

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., October 10, 2018
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 Tracey Gore at 2:00 p.m.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Tracey Gore, City of Cape Coral Councilmember Jessica Cosden (arrived at 2:05 p.m. and left at 2:23 p.m.), City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham as alternate, Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch, 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 comments on new business items.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the September 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the September 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Review the Responses to the SIS Presentation Questions

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review the FDOT staff responses to the 2045 SIS Cost Feasible Plan questions that were discussed last month. The responses were attached to the agenda packet and also shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Scott said FDOT staff is planning on attending the November Executive Committee meeting to discuss the responses further as they had a schedule conflict for this meeting. He said he wouldn't spend a lot of time on this agenda item as it can be further discussed at the November meeting when FDOT staff is present. Vice-Mayor Denham asked if there are CCTV cameras on I-75. Mr. Scott replied yes, and commented that they are monitored at the SWIFT Center behind the rest area on Daniels. Mr. Scott talked about the crashes and how fast they are cleaned up, and how we can assist FHP in clearing them quicker. There was a brief discussion on the proposed six free, four toll lane configuration for I-75 and possible public-private partnership to obtain funding. There was also a brief discussion on the length of time the toll would be active and references to other bridges in the area that are still tolled even though they are paid for. Chair Gore asked if the toll would be epass or toll stations. Mr. Scott replied it would be epass or toll by plate. Chair Gore commented there could be accidents caused by motorists confusion with lanes. Mr. Scott noted that the traffic congestion was so bad at Colonial that something needed to be done. Vice-Mayor Denham added that driving in England is a nightmare compared to driving here. Chair Gore asked if there was additional discussion. There was none.

Councilmember Cosden mentioned a letter she received from the MPOAC asking for at least a \$500 contribution. Mr. Scott said he received a letter as well, and he included this item on the MPO Board agenda. Commissioner Hamman asked what the money would be used for. Mr. Scott said it could be used to conduct studies or for lobbying on behalf of the MPOs. Commissioner Hamman asked who lobbies. Mr. Scott replied that Mr. Carl Mikyska, Director of the MPOAC, does the lobbying. Mr. Scott said he will request a list of which of the 27 MPOs in Florida contribute. Councilmember Cosden

noted she will be attending the next MPOAC meeting on November 1, 2018. Mr. Scott said he will also be attending.

Agenda Item #4 - Review and Comment on the Updated MPO Director Contract

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the updated MPO Director Employment Agreement. He said at the August meeting, the employment agreement with the Executive Director was discussed with no major changes proposed. He continued, at the September meeting, staff discussed the OIG audit comments that included all of the MPO Director's contracts that include car allowances need to be changed. Mr. Scott also mentioned the MPO has not received a final report from the OIG auditor. He added staff has since had a conversation with the MPOAC Director as the auditor recommended discussing this item with him and, following that discussion, has now proposed to remove the car allowance from the contract. He said the local travel will then be reimbursed from the periodic submittal of travel forms. He referred to the revised contract that was attached to the agenda packet and shown as slides for review. Chair Gore asked about the other change made. Mr. Scott said it was to adjust the salary amount to reflect the 3% raise from last year. Chair Gore asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Hamman asked if the travel expenses that Mr. Scott submits will have to be approved. Mr. Scott replied yes, an MPO Board member will be required to sign off on them. Chair Gore asked if this needed the approval of the Executive Committee. Mr. Scott replied no, it will go to the MPO Board for a formal vote at the next meeting. Chair Gore asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on the Guidance for MPO's on Assessing Impacts and Opportunities of Automated, Connected, Electric and Shared-Use Vehicles Document

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the Florida Department of Transportation's recently provided guidance, that was attached to the agenda packet, for MPOs on assessing the impacts of automated, connected, electric and shared use vehicles (ACES) during the development of the Long Range Plan. He noted there would be more capacity with AVs on existing roads but also more trips. He said he attended a meeting with the other District 1 MPOs yesterday to discuss modeling in the region. He added that the TAC/CAC discussed the future zonal data for 2045 and taking different land-use scenarios into account. He said this poses a problem as there can't be three different land-uses in the final transportation model for comparison. Mr. Scott noted updates are done every five years and only so much can be done incrementally. He said the following AV/CV items must be accounted for:

- Including goals and objectives that address automated, connected, shared use and electric vehicles.
- Running scenarios to measure the potential impacts to travel demand and facility needs.
- Scenario planning to estimate potential impacts to car ownership, facility design, employment and consumer attitudes etc.
- Analyzing potential revenue impacts.
- Providing education and engagement opportunities.
- Identifying potential projects to include in the Plan.

Mr. Scott said there have also been discussions on vehicle to infrastructure communication. There was a brief discussion on the autonomous shuttle and school bus at Babcock Ranch. Commissioner Hamman suggested automakers are very close to mainstreaming autonomous vehicles. He explained the subscription service concept that might be used. Mr. Scott said that some companies are trying to combine and collaborate as it is taking a big investment. Mr. Scott then showed a slide on the levels of automation. Commissioner Hamman commented on the new car he just bought that has many of the features referenced in the slide. Chair Gore asked about insurance concerns. Mr. Scott mentioned the comments from an insurance adjuster that had attended a recent BPCC meeting. Vice-Mayor Denham commented on a road tax increase for non AV users to encourage people to use AVs. Chair Gore suggested this could be a generational issue. Vice-Mayor Denham questioned what

the MPO needs to do. Mr. Scott said the MPO is now required to develop goals and objectives along with the items we discussed above. Chair Gore asked if there would need to be something on the road to monitor the AVs. Mr. Scott mentioned that there may be requirements for devices on signs to communicate with AVs. There was a brief discussion on the AV's awareness of the driver. Commissioner Hamman noted that his car will not stop at a light unless there is a car stopped in front of it. Mr. Scott said this is what he was referencing, there may need to be a device on the infrastructure side to communicate with the AVs. Commissioner Hamman commented that car makers are making the cars smart enough to adapt to the current road conditions. Mr. Scott showed a slide on the transit system impacts. Commissioner Hamman said that a decision will need to be made soon as to when transit no longer makes sense. He suggested that in the future the transit bus might be county sponsored with no driver. Chair Gore said Lee County has LeeTran and citizens use that service out of necessity. There was a brief discussion on the subscription service mentioned earlier in the meeting and how it might accommodate those cases. Mr. Scott noted that across the nation fixed transit, like rail ridership is up but buses are down. He said that the transit system might have to shrink down and then provide voucher service for other trips. Mr. Scott then showed a slide on potential revenue impacts commenting that electric vehicles will have an impact on gas tax revenues. Vice-Mayor Denham noted in London, extra money is paid to drive in the center of the city. Mr. Scott said this is similar to congestion pricing. Chair Gore said this could be a problem as taxes are paid for roads. Mr. Scott said alternate routes could be determined based on traffic. Vice-Mayor Denham said the boards on the highways could provide more useful information on traffic conditions. Mr. Scott then showed an education and engagement slide. Councilmember Anthony asked which state was most advanced with respect to AVs. Mr. Scott replied probably California, as that is where a lot of the testing is occurring. There was a brief discussion on how satellite navigation or GPS could assist. Chair Gore asked if there were any more comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #6 - Review of the Federal Long Range Plan Update Requirements

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Federal Highway Administration's Long Range Plan update requirements for MPOs in Florida, these were attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott reviewed with slides on addressing the current requirements, technical topics, new requirements, emerging issues, and proactive improvements. He said the first discussion item will be goals and objectives at the MPO Board meeting. Commissioner Hamman questioned who reads these lengthy reports. Mr. Scott said that he did and FDOT and FHWA are required to, but there are probably not many others. Mr. Scott said in the end there is only so much funding and it might be best to work backwards. Mayor Boesch asked why Mr. Scott didn't put that forth as a suggestion. Mr. Scott said that he tried. Vice-Mayor Denham asked why we don't concentrate efforts and do one project at a time as quickly as possible. Mr. Scott explained that there are too many funding sources. Mr. Scott also mentioned there are politics involved. Mr. Rooney gave two examples of projects that were stopped due to politics, Bonita Beach Road and 951. The discussion briefly continued on future projects and how to handle them, with several smaller discussions going on at once. Chair Gore asked if there were any more comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the MPO Board Agenda

Mr. Scott handed out the MPO Board agenda for the October 19 meeting. He then provided an overview of the upcoming MPO Board agenda items including consent agenda items, review and approval of the scope of services for the development of the 2045 socio-economic data, approval of the extension to the Executive Director employment agreement, presentation on the Able Canal Pathway PD&E study, and an update on commuting trends in Florida. Chair Gore asked where the Able Canal was located. Mr. Scott said it is located in Lehigh Acres. Mr. Scott reminded the Executive Committee that the MPO Board meeting for November was cancelled due to FDOT's presentation of the work program in December. He added that he hopes the projects discussed earlier are on the list.

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

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the MPO Board agenda for October and the FHWA Federal Certification Review delay letter that Mr. Scott mentioned briefly.

Chair Gore apologized for missing the last meeting and noted the reason she absent was due to a tour she was given by the South Florida Water Management District of the reservoirs related to the Caloosahatchee discharges. A discussion followed on the current water quality issues in Lee County.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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