

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., August 22, 2019
Cape Coral City Hall, Room 2006
1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33990



MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mayor Kevin Ruane.

The roll was called. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman; Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes; and City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane. Others in attendance included 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 June 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the June 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Gaile Anthony and Mayor Joe Coviello seconded the motion simultaneously. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Identify an MPO Member to Serve on the FDOT M-CORES Task Force

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to identify an MPO Board member that will serve on the FDOT M-CORES Southwest Central Connector Task Force. Mr. Scott handed out information on the M-Cores Task Force. He said FDOT is seeking a member from the Lee MPO to serve on the Southwest Central Florida Connector task force. He said he would be acting as a temporary member until the MPO Board officially appoints a member. He mentioned FDOT is planning on holding seven meetings of the task force with a final report due to be issued by October 1, 2020. He said the first meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Tampa Convention Center. He noted FDOT is planning on having a morning meeting with all the members of the three separate task forces together and then in the afternoon hold separate meetings of each task force. He added the meeting could last until 8:00 p.m. as public comment doesn't begin until 4:45 p.m. He said the six additional task force meetings for the Southwest Central Connector Task Force will be held in each local jurisdiction in which the project is being considered, and he showed a map of the area. He added the dates and times of the meetings beyond the August 27th meeting are not known at this time. He mentioned the following the website that includes more information:

www.FloridaMCores.com Mr. Scott asked if the Executive Committee would like to appoint a member or bring this item to the September MPO Board meeting. Commissioner Hamman clarified that this position was in addition to the County Commissioner spot that was being filled by Commissioner Pendergrass. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mr. Scott added that he will try and attend all of the meetings so he can report back to the MPO Board, but they still may want to appoint a voting member in case approval at the end requires a vote. Mayor Coviello asked if Mr. Scott will be attending the first meeting in Tampa. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mayor Ruane asked if the meetings will be held monthly. Mr. Scott said it appears they will be held every two months, but they haven't decided on dates. Mayor Coviello suggested placing this item on the next MPO Board agenda. As a follow up to prior conversations, Mr. Scott mentioned a traffic count study that was under the

procurement section on the website. He said the study indicates the traffic counts would be low and there would be a shortfall based on projected toll revenue.

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the Aviation Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the endorsement of the Lee County Port Authority's (LCPA) priorities for aviation projects at the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport. He said the Lee County Port Authority's latest priorities for aviation projects at Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field for endorsement by the MPO were attached to the agenda packet. He noted the priorities are submitted to FDOT for their consideration and the TAC and CAC, by consensus as neither committee meeting had a quorum at their August meetings, had no additional comments on the priorities. He said many of the priorities for Southwest Florida International are in preparation for a second runway. Commissioner Hamman said the LCPA broke ground for the new tower earlier in the day and also mentioned a discussion with FAA on growth projections. There was a brief discussion on the time frame for the new runway, the new tower, and the proposed terminal upgrades. Mr. Scott said he was looking for approval so the priorities could be forwarded to FDOT.

Councilmember Gaile Anthony made the motion to approve the Aviation Priorities. Mayor William Ribble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - +Discussion about Scheduling and the Agenda Items for a Joint Lee and Collier MPO Board Meeting

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to gather input on the scheduling and agenda items for a Joint MPO Board meeting with the Collier MPO. He said there have been recent requests to hold a Joint MPO Board meeting with the Collier MPO, and staff is looking at potential dates and locations to hold it in October. He mentioned the last time we met jointly was October of 2017 and discussed the history of lack of quorum at previous meetings. He added there are several potential agenda items that have been discussed and they include: Status of the Old US 41 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from US 41 in Collier to Bonita Beach Road in Bonita, Input on the PD&E study on I-75 from East of CR 951 to SR 78, Coordination of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan update, Approving updates to the Joint Interlocal Coordination Agreement, and Seeking input on developing a Regional Van Pool Program. There was a brief discussion on the availability of MPO Board members for the proposed joint meeting date. The committee agreed that October 11, 2019 would be the best date that did not conflict with prior commitments. Several locations were suggested including the Bonita Fire Station, the Center for the Arts in Bonita, and F.G.C.U. Mr. Scott asked if the committee members had any additional suggestions for agenda items. Councilmember Forbes suggested 951. Mr. Scott said this could come up under the 2045 LRTP update item. Mayor Ruane asked if there were any additional comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #6 - Follow up on the Transportation Disadvantaged Funding Discussions

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a follow up to previous Transportation Disadvantaged Funding Discussions. He said at the June Executive and MPO Board meetings, there was a discussion about the changes to the Transportation Disadvantaged funding and the potential grant funding that was included in SB 7068. He mentioned a letter that was sent to request funding be split between counties, and the response given was that it could not be split. He added on the grant application process that has changed as authorization to expend the TD funds in SB 7068 has not been given to the TD Commission yet but this is expected to be rectified in September. Mayor Coviello mentioned he reached out to Mr. Mandel to send an email with the amount of funding to be requested from Cape Coral. There was a brief discussion on budgets and related deadlines. Mr. Scott said he would contact the TD

Commission to find out more about grant agreements. He noted at the next TD meeting they are expected to roll back to the previous funding calculations and this should raise the funding back up.

Agenda Item #7 - Information on the New Federal Transportation Bill

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the New Federal Transportation Bill called the Drive Act. He said a new Federal Reauthorization Bill is being proposed and referred to a section by section analysis of it that had been attached to the agenda packet. He said the bill covers five years at a cost of \$287 billion. He added the bill includes a number of new programs that include system resilience, emergency response, recovery and safety; grant programs for charging and alternative fueling infrastructure; carbon reduction incentives and a congestion relief program. He continued the bill has bipartisan support to move forward but they still need to figure out how to pay for it as the gas tax only brings in about seventy percent of the funding needed for the authorization level. Mayor Coviello asked about bridge replacements for Cape Coral. Mr. Scott said it might cover but there are criteria to determine eligibility. Mr. Scott mentioned the next steps for the bill and noted the current bill ends in September 2020. Councilmember Anthony asked about the possibility of light rail for our area. Mr. Scott replied there is not enough density in the corridor to support a rail corridor as currently developed, but there might be the possibility of using autonomous transit.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the MPO Board Agenda for the September Meeting

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the MPO Board agenda for the September Meeting, He handed out copies of the agenda to the committee. He then reviewed the items for the meeting including assigning a member of the MPO Board to the M-Cores Task Force, reporting the events of the first M-Cores meeting, approval of the Roll Forward Amendments, approval of the Joint TRIP Priorities, the scopes of work for the 2045 LRTP Transit and Public Engagement Elements, and the approval of the 2045 LRTP Goals and Objectives. He asked if there were any other items the Executive Committee would like included. There were none. Mr. Scott said he would notify the MPO Board of the Joint Meeting date, time, and location at the September meeting. He said October 11 is the most likely choice. Mr. Scott mentioned there was a conflict for the next Executive Committee meeting date as he would be attending an out of town conference. Mayor Ruane suggested moving the meeting. The committee consented to moving the meeting to September 18, 2019 and agreed to meet in the same room if possible, Conference 2006 next to the Cape Coral Council Chambers, at 2:00 p.m.

Other Business

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #10 – Announcements

Mayor Coviello questioned studies being conducted on the McGregor Bridge and mentioned a pilot program Cape Coral would be initiating. Councilmember Forbes left at 2:39 p.m. Mr. Scott said he would ask about the topic and get back with them. Mayor Coviello also discussed a plan that was developed by Mr. William Corbett with Cape Coral that Cape Council will be approving soon. Commissioner Hamman asked for Mayor Coviello to send an email when the plan is passed, and he will forward it to Lee County staff. Mr. Scott said it is possible that Cape Coral staff and Lee County staff are already in correspondence. Mr. Scott asked if the pilot program will be conducted during season. Mayor Coviello said they are expecting to begin in November. Mayor Coviello then questioned the Mid-Point Bridge. Commissioner Hamman said it is still being studied. Mr. Scott noted he will present more information when the study is further along. Commissioner Hamman asked about a date for the completion of the work on US 41. Mr. Scott said the project is expected to

take two to three years. He added the project is a utilities and median project that will progress along US 41 toward downtown. Commissioner Hamman asked for a specific time frame. Mr. Scott said there were three phases, and he can send a schedule. Commissioner Hamman noted the construction causes traffic issues. Councilmember Anthony said McGregor was done first and then they moved over to US 41 as they are both old facilities and need replacement. Mr. Scott said he would get an update from FDOT and forward the information. He mentioned the closing of Fowler due to flooding did not help the situation. Councilmember Anthony asked if the roundabout at Hanson was an FDOT or City of Fort Myers project. Mr. Scott replied that it was a City of Fort Myers project. There was a brief discussion on Ortiz, Hanson, and the school pick-up/drop-off congestion especially along Treeline.

Agenda Item #11 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included information on the M-Cores Task Force and the September MPO Board Agenda.

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

* Action Items + May Require Action

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