

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., March 11, 2020
Cape Coral City Hall, Room 2006
1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33990
(2nd Floor Conference Room next to Council Chambers)



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by MPO Chair/City of Bonita Councilmember Fred Forbes.

The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman; City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony and Fred Burson; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember/MPO Board Chair Fred Forbes; and Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember Bruce Butcher. Others in attendance included Kyle Grattic with the Lee County School Board Transportation District; John Majka, a member of the public; Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive of Southwest Florida; L. K. Nandam and Wayne Gaither with FDOT; 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. However, Mr. John Majka made public comment on the MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee letter written to FDOT regarding CUTR guidelines on non-conforming driveways.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Bruce Butcher made the motion to approve the February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - +Review of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and comment on the draft tasks and budget included in the FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He noted the only task missing was the Rails Study in the amount of \$400,000. Mr. Scott reviewed the MPO funding, budget, and planned tasks for the next two years. Mr. L. K. Nandam mentioned the I-75 analysis, Del Prado Interchange, and possible coordination with the Cape Coral Evacuation Study. Councilmember Fred Burson referenced the Fort Myers Bike Ped Update for \$75,000. Mr. Don Scott explained the update and the funding. Councilmember Burson asked the limits/location. Mr. Scott said it just covers the City of Fort Myers. Councilmember Burson then asked about the Bonita/Estero Rails Study. Mr. Scott said the main focus is on Bonita/Estero but it will also examine how that piece fits into the big picture. Councilmember Burson asked if these were old or abandoned rail lines. Mr. Scott replied no, they are existing, adding the rail companies have no clients south of Alico Road. There was a brief discussion on right of way, costs, time frame, and funding for the Rails Study. The committee also briefly discussed an old Collier project that was discontinued and where the funding for that project went. Chair Forbes asked if there was any more discussion or if approval was needed. Mr. Scott replied no approval was needed at this time. There was no additional discussion. A link to the Draft UPWP document is provided here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/MEC03a.Draft-UPWP-FY-2021-and-2022.pdf>

Agenda Item #4 - Status of the Long Range Plan Development Activities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) schedule and the updated project costs from the project costing tool that were attached to the agenda packet/included in the following link: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/T11b.Costing-Data.xlsm> He provided additional information on the LRTP schedule including the upcoming public workshop that is scheduled for April 7, 2020 with another public meeting scheduled in August 2020. He said the final LRTP will come to the MPO Board for adoption on December 18, 2020. Mr. Scott also reviewed the District One LRTP schedule. Councilmember Butcher asked if the cost feasible information was relative to revenue. Mr. Scott replied yes, it is the project cost versus revenue. Councilmember Butcher then asked about the timeline for budget development. Mr. Scott explained and then reviewed the project costing tool comparison noting there may be further discussion on contingency. Councilmember Anthony asked if there was roundabout estimate information included in the project costing tool. Mr. Scott said he did not recall seeing specific information on roundabouts, however a full intersection estimate was included. Councilmember Anthony commented the roundabout cost was most likely much less. Mr. Nandam then gave estimated costs for multi-lane and single-lane roundabouts. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with information on the 2050 cost feasible plan noting he was asking local staff for additional projects to consider. Commissioner Hamman discussed the Littleton/Kismet project changes that resulted in lower project costs. Mr. Scott said the cost would be less and the color of that roadway will change on the map due to the project changes. The committee briefly discussed traffic patterns on the Cape Coral bridges and bypass suggestions.

Agenda Item #5 - Update on the Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Mr. Scott provided an update on the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program. He passed out the Good Wheels audit, LeeTran emergency CTC agreement, and the LeeTran TD trip count from a ten day period. He noted that the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) voted to request the TD Commission investigate the collapse of Good Wheels. Mr. Scott added this also happened in Collier County, but they were given a week's notice. The committee members commented on their appreciation for LeeTran and interest in a forensic analysis being conducted on Good Wheels. Mr. Scott said Good Wheels had retained an attorney for debt collection purposes and explained the debts. The committee briefly discussed Good Wheels' claim that funding was not received from the state. Mr. Scott mentioned the FDOT/CUTR audit of Good Wheels. Mayor Ruane asked who Good Wheels owed. Mr. Scott gave a list. The committee then discussed liability, agencies involved, calculations of total owed by Good Wheels, misappropriation of funds by Good Wheels, auditing agency in charge, possible need for FDLE involvement, possible forensic audit, lack of/not following audit requirements for funding amounts given, lessons learned, cost of audit, and funding source for audit. Mayor Ruane said that he could do some investigating into Good Wheels non-profit tax filing statement. Mr. Scott said he might be able to find out additional information if he knew their contract number. Mr. Scott also mentioned that Good Wheels had debt when Mr. Mandel took over. Mayor Ruane indicated the MPO Board had a responsibility, and he would take the first step to gather information - however it should ultimately go to FDLE. Commissioner Hamman suggested LeeTran staff may already be unraveling parts of the Good Wheels situation adding he could request a letter to investigate Good Wheels. Mayor Ruane said the MPO Board could also write a letter. The committee then discussed Good Wheels' new bank account, Sunbiz information, ownership of equipment, striking appropriation requests, local contributions to LeeTran for service, Partnering for Transportation funding, and possible coordination workshop between local government staff if needed.

Agenda Item #6 - Information on the Status of the M-Cores Process and Task Force Meetings

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Status of the M-Cores Process and Task Force Meetings. He said FDOT is developing the M-Cores (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance) program consistent with SB 7068 that was signed into law last year. He added the last task force

meeting for the Southwest Central Florida Connector was held March 4th in Sebring. He reviewed the March 4th meeting content which included discussion on the draft map of avoidance, use of existing corridors, comp plans, consolidated land use map synthesis, new/enhanced corridors, relationship to other plans, amending existing comp plans, placement of the corridor, and existing trail infrastructure. The committee briefly discussed the Suncoast Parkway, corridors deemed multi-use, and the possibility to have multi-use pathways along M-Cores corridors. Mr. Scott then discussed the traffic analysis from 2018, the future forecast year of 2050, level of service, funding sources, program funding approach, program funding level, cost estimate examples, feasibility components, process, draft guiding principles, and upcoming task force meetings. Councilmember Burson asked if Mr. Scott could email the upcoming M-Cores meeting dates. Mr. Scott replied yes. He noted this was a difficult task for FDOT as everyone wants to know the corridor route and that may not be decided until much later. Mr. Nandam indicated the proximity of the corridor to a community will determine how much the corridor will help that community.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the March 20th MPO Board Meeting Agenda

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the March 20, 2020 MPO Board meeting agenda. He said the agenda items include the review and approval of the updated Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) due to recent coronavirus outbreak. Mr. Scott said the LRTP workshops can be done online but the MPO Board cannot meet over the phone. He added there were no MPO meeting scheduled for April. He said Mr. Derek Rooney would review the COOP and it will be submitted to the MPO Board for approval with any changes. Mr. Scott then reviewed the other MPO Board agenda items that included Cape Coral LIDAR MOU, LRTP update items, and TAC Bylaw amendments.

Other Business

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

Chair Forbes asked the time limit on public comment. Mr. Scott said it is usually three minutes, but it is up to the committee. Ms. Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive handed out bicycle safety stickers and invited all to the Ride/Walk of Silence. She then gave a brief background of her non-profit work, her company, and her personal bike/ped accident story. (The audio recording stopped during this agenda item due to a battery issue. There were no additional batteries available.) She also asked the committee for \$200,000 per year for the next five years to cover bike/ped outreach for Lee County. The committee discussed her proposal with her. Mr. Scott noted he had already set aside \$40,000 for some outreach. The committee further discussed providing a safe environment for bike/ped, outreach/education, planning, bad behavior of drivers and bike/ped, crosswalks, funding, and including in MPO budget. Commissioner Hamman said the committee could direct Mr. Scott to research funding sources and bring that information back. Mr. Scott said he could do the research without approval from the MPO Board but would need approval for funding. Commissioner Hamman suggested hiring a marketing firm with pre-set goals. Mr. Nandam said if the MPO invests money into education there are state resources that could be added. Councilmember Anthony left at this time. The committee briefly discussed the Safe Routes to School program. Chair Forbes noted he would need to leave soon due to a meeting he was scheduled to attend in Bonita.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Chair Forbes asked if there were any announcements. There were none.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC Legislative Update, the I-75 public meetings notice, the next MPO Board meeting agenda, the Good Wheels Audit, the LeeTran Emergency CTC agreement, and the LeeTran TD trip information.

Chair Forbes asked if there was additional public comment. Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave an additional public comment. He gave this public comment on the SR 80 pathway/sidewalk project. The committee discussed the project and Mr. Majka's comment. Councilmember Butcher left at this time. Mr. Scott noted he was waiting on answers from FDOT to respond to Mr. Majka. The committee further discussed the project description in the MPO Bike/Ped Master Plan, funding, population concentration and demographics in the Fort Myers Shores area, and difference between pathway and sidewalk. Chair Forbes left at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Hamman noted that there was now no-one chairing the meeting. He added that public comment was not normally done this way. He asked Mr. Nandam if a public meeting could be done on the project. Mr. Nandam said a public meeting could be done on the project for informational purposes. He said the project is in line with the MPO Master Plan. The committee further discussed the status of the project, funding, and current gaps on the south side. Commissioner Hamman thanked Mr. Majka for his comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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