

## Meeting Minutes

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**The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by MPO Board Chair Fred Forbes.**

**The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff.** There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman (2:03 p.m.); City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony; Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember/MPO Chair Fred Forbes; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; and Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Ray Murphy. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; John Majka, a member of the public; FDOT's L. K. Nandam, Michael Tisch, and Wayne Gaither; 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 August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Mayor William Ribble made the motion to approve the August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Ray Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #3 - +Review and Provide Input on the LRTP Update**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review and provide input on the draft Needs Plan project list following the prioritization using the criteria analysis and update on the review of the LRTP elements. Mr. Scott gave a presentation that included information on LRTP activities, needs projects, evaluation criteria, project priority list, Lee County cost feasible alternative five improvements with and without connected/autonomous vehicles (CAV) at 35%, revenue calculations for capital projects, Transit Development Plan first ten years improvements, long term transit needs, recent transit needs revisions, bike ped needs projects, bike ped improvements funding table, LRTP freight element, examples of freight data collection/impact, and travel survey. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-3-LRTP-Update.pdf> Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Coviello asked if the LRTP addresses the capacity of Cape Coral. Mr. Scott explained the modeling that had been done to add lanes to existing bridges and said he could bring the data back to the next meeting. He added that the possibility of a new bridge had been looked at but is not included in the list. He commented that a corridor study may be needed and mentioned the upcoming Cape Coral Evacuation Study. Mayor Coviello asked about adding a bridge south of the existing bridges for residents heading to Bonita or Naples. Mr. Scott replied there were constraints due to the environment, existing system, and cost. Mayor Coviello noted the City of Cape Coral was working on creating jobs within the city but as it was still a bedroom community, he wanted to ensure discussion on increasing capacity out of the city. Mr. Scott noted the network within the city functions well but getting in and out of the city poses challenges. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - Update on the FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan Previously Presented**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan that was presented at a previous meeting. Mr. Scott mentioned that the draft SIS plan was previously presented to the MEC and included potential improvements that FDOT was asking for input on through a survey. He noted the FDOT Central Office recently sent out notification that the update of the SIS Plan is temporarily suspended due to the financial and economic uncertainties with the pandemic. He said, as such, SIS improvements that were being included in the modeling for the cost feasible plan are now being removed, and we are going back to what was previously approved in the 2018 version of the SIS that was attached as a table to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Scott reviewed the list and asked if there were any questions or comments. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-FDOT-SIS-Update.pdf> Mr. L. K. Nandam commented that FDOT Central Office stopped the cost feasible development due to the pandemic. He mentioned the revenue forecast over the next ten years and its impact on the analysis. He said they will restart next year. Mr. Nandam also commented on the I-75 study. Mr. Scott asked if an interchange improvement would have to fit the managed lane footprint or if a cheaper version could be done that may not fit within the footprint. Mr. Nandam commented this would be a product of the managed lane study and evaluated on a location by location basis. Chair Forbes mentioned the influx of new residents to Florida. Mr. Nandam noted there were land use and population projections that are taken into account. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Review of the MPO Priority Project Programming Analysis**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the MPO Priority Project Programming Analysis. He said FDOT staff recently requested that the MPO analyze the potential programming of the current Federal and State MPO priorities out to completion. He continued this analysis provides a potential scheduling of the project phases against the projected amount of revenue available each year. He referred to the initial analysis that was attached to the agenda packet for review and also mentioned the additional requests for project information that will help provide FDOT information through the project development process. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-Analysis-of-Priority-Projects.pdf> Chair Forbes asked if there were questions or comments. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Status of the Southwest Central Florida M Cores Meetings**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Status of the Southwest Central Florida M-Cores Meetings. Mr. Scott noted there were meetings scheduled for September and October. He reviewed information from the previous meeting including the date to submit the final report, potential illustrative paths/courses for the northern and southern areas, impacts for the southern area like hurricanes and panther habitat, guiding principles, specific instructions provided to the PD&E consultant, identified existing corridors in northern and southern areas, next meeting topics, and task force final report. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-M-Cores.pdf> He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - Update on the Federal Transportation Legislation Expiring on September 30, 2020**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Federal Transportation Legislation Expiring on September 30, 2020. He said the current federal surface transportation bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015, is set to expire on September 30, 2020. He noted there has been a House version and a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee version of the bill, but it does not appear that there will be a bill approved this year. He added, If that is the case, an extension

of the current bill will be necessary, by the end of the month, to keep the federal transportation funding flowing. He said the gas tax revenues provide around \$180 billion so anything above would require additional funding sources. He reviewed the proposed funding from the Senate and the House. He added they are waiting on a continuance resolution. He noted that anything being currently proposed is higher than previous years. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Federal-Transportation-Bill-Expiring.pdf> Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Overview of the September 18<sup>th</sup> MPO Board Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the September 18, 2020 MPO Board meeting agenda. He reviewed the agenda items including LCB and CAC appointments, draft 2021 meeting schedule, TIP Amendments, Roll Forward projects, Aviation Priorities, Rail Trail Scope, TSMO Plan, and LRTP updates. Chair Forbes asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

### **Other Business**

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

Chair Forbes noted the public comment time limit is three minutes. Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, commented on the availability of presentations prior to the meetings and the SR 80 projects. Chair Forbes asked if there were additional public comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #10 – Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Agenda Item #11 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included information on the SR 82 project award. Mr. Nandam commented on the multiple awards this project had been given and a national award that it is nominated for.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/09-09-2020-mec>

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\* Action Items    + May Require Action

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