

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., March 13, 2019
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Ruane 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 John Carioscia; Village of Estero Vice-Mayor William Ribble; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham; City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane; City of Bonita Spring's Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn; and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman. Others in attendance included Lee County School Board Transportation Service's Richard Perdue; MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; a member of the public John Majka; and MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

Although not a new business agenda item, Mr. John Majka commented on his SR 80 driveway access issues with FDOT.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember John Carioscia made the motion to approve the February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approval of the Policy and Procedure Changes in Response to the OIG Audit

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the MPO policy and procedure changes, that were attached in underline and strike through format to the agenda packet, to address the previously discussed OIG findings and recommendations. He said the FDOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit on the MPO over the last year. A summary of the findings and recommendations from the OIG office was attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott also mentioned the slides that were used at a prior meeting to identify the issues and the proposed solutions that were also attached to the agenda packet. He said the audit included recommendations to change policy and procedures to ensure MPO Treasurer approval of the Executive Director's time sheets, establishing written format covering allowable costs, updating the asset tracking policy, altering charging procedures to fit contract period, and removal of the car allowance for the Executive Director. Mr. Scott said this should address all of the concerns raised. He noted he told OIG staff that the policy and procedure changes should be approved by the MPO Board on March 22, 2019. Vice-Mayor Ribble asked about time sheets and travel. Mr. Scott replied that time sheets are submitted every two weeks and they cover daily time accounting for tasks directly from the UPWP.

Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn made the motion to approve the MPO Policy and Procedure Changes in Response to the Office of the Inspector General Audit. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruane asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Hamman asked if Mr. Scott had OIG review the procedural changes to ensure they were in line with the requirements. Mr. Scott replied

yes, but he will also send these for review. Mayor Ruane said these will be covered in the audit as well. He mentioned the MPO had a new accounting firm and that will also help address these.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Overview of the LRTP Table Modifications to Address the Federal Certification Requirements

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Long Range Transportation Plan Table Modifications to address the Federal Certification requirements. He noted Ms. Karen Brunelle was at the last MPO Board meeting to present the report. He said the Federal Highway Certification report included a corrective action to modify the Cost Feasible Tables to include costs for the 2016-2020 time frame (included as the Existing plus Committed projects), identify which projects are federally funded, and show that the costs do not exceed revenues. He said staff has reworked the tables to include a 2016-2020 column that includes the project costs, have included the funding sources to indicate what projects are partially or fully funded with federal SU funds, and have adjusted some of the project phases within the modification requirements to ensure that the project costs do not exceed revenues for the five year blocks of time and overall. He reviewed the updated tables and noted they were also attached to the agenda packet. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Hamman questioned if changes made to this table impact schedules or funding. Mr. Scott replied no, adding that if costs go up significantly an amendment must be done. He said the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan will include changes due to adjusted revenues and used the example of the Big Carlos Bridge project.

Agenda Item #5 - Recent Legislative Discussions Regarding the Development of Three New Transportation Corridors

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the recent legislative discussions regarding the development of three new transportation corridors. He said a new bill (SB 7068) was filed as a committee bill at the end of February that directs FDOT to look at three new transportation corridors. He said these facilities would be tolled and considered Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facilities for FDOT. He added the bill proposes to take vehicle registration fees and direct them to the Transportation Trust Fund (some of this funding currently goes to general revenue) and directs that certain amounts would be used to fund access to toll facilities. He noted the three new facilities include a Collier to Polk County alignment, an extension of the Suncoast Parkway from Tampa to Taylor County (and into Georgia), and the Extension of the Florida Turnpike over to the Suncoast Parkway. He said these new corridors were also discussed in 2006 as part of FDOT's effort to look at future study areas for roadways to address congested areas and future growth. A map was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He said the background to the recent discussions about these three corridors seems to be related to economic development in the rural areas and hurricane evacuation. He then showed a slide on the projected funding to the corridors. Mayor Gore asked if this was similar to what was discussed at the recent MPOAC meeting. Mr. Scott replied yes. Commissioner Hamman asked if modeling had been done that indicates this would alleviate traffic on I-75. Mr. Scott said no modeling has been done yet. Mr. Scott said he would watch this legislative item and keep the committee informed.

Agenda Item #6 - Updated Information on the Transportation Related Legislative Issues

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update to the transportation related legislative issues. He noted the Florida Legislative Session began on March 5th and referenced the updated descriptions of some of the transportation related legislation that is being proposed. He said the updated information was provided in red. He reviewed several legislative items including SB 78 on sea level rise, HB 453 on micromobility devices, and HB 905 on the Florida Transportation Commission. There was a brief

discussion on legislation that might require speed detection devices to be installed on some toll roads. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked about the Alligator Alley legislative issue. Mr. Scott replied it is to extend funding for the fire department. Mr. Scott said he would continue to report back on these issues as the session progresses.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the upcoming MPO Agenda

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a brief overview of the upcoming MPO Board meeting agenda. He said the topics for the MPO Board meeting include approval of minutes, approval of an appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee, approval of amendments to the Traffic Management and Operations Committee Bylaws, approval of funding amendments, and approval of UPWP amendments. He said there would also be a presentation on the Able Canal PD&E study. Vice-Mayor Denham questioned the location of the Able Canal. Mr. Scott noted it was in Lehigh Acres. Deputy Mayor O'Flinn asked if this was the pathway project that had seen opposition. Mr. Scott replied yes, from a gated community along the Able Canal. Mr. Scott continued that there would also be an agenda item on the SR 80 sidewalk project. He mentioned that all of the committees had recommended moving forward with the project. Mr. Majka asked if Mr. Scott would show one slide and there was a discussion on the SR 80 driveway access issues. Mr. Scott noted there would not be an April meeting, and the next meeting will be held in May.

Other Business

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

Mr. John Majka again commented on his SR 80 driveway access issues with FDOT.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC Legislative Update and the MPO Board Meeting Agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 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.