

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00p.m., March 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 Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Tracey Gore, City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes, Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch, and City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane. Others in attendance included Alan Mandel with Good Wheels, 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 February 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane motioned to approve the February 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - +Discussion on the Outline for Rebuilding Infrastructure from the Administration and Regulation Recommendations

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item as a discussion on the infrastructure program document provided by the administration and regulation recommendations. He said the White House has issued an outline for rebuilding infrastructure document that is posted at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/MEC03a.INFRASTRUCTURE-211.pdf>. He noted from a funding side the program requires 80% local funding, \$800 billion, and 20% federal funding, \$200 billion, which doesn't give much hope for implementing unfunded projects. He added this may be the time to address some of the regulation issues that lengthen the time for project approvals and adds to the cost of existing projects. He continued with a review of the Legislative Outline. He brought up the example that Charlotte County Commissioner Constance gave regarding the regulation side. He also noted the Lee County example of the right of way acquisition on Old 41. Mr. Derek Rooney discussed the requirements for acquisition and provided more history on the Charlotte County example. Mayor Ruane asked where funding will come from. Mr. Scott noted there is no real money in the program and the permitting side may not change either. Mayor Ruane asked what the benefit would be in Lee County. Mr. Scott said the purchasing of right of way cost \$10 million more due to requirements. Mayor Ruane commented that it makes sense to look at examples but right now it is difficult to determine. Mayor Boesch said he would like examples and a full scope so the consequences could be clear. Mr. Scott added there is always some negative. Chair Gore asked what was meant by local funding. Mr. Scott said state and local, anything not Federal. Chair Gore asked if there was any more discussion. There was none.

Agenda Item #4 - +Review of the 2040 Long Range Plan Federal and State Revenue Assumptions and Provide Input for the 2045 Long Range Plan Update

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the previous discussions regarding the development of the federal and state revenue assumptions that were used for the 2040 LRTP. He also brought up how we might want to address these items during the 2045 LRTP update. He explained when the 2040 LRTP was developed, a comparison was made of how far we got with the State and Federal capital projects in the 2035 Plan. He continued, from that analysis, we lowered the state and federal revenue projections by 20% as that matched, more closely, what we were getting. He said as we start working on the development of the 2045 Long Range

Plan and we do the same analysis on the 2040 LRTP projects (in the 2012-2025 time frame), it ends up at a much lower percentage this time around. He mentioned the highlighted project phases that have not been funded through 2023 in the current work program, that were attached to the agenda packet. He also mentioned, posted at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/MEC04b.Revenue-Forecast-Guidebook.pdf> is the Revenue Forecast Guidebook that has been provided by FDOT that includes information on developing the funding forecasts, descriptions about the funding sources and information about the development process. He said the federal and state revenue estimates should be out in May with local estimates after that. He noted that 90% of projects have not been funded. He also gave the example of \$37 million being taken from the Metro project to balance the program. Chair Gore asked why the money was lost. Mr. Scott said it had to be taken out somewhere to balance the program. He added, with that loss, the numbers are currently in the negative. He commented there is a positive side as the SIS projects have all been funded, which amounts to approximately \$105 million of SIS projects added in. He noted we are seeking direction on how we might want to address the state and federal revenue projections this time around since last time they were artificially lowered, and we didn't get funding. Mr. Scott reviewed the state and federal revenue chart and the STP and state funded priorities for 2022 and 2023. Chair Gore asked the status of Big Carlos. Mr. Scott said there has been no progress, but the county will be meeting soon to discuss. Mr. Scott then reviewed the LRTP funding guidance. Chair Gore asked what makes a road federally eligible. Mr. Scott noted they are collector and arterial roads, and he has a map he could provide that shows them. Mr. Scott mentioned he would be meeting with L. K. Nandam to discuss funding. He added one of the FHWA certification questions asked if the program was constrained to money. Chair Gore asked if a copy of the certification report would be available once complete. Mr. Scott said it should be complete in June. Mr. Scott mentioned other MPOs are also complaining that they aren't getting anywhere on their priority list either. He said he commented to FHWA that our numbers were purposely reduced. Mayor Ruane noted there would be more conversations in May after the revenue estimates are released. Mr. Scott said we will still have to put something on the list as we still want funding.

Agenda Item #5 - Review of the Legislative Issues with Session Ending March 9, 2018

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review the legislative issues after session ended. He said the legislative session ended on March 9, 2018 and a lot of the transportation items we previously discussed are not moving forward. He said items like the Texting while Driving as a primary offense, operation of Autonomous Vehicles in autonomous mode, and looking at other funding options when electric to hybrid meets 2% did not pass. He also noted none of the MPO related items passed. Chair Gore said she was surprised the texting while driving did not pass. Mr. Scott discussed comments made by the MPOAC Executive Director on that issue. Mr. Scott added that if Florida doesn't do something about the issue then the Federal government may step in. He said some items may be brought back next year. Mayor Boesch noted that the gun legislation took over the session. Mr. Scott said the legislation is falling behind on regulating autonomous vehicles as there is much testing in progress.

Agenda Item #6 - +Review of the Updated MPO Board Schedule for 2018

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the updated MPO Board calendar for FY 2018 as a follow up from last month's discussion. He said the MPO staff has updated the MPO Board calendar to remove some of the meetings, and the new calendar was attached to the agenda packet. He said we may be able to remove the April meeting as Lee County will not be ready to present the Big Carlos agenda item. Mayor Ruane asked about the MEC schedule. Mr. Scott said the next meeting could be cancelled as he would like to attend the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission meeting in north Florida with Good Wheels for their acceptance as Lee County's CTC. Mayor Ruane asked if the June and July meetings could be cancelled. Mr. Scott replied yes. Chair Gore verified it would be the July 11 meeting and asked for a vote. Mayor Ruane said the discussion should continue and then they could vote. He added the theory is the MEC meets more than the MPO Board. Mayor Boesch mentioned the Village of Estero takes off the entire month of August. Mayor Ruane asked when the Village of Estero does their budget. Mayor Boesch responded in May, June, and July. Mayor Ruane said Sanibel does theirs in July, August, and September. He suggested cancelling July and April. He asked when Bonita is off. Councilmember Forbes replied Bonita did not take off in 2016 or 2017.

Mayor Ruane made the motion to cancel the April 11 and July 11 MEC meetings. Chair Gore seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

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

Mr. Alan Mandel with Good Wheels mentioned Federal grant money was available for pilot projects that would benefit the disabled, elderly, or low income. He noted the submittal deadline was March 31, 2018 and asked if the Executive Committee had any ideas for pilot projects in Lee County. He added Good Wheels will be applying for a grant for Hendry County for a three month test route that will connect the east and west coasts. Councilmember Forbes asked about the possibility of a small shuttle bus route from Bonita to Lover's Key and Fort Myers Beach to help alleviate traffic. Mr. Mandel said he was aware of that request from Bonita, but it did not qualify for this type of funding. Chair Gore asked about the Good Wheels MPO Board agenda item. Mr. Scott explained the CTC RFP process and related agenda item. Mayor Boesch asked if Bonita could still request service. Mr. Mandel said he had a conversation with Bonita staff and there are still many questions to be answered related to costs and where to stop along the route. Chair Gore asked if Mr. Mandel could explain further after the meeting. Mr. Mandel replied yes. Mr. Mandel asked for the Executive Committee to let him know if they came up with any pilot project ideas for the elderly, disabled, or low income.

Agenda Item #8 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott handed out the MPO Board agenda for Friday, March 16, 2018. He mentioned a news story done on the possible Del Prado interchange and the resulting public comment from Mr. Dave Urich at the March TAC and CAC meetings. Mr. Scott added that Mr. Urich will be speaking at Friday's MPO Board meeting. Chair Gore asked under which agenda item he would speak. Mr. Scott responded under agenda item #5. Mayor Boesch stated he would like to thank Councilmember Flanders for his service as he resigned his position and is now the new director of the Edison Ford Estates. Chair Gore asked Councilmember Forbes if he knew anything about the new bridge height. Councilmember Forbes said he was only aware the new bridge must be higher than the old one. Chair Gore asked if any formal decisions have been made. Councilmember Forbes replied no. Chair Gore mentioned the Connecticut Street meeting that will be held on April 4, 2018 at the Fort Myers Beach Council Chambers from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Mr. Scott said he did not know about the meeting. Chair Gore asked if the history of the Connecticut Street project dates back to 2011. Mr. Scott replied yes. Chair Gore mentioned they are now discussing placing sharrows instead of sidewalks. She recommended that someone from the MPO should attend. Mr. Scott agreed. Mr. Derek Rooney referenced the resignation of Councilmember Flanders. Mr. Scott said the MPO would contact the City of Fort Myers for an official statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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