

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:0 p.m. by Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Katy Errington.

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 Councilmember Gaile Anthony; Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Katy Errington; and City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; John Majka, a member of the public; FDOT's L. K. Nandam via conference call; Michael Tisch with FDOT; and MPO staff Don Scott and Calandra Barraco.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on New Business Items

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave a public comment regarding his complaint on the minutes from the March 11, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Don Scott said those minutes were not on the agenda. Mr. Derek Rooney commented that Mr. Majka could recommend changes as discussed at the meeting. Mr. Majka referred to the audio that was available from the meeting. Mayor Kevin Ruane commented that if he didn't agree with the minutes then he would suggest changes to be made and if Mr. Majka doesn't agree with the minutes then he could suggest changes to be made. Mr. Majka said he understood the minutes are not verbatim. Mr. Rooney noted that the minutes don't address the substance or findings of the report but rather reflect what happened at the meeting. Commissioner Hamman added that this was a business meeting of the Executive Committee not a question and answer session. He said there was time for public to share their opinion with a three minute time limit and it might be better to handle this outside of the meeting as Mr. Majka's time for public comment was up. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Gaile Anthony made the motion to approve the May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Kevin Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approve the Updated Continuity of Operations Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the updated Continuity of Operations Plan. He said the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has been rewritten and updated to include current conditions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. He added each MPO is required to have a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) so that the responsibilities and duties of the MPO are still carried out during an emergency situation. He mentioned the COOP provides the plan for continuing those operations either for a short time or an extended time period depending on the emergency event. He said the MPO staff has added language for an event such as a pandemic and the handling of public workshops and meetings. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Commissioner Hamman made the motion to approve the updated Continuity of Operations Plan. Mayor Ruane seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Follow up on Long Range Plan Transportation Revenue Projection Discussions

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to follow up on the development of local transportation revenues projections for use in the development of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Scott's presentation included information on local transportation revenues, gas tax collections, other trust fund collections, ninth cent gas tax collections/projections, five and six cent local option gas tax, revenue estimating conference, and county breakdown of revenues. He asked if there were any questions or comments. The committee discussed the possible consequences of being too conservative, amending revenue projections, impacts to planned infrastructure, cautions for being too conservative, exceeding projections over the last five years, adjustments based on history, including growth increment fund, upcoming Lee County budget meeting, impact fees and projects funded with these fees, increase in driving with decrease in flying, quarterly figures, rising gas prices, lag in reporting data, and re-examining latest data at the next meeting. Mr. Scott said he would bring back the additional data that would be available at the beginning of August. Mayor Ruane asked Mr. Scott to include the growth increment funding. Mr. Scott said he would bring back actual numbers to discuss at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #5 - SIS Cost Feasible Plan Update Information

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the SIS Cost Feasible Plan Update. He noted FDOT is currently working on an update to the 2045 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost feasible Plan and he provided information on what projects are being discussed. He also mentioned the survey link, contact information for Mr. Massey, FDOT's SIS Coordinator, and the prior Cost Feasible Plan. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if there was any discussion or questions. There was none.

Agenda Item #6 - Review and Provide Input on the Cape Coral Evacuation Study Scope of Services

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to gather input on the draft scope of services for the hurricane evacuation study that was originally raised by the MPO Board in 2015. The scope was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Scott's presentation contained information on background, scope tasks, and 2040 Cost Feasible plan map. He asked the committee if they could suggest who else needed to be coordinated with or if they had anything to add. The committee briefly discussed using the evacuation study done after Irma, flooding on I-95, informing evacuees of routes, overhead signs, using shoulders as additional evacuation lanes, highway advisory radio, and including a shelter analysis based on possible storm surge/flooding. Councilmember Anthony asked if this was just being done to examine evacuation from Cape Coral. Mr. Scott replied yes, that is the intent. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if the study would be completed for this hurricane season. Mr. Scott replied no. Mayor Coviello commented many hotels closed during the last hurricane. Vice-Mayor Errington asked how many shelters there were in Cape Coral. Mayor Coviello replied most were schools. Commissioner Hamman said he could look up the number of shelters. He also commented on storm surge projections during Irma, people going to shelters unnecessarily, traffic on roads, and gas issues. He added that the study came up because Cape Coral needs a direct route to I-75. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if there was additional discussion. Mr. Scott said he would reach out to Cape Coral staff to help select a consultant.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on the Development of the Long Range Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Development of the Long Range Plan. He said the MPO staff and consultant are planning on having a virtual public workshop on June 25th to replace the workshop that was scheduled in April that was postponed. He gave a short presentation that reviewed information on LRTP activities including the transit element progress, planned bike ped project, freight and goods study update, and alternative model run analysis results/maps. Commissioner Hamman asked for the MPO Board support of the Alico extension project. A brief discussion followed on the types of support, PD&E, challenges, Lockett Road extension, Lehigh population projections/buildout, Del Prado extension comment on new model run, District One network map, alignment and length, right of way purchased, and widening of Airport Hall. Vice-Mayor Errington asked if there was any other discussion or questions. There was none.

Agenda Item #8 - Overview of the June 19th MPO Board Meeting Agenda

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the June 19, 2020 MPO Board Agenda. Mr. Scott noted the main discussion point was whether to have the meeting in person or virtually. Mr. Scott added many places were closed and the usual meeting location at Lee County Admin East did not have enough space for social distancing protocols. He listed the places contacted and gave price estimates for each with the assistance of Ms. Barraco. The Executive Committee discussed budget for the in person meeting, alternative locations, necessity of a motion, and virtual meetings being approved by Governor DeSantis through July 7.

Mayor Ruane made the motion to hold the June 19th MPO Board meeting virtually. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

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

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave a public presentation with his public comment on his request to re-align the SR 80 sidewalk and pathway projects. Mr. Majka's presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Public-Safety-Presentation-by-John-Majka-RE-SR80-6-10-20-incomplete.pptx>

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #11 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no Information and Distribution Items.

Councilmember Anthony asked how far along the SR 80 project was. Mr. Scott said it was very far along, and it would be further discussed at the MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott mentioned a recent cost estimate to switch the projects and noted there is a construction meeting scheduled for later in the summer. He commented that the CAC voted to switch the project. He added that MPO staff would like a pathway on both sides. Mr. Scott also mentioned Mr. Majka gets into design details and the MPO Board is a planning organization. He said that Mr. Majka had gathered comments, and they will all be provided as a link.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

The meeting audio can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/06-10-2020-mecwma>

* Action Items + May Require Action

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