives developed by the consultant. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn left at 3:11 p.m. Commissioner Hamman asked if the funding could be used to build sidewalks in another area. Mr. Gogoi said the SUN Trail funds could only be used for projects on the SUN Trail priority map. Commissioner Hamman asked how paths along Pine Island Road could be added/improved. Mr. Scott said there was a need from US 41 along Pine Island Road. The committee continued discussion on the project. Commissioner Hamman suggested the continuation of the PD&E study including influence by public comment. He added before money was actually spent breaking ground on the project, he would like to have a say. Mr. Scott agreed. He said if anything moves forward, the Board will ultimately decide on priorities that are set for future phases. Mayor Boesch stated the MEC comment was to build the pathway on one side of the street.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the Joint Lee and Charlotte Agenda Items and Lee MPO Board Items

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the upcoming Joint Lee and Charlotte MPO Board agenda items as well as the Lee MPO Board agenda items. He handed out the Joint Lee and Charlotte MPO Board agenda with a few supplemental items. He noted some of the items were on the agenda again due to a quorum not being attained for Lee County at the Joint Collier meeting. He continued review of the agenda including the agenda item on the SUN Trail projects. The committee discussed the feasibility project along CR 865 to the base of the Big Carlos Bridge. Mr. Scott then explained the SR 31 agenda item on the loan backstop. Councilmember Williams mentioned the lack of quorum issue at the Joint Collier meeting. Mr. Scott mentioned the City of Cape Coral MPO Board members that will not be official until they are sworn in on November 20, 2017. Councilmember Gore questioned the SR 31 loan agenda item. Mr. Rooney explained the item further. Mr. Scott added that even if Babcock does default, the county still has a widened state road. There was a brief discussion on this agenda item. Mr. Scott commented that the company handling the autonomous vehicle network at Babcock Ranch will be making a brief presentation at the Joint Meeting.

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

Councilmember Flanders mentioned continuing Hancock Bridge Parkway through to Old 41. He asked if there was a study done regarding this or a linkage study done for our area. Mr. Scott said there was a Lee County DOT study done a few years ago with the preferred alternative being to widen Pondella. The committee continued discussion on the topic.

Councilmember Williams asked about resurrecting the Summerlin project to relieve pressure on the bridge. Mr. Scott asked which project. Councilmember Williams referred to the flyover. Mr. Scott said it was programmed for the county to look at that stretch, maybe starting next year. Commissioner Hamman commented that there needs to be a better way to clear accidents on the bridge. Mr. Scott suggested tow trucks ready at the ends of the bridge to pull them off. A brief discussion followed on the ways other areas deal with accidents. The committee also discussed using signs/communications to alert motorists about delays on the bridges.

Mr. Rooney noted that Councilmember Cosden is the alternate City of Cape Coral MPO Board member. Councilmember Williams said he would get in touch with all members to make sure they attend.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott referred to the MPOAC Legislative Update in the agenda packet. He mentioned the item on the last page regarding electric vehicles as a follow up to previous discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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