

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2:00 p.m., June 12, 2019**  
Cape Coral Public Works Building  
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL  
Green Room/A200



## Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Mayor Kevin Ruane.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Bruce Butcher; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony; and City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Matt Roepstorff; Richard Perdue with the Lee County School Board Transportation District; 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

There were no public comments on new business items.

#### Agenda Item #2 - \*Review and Approval of the May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Gaile Anthony made the motion to approve the May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Joe Coviello and Councilmember Bruce Butcher seconded the motion simultaneously. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item #3 - \*MPO Executive Director Review

This agenda item was for the review of the MPO's Executive Director including completing and approving the evaluation attached to the agenda packet. Those Executive Committee members present filled out the evaluation sheets and handed them to Mr. Matt Roepstorff. Ms. Barraco noted that if any additional evaluations were emailed to her, she would forward them Mr. Derek Rooney. Mayor Ruane questioned how the discussion of the evaluations should be carried out. Mayor Coviello noted his one comment would be in regards to communication and requested more group emails to keep members better informed. Councilmember Anthony had two comments. She suggested in addition to the MPOAC Weekend Institute, coaching should be provided for new MPO Board members especially to assist with transportation planning language. Her second concern was for more community education between FDOT and the public. Mr. Scott noted he had conversations with FDOT about education on the new continuous flow intersection as it will be the first in the state. Councilmember Anthony mentioned education for roundabouts as well. She also commended Mr. Scott for a great job. There was a brief discussion on the inability of the committee to assess staff development due to lack of interaction. Mr. Roepstorff noted that any additional comments received from those Executive Committee members not present will be forwarded. Mr. Scott mentioned that the last time MPO staff had received a raise was in January of 2018 and questioned what the local governments had done for their employees. Mayor Ruane noted Sanibel does a combination of cost of living and merit based raises. Mayor Coviello commented that Cape Coral approved a three and a quarter percent raise per year. Councilmember Anthony said the City of Fort Myers does three percent. Councilmember Butcher said the Town of Fort Myers Beach was behind on salaries and is working on adjusting to market level. There was a brief discussion on unions and adjusting wages. Mr. Scott noted he was mentioned this as the new fiscal year begins July 1. Mayor Ruane asked if there was a motion.

**Councilmember Bruce Butcher made the motion to approve an MPO staff cost of living pay increase of three percent. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Councilmember Anthony asked what the amount of the last increase was. Mr. Scott responded it was three percent. There was a brief discussion on market rate and adjusting salaries.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - +Update on the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Grant Funding**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide an update on the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) grant funding discussed at the last MPO Board meeting. He said at the last MPO Board meeting, Alan Mandel with Good Wheels Inc. provided information on the reduction in their funding from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, and Mr. Mandel said he would provide the service splits for the different municipalities at the next MPO Board meeting. Mayor Ruane commented that he spoke with Representative Eagle on this subject. Mr. Scott continued the reduction for Lee County from FY 2019 to FY 2020 is indicated on the table from the TD Commission that was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mayor Ruane explained the history of the Miami-Dade non-use of funding and its reallocation to other areas. Mr. Scott said he was researching the CUTR study that the funding formulas were based on. Mayor Ruane referred back to the table and noted a majority of the counties lost funding with a large portion of additional funding for Miami-Dade. He suggested the formula might be a Tallahassee issue and the MPO Board may not be able to change it. Mr. Scott said he would like to see how it is calculated moving forward. Mayor Ruane suggested bringing in data from 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 to show possible variances. Councilmember Butcher asked if there was an overall state reduction. Mayor Ruane replied yes and also a redistribution. He said that Rodrigues and Eagle know more on this. Mr. Scott noted the grant opportunity from SB 7068 was signed by the governor but Good Wheels grant application was not selected. Mayor Ruane asked how many counties were part of the \$10 million funding opportunity. Mr. Scott replied at least sixty seven. Mayor Ruane referred back to the formula and the ability to quantify. Mr. Scott added there was a second opportunity for grants with applications due June 28. He noted the first round of approved grant funding was mostly ride share opportunities and at much lower levels than requested by Good Wheels. Councilmember Butcher asked the budget amount for Good Wheels. Mr. Scott explained. Mr. Scott then commented that Mr. Mandel suggested an additional letter from the MPO Board asking for the remainder of the funds to be split among the counties that lost funding. There was a brief discussion on ways to strengthen the grant proposal and trip costs.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Provide Input on the Long Range Plan Goals and Objectives**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for review and input of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) goals and objectives. He said there are now four new evaluation factors, that were highlighted on the first page of the draft goals and objectives attached to the agenda packet, the MPO must consider as part of developing the 2045 LRTP. He added in discussing the update of the goals and objectives at the committee meetings, the one evaluation factor that has a wide variation of opinion of how the staff should address is: Improve the resiliency of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation. Mr. Scott mentioned the discussions at the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on calculating bridge heights differently based on rising sea levels. He said he was open to suggestions from the Executive Committee before being brought to the MPO Board for approval. Councilmember Butcher questioned Goal #1 on safety and security. Mr. Scott explained. Mayor Coviello asked about Goal #10 and mitigating stormwater impacts. Mr. Scott said this addresses flooding due to drainage issues and what could be done to remedy that as part of a road improvement. Mayor Coviello said this was about identifying trouble areas and proposing solutions. Mr. Scott replied yes and gave the example of the placement of a retaining wall in the Fort Lauderdale beach area. Mayor Coviello then asked about enhancing travel and tourism.

Mr. Scott said this is like our beach project on San Carlos that is improving access to Fort Myers Beach. Councilmember Butcher commented this is related to Complete Streets and increasing activities like bicycling. Mr. Scott replied yes as well as providing better transit access. He added the funding only goes so far. Mayor Ruane asked if there was anything else that should be done under performance measures. Mr. Scott said yes and they are already in play, noting that connected and autonomous vehicles are addressed. Mayor Ruane noted the debate on autonomous vehicles and the difficulty in addressing the issue. Mr. Scott read the goal related to connected and autonomous vehicles. Councilmember Butcher asked how the new goals differ from prior goals. Mr. Scott replied some are the same, noting the planning factors are essentially the same with the exception of the newer ones. Mr. Scott referred back to the resiliency factor and asked if the approach was acceptable to the committee. Mayor Ruane said he was fine with the approach as it was not that much different than the past approaches. He asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #6 - Review of the MPO Board Agenda**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the agenda for the upcoming MPO Board meeting. He handed out the MPO Board agenda and reviewed the items including approvals of the TIP, Bike/Ped priorities, TRIP priorities, and SUN Trail priorities. Councilmember Butcher asked if non-motorized meant no electric bicycles. Mr. Scott replied maybe not as long as they are not over a certain miles per hour. Mr. Scott mentioned other items on the agenda included the TD update and the RK&K Old US 41 study. Mayor Coviello referred to SUN Trail and mentioned there would be a meeting Monday to provide solutions to residents along the SUN Trail alignment in Cape Coral. Mr. Scott said he plans on attending. Mr. Scott reminded the committee that there would be no MPO Board meetings in July and August. He added there would be no Executive Committee meeting in July.

### **Other Business**

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

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, commented on his SR 80 driveway access issue and his hopes to find a resolution soon.

### **Agenda Item #8 – Announcements**

Councilmember Anthony asked if there were any updates on the toll roads. Mr. Scott replied yes, noting that it passed. Councilmember Anthony questioned the funding. Mr. Scott said some will come from vehicle fees and some from SIS funds. He added there would be an oversight group set up. He also mentioned a call from a consultant on Lockett and its extension. Councilmember Anthony also commented on Lockett. Mr. Scott referred back to the toll road project noting they are due to have the group named by August or September with one year to determine issues and compose a report. There was a brief discussion on a prior Lee Tran presentation. Mr. Scott said he would gather more information and send it to Councilmember Butcher. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any other comments or announcements. Mr. Scott said he had none. Mayor Ruane called for an adjournment. Mr. John Majka gave additional public comment on shared use paths and sidewalks. There was a brief discussion on the SR 80 project and maintenance.

### **Agenda Item #9 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included the MPO Board agenda.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. \* Action Items \* May Require Action**

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