

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00p.m., February 14, 2018
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Tracey Gore.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Those MEC members in attendance included City of Cape Coral Councilmember Jessica Cosden, Town of Fort Myers Beach Vice-Mayor Tracey Gore, City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane, 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 January 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hamman motioned to approve the January 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 *Provide Input on the Potential MPO Board Meeting Agenda and Schedule Revisions

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item as a follow up to the discussion at the last MPO Board meeting about revising the agenda format and possibly reducing the number of meetings. He mentioned Commissioner Kiker made a recommendation to change how the Bicycle Pedestrian and Citizen Advisory Committee reports are handled and another about reducing the length and frequency of the MPO Board meetings. Mr. Scott explained the inclusion of Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) reports on the MPO agenda came out of the each Committee's request to provide input to the Board on issues that they have discussed. He said when this was first added, a member of each Committee came to present the recommendations and results of their meetings. He noted over time this has now been reduced to members only coming to address the Board when they want to express opinions on a particular issue. He recommended that we remove these reports from the agenda and only add them when there is a specific request from the Committee to address the MPO Board. Mayor Ruane commented that as long as this did not offend anyone, then it is acceptable. Mr. Scott continued that the other part of the discussion is the possibility of reducing the number of MPO Board meetings over the year and to possibly address some of the issues that we normally do at an MPO Board meeting at the Executive Committee meetings. He listed the following items due to FDOT and FHWA that indicate what month of the year these occur which in turn provides information on what meetings we may be able to reduce:

- March – Draft Unified Planning Work Program (every two years – 2018)
- May – Draft Transportation Improvement Program (each year) and Final Unified Planning Work Program (every two years)
- June – Final Transportation Improvement Program and Transportation Priorities (each year)
- September – Roll Forward Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (each year)
- November – FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program review (each year)
- December – Long Range Plan Update (every five years – December 2020)

He said there are other items that come up, such as the Joint meetings with the Collier and the Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPOs, Long Range Plan/Transportation Improvement amendments, and project presentations. He added there is some flexibility to reduce some of the scheduled MPO meetings, suggesting the April meeting could possibly be removed. Chair Gore asked if this would go to the MPO Board for a vote. Mr. Scott said it could be taken to the Board to discuss, it could be decided on a month to month basis, or the MEC could decide today which meetings to remove. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested removing the July meeting but not eliminating any others. There was a brief discussion as to when the County offices were closed during the summer. Mayor Ruane noted the MEC could handle any business if there isn't enough substance to substantiate an MPO Board meeting. Commissioner Hamman, referring to the necessary meeting list provided by Mr. Scott, said that would be at least six meetings and that other meetings, especially summer, could be scaled back. Chair Gore asked if scaling back meetings would slow down projects. Mr. Scott replied no, as the projects take such a long time anyway. He added there might be items the MEC could pick up if needed, like the TIP amendments. Chair Gore asked what Mr. Scott would recommend. Mr. Scott said he would recommend taking off summer meetings, July and August, especially since County closures and League of Cities usually pose conflicts. Mayor Ruane commented the MEC could take care of TIP amendments. The discussion continued on which meetings to cancel. Chair Gore clarified that the MEC schedule would stay the same but the MPO Board will change and asked if a motion was needed. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested bringing this to the MPO Board for discussion. Councilmember Cosden noted the City of Cape Coral Council cut their meetings in half, and it has worked out to be more efficient. Mr. Scott said December could also be removed.

Commissioner Hamman made a motion for Mr. Scott to develop a recommended meeting schedule and take it to the MPO Board for discussion and approval. Mayor Ruane seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked Mr. Rooney how a member of the public would take any issues to the MPO Board if there wasn't a meeting scheduled. Mr. Rooney said the MEC would still be meeting so it could be addressed there. Mayor Ruane said an emergency meeting could be called if needed. Chair Gore mentioned there was a motion and a second on the floor. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked for the motion to be restated. Mayor Ruane said the motion was for Mr. Scott to recommend a meeting schedule and bring it to the MPO Board.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rooney commented the MPO Board meetings were set for every month on the Friday following the third Thursday in order to have a schedule set that could be advertised at the beginning of the year. He added that section could be changed and noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair could call an emergency meeting.

Agenda Item #4 - +Discussion on the Sidewalk Estimate for the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge sidewalk estimate and determine future actions. He noted MPO staff had previously discussed submitting a priority for funding a planning/feasibility study to determine if it was feasible to add a sidewalk to the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge or to add a separate bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians. He added FDOT has developed a cost estimate for an eight foot sidewalk on the left and right sides of the bridge that is estimated to cost about \$35.8 million. He added the bridge has exceeded its design service life but repair projects could extend the life up to another 45 years. He asked for input on how the committee might want to proceed based on the estimated cost of this project. Councilmember Cosden asked the cost to tear down and replace the existing bridge. Mr. Scott responded approximately \$80 million. He suggested a separate bike/ped facility similar to the one in Tampa at the Courtney Campbell

Causeway. Chair Gore asked if this was a state or county bridge. Commissioner Hamman replied it was state. There was a brief discussion on the cost and construction of other local bridges. Commissioner Hamman commented the vision was to connect the vibrant downtown Fort Myers area to the slowly re-developing North Fort Myers area thus creating a loop using the existing access on the Edison bridge and adding access on the Caloosahatchee bridge. Chair Gore asked if only one side of the Caloosahatchee bridge could be done or if the path needed to be on both sides of the bridge. Commissioner Hamman asked about funding sources. Mr. Scott said the facility in Tampa used federal enhancement money. Commissioner Hamman asked if this had the potential to bump other projects. Mr. Scott replied it could. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn suggested creating a holistic view of transformational bike/ped projects and having a meeting to discuss the numerous projects. Chair Gore asked what was needed to move this forward. Mr. Scott said priorities are submitted in June and research could be done before then. Commissioner Hamman suggested Mr. Scott should research and bring back at the next MEC meeting with answers to cost if only done on one side, cost of separate facility, and if a cantilevered composite sidewalk was a possibility. The committee briefly discussed the dangers of the many people that currently bike and walk across the Caloosahatchee bridge. Commissioner Hamman mentioned the parks on the north and south sides of the river, and also how he would like to see a ferry across the river.

Agenda Item #5 - +Review of the FY 2018/2019 & FY 2019/2020 MPO Budget

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the FY 2019 and 2020 MPO budget as a follow up to the discussions about the budget at the last MEC meeting. He referred to the draft budget, due for MPO approval in May, outlining MPO revenues and expenses over the next two years. He showed this document as a slide and mentioned it was also attached to the agenda packet. He presented further information on the additional grant funding that we have received in the past to do certain specific planning, design, and construction projects, like the TIGER project that is projected to be completed this fiscal year, and how those funds have been addressed in our budget documents consistent with federal and state requirements. Mr. Scott mentioned that Vice-Mayor Denham had questioned why the budget was \$4 million more one year and noted it was due to the TIGER project. He added there would be \$300,000 - \$400,000 this year for other projects, commenting that not all PL money goes to staff. He also elaborated on the 5305 and TD funding. Commissioner Hamman asked if \$54,000 was the actual surplus amount. Mr. Scott responded yes. Commissioner Hamman asked what the total amount would be for a 3% cost of living increase for staff. Mr. Scott said it would be about \$8,000. Commissioner Hamman asked when this had been done in the past. Mr. Scott said it was not done last year, but it is usually done around this time, review time.

Chair Cosden made the motion to approve a 3% cost of living increase for all MPO employees. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn seconded the motion.

Chair Gore asked how many employees the MPO has. Mr. Scott responded there are four total.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Ruane noted that as MPO Treasurer he spends a considerable amount of time with the MPO books. Commissioner Hamman asked if there was enough surplus to cover the increase. Mayor Ruane responded yes. There was a discussion that followed on the other MPO expenses listed on the chart.

Agenda Item #6 - +Follow up on the Proposed MPO Bylaws Revisions

Mayor Ruane asked if he could comment on this. Chair Gore replied yes. Mayor Ruane said that with respect to any issues with Sanibel occupying the Vice-Chair and Treasurer positions on the MPO Boar, he didn't have a problem with giving up the position of Treasurer. Chair Gore responded the

MPO Board would take issue with that. Mayor Ruane said that it is his area of expertise, and he doesn't mind the additional responsibility. He clarified that this does not give Sanibel an extra vote or seat. He explained the issues the MPO has experienced with Good Will and his efforts to correct those. Mr. Rooney further explained that the slate of officers is voted on in January and Sanibel rotated in as Vice-Chair, as the Chair and Vice-Chair positions always rotate with respect to jurisdictions. He added Mayor Ruane remained as Treasurer due to his qualifications and historical knowledge of the MPO. Mr. Rooney noted that Sanibel still only gets one vote. He also commented that although a Treasurer is not required, it does bring significant advantages to the organization. He said each of the Sanibel representatives only attend one meeting and the wording in the By Laws was changed to support that. Mayor Ruane said he cannot attend the MPO Board meetings as he has a recurring schedule conflict and that is the reason Vice-Mayor Denham attends. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn thanked Mayor Ruane for his service as Treasurer to the MPO. There was a brief discussion on the positions of Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked if a motion was needed. Mr. Scott said it is on the agenda for the MPO Board meeting scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2018. Chair Gore asked about the policy for reviewing information with alternates. Mr. Rooney commented that discussion should be avoided and contacting Mr. Scott would be the preferred option. He noted the main concern would be avoiding the discussion of issues pertaining to Fort Myers Beach. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn mentioned the Florida Sunshine Laws.

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

Councilmember Cosden stated she would not be able to attend the next MEC meeting as she will be at the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items

The MPOAC Legislative Update for February 2, 2018 was attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott also handed out the MPOAC Legislative Update for February 9, 2018. He mentioned the point made in the update that if an item hasn't started to go through the committees it probably won't go further, specifically referring to the items pertaining to MPOs. He did say that it could be brought back next year. He noted the texting while driving is waiting on a vote from the House. Councilmember Cosden mentioned that she attended the MPOAC Governing Board meeting in West Palm Beach on February 1, 2018. She said at that time, the MPOAC recommended the MPOs should send a letter to the delegation about the MPO item, but this may not be necessary if the items aren't moving forward. Mr. Scott commented on his conversation with the MPOAC Executive Director, Carl Mikyska, regarding having MPO Board members reach out to members of the delegation. Mr. Scott mentioned that Commissioner Hamman reached out to Caldwell and Benacquisto. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked if there was any idea where the MPO related items originated. Commissioner Hamman said it came from other MPOs attempting to deal with their own issues. He added that Caldwell and Benacquisto will work on the concerns of our MPO.

Chair Gore asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hamman made the motion. Mayor Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

* Action Items * May Require Action

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