

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

2:00 p.m., February 10, 2021
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by MPO Chair William Ribble.

The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes (2:01 p.m.); Village of Estero Mayor/MPO Chair William Ribble; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; and Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Ray Murphy. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; FDOT's L. K. Nandam (2:15 p.m.); 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 December 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the December 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approval of the Evacuation Study Request for Proposal

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Cape Coral Evacuation Study that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. He said the scope of services for the Cape Coral Evacuation study was previously approved by the MPO Board and now that the funding allocation for the project is approved, we are moving forward with the RFP. He said the draft RFP was being presented for the Executive Committee's review and approval in order to proceed with the advertisement. He also noted the City of Cape Coral staff will be involved in the ranking and selection of the firms that submit for this project.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the Cape Coral Evacuation Study Request for Proposal. Councilmember Fred Forbes seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Information on the Federal Infrastructure Program Funds Apportionment from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Funding Act

Mr. Scott presented this information only agenda item on the Federal Infrastructure Program Funds Apportionment from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Funding Act. Mr. Scott noted at the last MPO meeting, the District Secretary mentioned that there were some additional federal infrastructure funds that would be allocated to the state and to urbanized areas over 200,000. He then referenced the notice, that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website, describing these funds that include about \$380 million in additional funding to the State of Florida and about \$3.25 million that will be apportioned to our urbanized area (of a total of \$89 million to urbanized areas over 200,000).

He added these funds will need to be spent by September 30, 2024 and how the state is planning to spend their apportionment is still being determined. Mr. Scott gave a brief presentation with information on the overview of the apportionment, apportionment information, and possible project priorities. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-Federal-Funding.pdf> Mr. Scott asked if there were any comments or questions. Commissioner Ruane asked about limitations to the utilization of the funds. Mr. Scott responded that the projects need to be pre-vetted through the Federal process or a small project. Mr. Rooney questioned the funding limit of \$540,000. Mr. Scott said it was passed down from the Governor, based on CIP, and noted limitations. Commissioner Ruane mentioned a possible project off Pine Island Road that might qualify and said he would speak to Mr. Scott about it after the meeting. Mr. Scott said he was hopeful there would be news soon on the rules and time frame. Mayor Gunter asked if there were projects in the queue that could be advanced. Mr. Scott replied yes and noted there were several possibilities.

Agenda Item #5 - Review of the Lee County Mobility Measures

Mr. Scott presented this information only agenda item for the review of the Lee County Mobility Measures. He said FDOT recently released the updated mobility performance measures for each of the MPO areas. He referred to the mobility measures for 2020, that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. He said they are updated reflecting the 2018 data for our area. He then provided an overview of the analysis. Mr. Scott then gave a brief PowerPoint presentation that included slides with information on a review of the Lee County MPO Boundary data, mobility trends, level of service criteria data, annual MPO performance measures by MPO population size data, growth in Florida, Electric Vehicle (EV) registrations, EV charging stations, statewide measures, and current conditions mobility report. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-Mobility-Performance-Measures.pdf>

With the arrival of Mr. Nandam, Mr. Scott asked to revisit Agenda Item #4 on the Federal Funds Apportionment. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Nandam if he could provide additional information on the timing and what FDOT is doing. Mr. Nandam replied the funding provided to FDOT was being allocated to re-fund the projects that were pushed out. He added there was flexibility and the possibility to use the funds in future years to avoid amendments. Mr. Scott commented on funding being obligated by 2024. Mr. Nandam again commented on the possible flexibility of the funding but added they were still waiting on final direction. Mr. Scott again mentioned the total funding to the MPO would be \$3.25 million. Mr. Nandam provided a brief overview of the funding and explained the allocations. Mr. Scott added it was based on population. Mayor Ribble asked about the limitation of \$540,000. Mr. Scott replied that it may be more flexible. Mr. Nandam again noted they were still waiting on final direction.

Agenda Item #6 - Presentation on the TIGER Project Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Data

Mr. Scott presented this information only agenda item on the TIGER Project Bicycle and Pedestrian Count data. He explained the TIGER project for the benefit of the newer Executive Committee members and said the MPO is required to collect and report performance measures for the completed TIGER project segments each year for the next five years, consistent with the grant requirements. He continued the performance measures include the collection of bicycle and pedestrian counts along the roadways where the pathways, sidewalks and bicycle lanes were completed back in 2018. He said the hope in the collection of the data is to show the success of the project. He then reviewed the results of this year's data, in comparison to the data collected in 2015 before the project, and 2019 count data that was collected previously. Mr. Scott's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-TIGER-Counts.pdf> Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the February 19th Joint MPO Board Meeting Agenda

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the February 19, 2021 Joint Charlotte-Punta Gorda and Lee MPO Meeting Agenda. He reviewed the agenda items including a presentation on the I-75 Managed Lanes project, review of the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program, update on the Burnt Store Road improvements, status of planned SR 31 improvements, and the I-75 Purple Heart Highway Initiative. The agenda can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Lee-Charlotte-Agenda.pdf>

Other Business

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

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

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Ms. Barraco noted an email was received during the meeting from Sanibel staff indicating Mayor Mick Denham would not be in attendance.

Agenda Item #10 - Information and Distribution Items

The Information and Distribution Items included the January 30, 2021 MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/02-10-2021-mecwma>

*** Action Items + May Require Action**

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.