

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., November 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 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, City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony, and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; FDOT staff Sarah Catala, Lawrence Massey, Christopher Simpron, and Joshua Jester; and John Majka.

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 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the October 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Tracey Gore seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Follow up from FDOT on the SIS Presentation Responses

Mr. Don Scott introduced this agenda item as a follow up from FDOT on the SIS presentation responses. Mr. Scott noted these were answers to questions that were posed at the previous MEC meeting, and FDOT was unable to attend and address these in person until this meeting. Mr. Scott said the main concerns related to I-75 and included funding construction, acquiring right of way, and moving up the construction phase from its current projected date of 2045. Mr. Scott then asked if median BEBR was where the MPO should be regarding socio-economic data and reasonable traffic projections. Mr. Lawrence Massey with FDOT said FDOT defers to the MPO on that point. Ms. Sarah Catala with FDOT gave a brief history of the Corkscrew interchange, noting at that time the regional model was being developed and many developments were not accounted for. She said attempts have been made to keep the regional model updated. Mr. Massey said the high level analysis for the year of failure for I-75 didn't use the regional model, it used a straight line interpolation to 2045 from a 2016 base year. He added model will be used, BEBR will be considered, and the general road pattern was used for the whole corridor. Mr. Scott said BEBR is too low and some areas already fail on I-75. Chair Gore asked what area of I-75 was being referenced. Mr. Massey said it was SR 78 south to Golden Gate. Ms. Catala noted the district needs to be consistent across all counties and MPOs/TPOs. Mr. Christopher Simpron added that the standard was set for the 2045 LRTP and as a rule of thumb median BEBR was used. Mr. Scott said in the past, for the 2040 update, local jurisdictions came together to determine growth but these numbers were adjusted to the BEBR median, and there was give and take from future projections in communities. Chair Gore asked the bottom line of the data discussion. There was a brief discussion on using growth projections to determine impact fees. Mr. Massey said FDOT relies on the MPO to determine where the growth projections should be. Mr. Scott then asked about the right of way needs. Mr. Josh Jester with FDOT said this would be mainly at the ingress and egress locations. Ms. Catala added that right of way includes environmental phases as the phases are packaged. Mr. Scott asked if the estimate is \$4 million for the right of way. Mr. Massey said those numbers can be refined. Mr. Scott said many were under the assumption that the right of way was previously purchased. Mr. Jester said the

regulations have changed. Ms. Catala noted the cost per mile was reduced from the original estimates. Mr. Scott asked what the current cost per mile was. Mr. Massey said it is \$60 million. There was a brief discussion on the prices of I-4 in Orlando being higher due to the lanes being elevated. Mr. Scott then asked how the I-75 project can be advanced as developing the network may not happen any faster. Mr. Massey said there will be a toll and revenue study to determine the viability of tolling lanes. Mr. Scott noted there is not enough funding, although the district is receiving its fair share. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked the time line for the PD&E. Mr. Jester replied five years. Ms. Catala said there are actually three PD&Es. Mr. Jester further explained. There was a brief discussion on variable pricing and traffic changes. Mr. Massey noted Babcock, a possible Cape interchange, and auxiliary lanes will all be examined. Mr. Jester added noise walls will also be examined. Mr. Scott said his last concern was crashes. Mr. Jester said impacts like response time and clearing time could be reduced. Mr. Ron Gogoi mentioned the MPO is looking in to the use of REIGEL scanners to reduce the time to clear an accident scene. There was a brief discussion on secondary crashes and local meetings and committees that address traffic crashes. Mr. Scott also mentioned working on the demand side through ride-sharing programs. He said an Origin and Destination study might assist with this. Mr. Massey mentioned that funding is tightening statewide. Mr. Scott said project costs are also going up. Mr. Massey also said there would be more innovation moving forward. Mr. Simpron said FDOT is looking at roundabouts, continuous flow intersections, and other solutions. He said he was also examining fourteen intersections from Manatee to Collier for possible interim improvements. Mr. Massey said specifically in Lee County they are looking at 78 and Daniels. He added cooperation with Lee County and the City of Fort Myers has been greatly appreciated. Councilmember Anthony asked when the Colonial diverging diamond project will begin. Mr. Massey said next year. Chair Gore asked if electric vehicles and biodiesel have impacted the gas tax. Mr. Massey said fuel efficiency has definitely impacted. There was a brief discussion on the increase of funding for District One due to efforts by Ms. Catala. Another brief discussion followed on fiscal responsibility and planning improvements that don't have full funding. Ms. Catala thanked Mr. Simpron and the MPO for relaying information on need. Mr. Scott referenced projects on SR 31 and Sr 82 at Fowler/Michigan. Ms. Catala replied that capacity need was identified and the District will examine how to deal with this within the existing infrastructure. Chair Gore asked if there were any more questions. Mr. Jester noted the express lanes could address concerns on funding. He added that all mechanism will be discussed before construction. There was a brief discussion on tolling in Orlando and Atlanta. Mr. Jester said good signing is important. Mr. Massey said there would be a full year of Street Light data that could be shared with the MPO in the possible form of an O&D trip matrix table. Ms. Catala mentioned that the cost feasible plan is flexible, projects may move out or in based on need, and it is updated every three to five years by statute. Mr. Simpron asked if Mr. Scott had received the guidance from FDOT central office on autonomous and connected vehicles. Mr. Scott replied yes. The Executive Committee thanked FDOT for attending.

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the Selection Committee Recommendation for General Planning Consultants

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the General Transportation Planning Consultant selection committee rankings and recommendation to negotiate contracts with all ten firms. The scope of work and the selection committee member rankings were attached to the agenda packet. He said the MPO Board's Executive Committee is being asked to approve the selection committee recommendation and direct staff to begin contract negotiations with the ten firms with the contracts coming back to the MPO Board for approval at a future meeting.

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the selection committee recommendation to approve and negotiate contracts with all ten firms that applied to the General Planning Consultant Request for Proposal. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - +Review of the 2019 Meeting Calendar and Provide Input on the Previously Planned Charlotte-Punta Gorda/Lee MPO February Joint Meeting

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the 2019 meeting calendar and to discuss the possible Joint meeting with Charlotte – Punta Gorda MPO scheduled for February and the possible Joint meeting with Collier MPO scheduled for October. The calendar was attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott added MPO staff has scheduled a possible joint meeting with the Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO in February as a result of the discussion at the joint meeting that was held last February. He said there was also a potential meeting scheduled with Collier MPO in October. He added staff is now seeking input from the Committee to discuss if we still want to meet jointly, where we might want to meet, and what might be the potential joint items if we do meet. Commissioner Hamman noted that the joint meetings had been used in the past to solidify regional coordination and justify not combining into one large regional MPO. Commissioner Hamman also suggested deciding as the meetings get closer. Mr. Scott added that topics could also be discussed as the dates approached.

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to leave the tentative joint meetings on the calendar and then decide whether or not to hold them as the dates approach. Councilmember Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Review of the Federal Highway Administration Certification Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Certification Report. He said FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held a certification review of the Lee MPO on April 30th and May 1st and have now released their report. He noted there is one corrective action that was identified in the report relating to how we show the financial plan and fiscal constraint in the Long Range Plan. He added this also includes a need to change how we show the Existing plus Committed projects that will need to be addressed by March 1, 2019. Mr. Scott said FHWA is planning on giving a certification review closeout presentation at the January MPO Board meeting. The letter and report from the FHWA on the 2018 TMA Certification review were both attached to the agenda packet. Councilmember Cosden commented on the noteworthy practices that were mentioned in the report. Mr. Scott added the MPO is certified for the next four years. Councilmember Anthony asked if Federal funds could be applied for without going through FDOT. Mr. Scott replied yes and gave the example of TIGER. He said there have been discussion on other funding, and he would also find out more information. Councilmember Anthony said there had been discussions on Federal funding increasing. Mr. Scott said it has remained consistent. Commissioner Hamman noted vehicles may be more fuel efficient, but there are more vehicles on the road. Mr. Scott there would be more information on that moving forward.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on MPO Projects and Tasks

Mr. Scott announced the TIGER project was near end. He said almost all of the signs have been put up except one in a construction zone. He also noted that one sign had been damaged and two had been stolen. Commissioner Hamman said this would be an opportunity to test the maintenance agreement. Mr. Scott added the entire budgeted amount may not be spent. Commissioner Hamman asked if the unused funds would then be returned. Mr. Scott replied yes. Chair Gore asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Other Business

Agenda Item #8 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka introduced himself and asked Mr. Scott to explain the current SR 80 project issue. It was also mentioned that Mr. Majka had spoken under public comment at the previous MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott gave a brief history of the possible SR 80 sidewalk project and the issues with

access that Mr. Majka is attempting to resolve. Mr. Scott added that he was not sure how much FDOT would be able to say due to the current legal action.

Mr. Scott then gave a brief history of a citizen request that was brought to the MPO regarding assessment of a pulse route system for LeeTran. Mr. Scott noted the item was brought through the TAC and the CAC with presentations given by the citizen. Mr. Scott added that LeeTran responded to the citizen's proposal but the citizen did not agree with the responses and is seeking to enlist CUTR to conduct a transit study based on his suggestions. Mr. Scott said that CUTR wants a government agency to be involved. Mr. Scott added that the citizen is attempting to secure funding for the study from the Community Foundation but staff time would still be needed for the development of the scope and taking it through the various MPO committees. Mr. Scott noted the citizen currently lives in Hawaii but has the assistance of an FGCU professor. Councilmember Cosden said the citizen also came to the City of Cape Coral and asked if he had presented to any other municipality. Commissioner Hamman acknowledged it had been brought to Lee County. Councilmember Cosden questioned why it is being discussed if Lee County Transit does not want to participate. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked what the MPO's role was in this issue. Mr. Scott replied public involvement and there is the transit element in the Long Range Plan. Councilmember Cosden asked what the MPO's authority was over this. Commissioner Hamman replied that LeeTran falls under the authority of the Lee County Board of Commissioners. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn noted the public is still free to come to the MPO with concerns. He also asked what the cost would be to the MPO if the Community Foundation is funding the study. Mr. Scott said there would be staff costs to develop the scope and bring to the committees, but the cost of the study would be funded from another source. Commissioner Hamman asked if the TAC or CAC recommended the MPO Board address this issue. Mr. Scott replied no.

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to refer the citizen to work with LeeTran. Councilmember Cosden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Councilmember Cosden announced she had attended the recent MPOAC meeting held in Orlando. She said there was nothing to report from the meeting. There was a brief discussion that followed on the use of acronyms.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

Commissioner Brain Hamman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Tracey Gore seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.