

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1:30 p.m., January 12, 2022
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by MPO Chair/Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington.

The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Village of Estero Mayor/MPO Chair Katy Errington; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk (arrived 1:40 p.m.); City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter (left 2:02 p.m.); Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Trinity Scott with Collier County; Anne McLaughlin with Collier MPO; Collier County Commissioner Bill McDaniel; Patty Hurd with Kittelson & Associates; Wayne Gaither, L. K. Nandam, and Victoria Peters with FDOT; and MPO staff Don Scott, Calandra Barraco, and Brian Raimondo.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments Taken at Each Item

Chair Errington noted public comments will be taken at each agenda item.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the October 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the October 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approve the Safety Outreach Scopes of Services

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the draft scopes of services for conducting safety outreach to help reduce fatalities, injuries and crashes. He referred to and explained the scopes that were both attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as slides at the meeting. He mentioned an email from Mayor Errington requesting the Village of Estero and Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) be included in the scope for outreach. He added that all outreach activities must follow the MPO procurement process and meet FHWA guidelines and requirements. He said he was seeking approval for the scopes. The committee discussed possible involvement of Estero High School students in a mock council meeting, involvement of the Estero High School principal and LCSO, directing students to focus on the 4 D's, including the Village of Estero learning project in the current scope, coordination with Lee Health, explanation of Lee Health staff and involvement, partnership with Waterman Broadcasting, explanation of funding and budgeted amounts for scopes, flexibility of funding years and timing, history of Streets Alive request for outreach funding, addition of aggressive driving to included factors, data being used to analyze crashes, following MPO process, amount of funding for each scope, example of mock council meetings in Collier County, coordination with Collier County Commissioners McDaniel and Taylor for information on setting up mock council meetings, public service announcements coverage of Lee and Collier

Counties, geofencing of digital ads, request for proposals, surveys, and ability to add details to scopes post-approval.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to approve the Safety Outreach Scopes of Services. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - +Discuss and Provide Direction on Recommendations for Regional Coordination between the Lee and Collier MPO Boards

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss and provide direction on recommendations for regional coordination between the Lee and Collier MPO Boards. He mentioned at a recent Collier MPO Board meeting, one of the Collier MPO Board members discussed some options for improving coordination between the Lee and Collier MPO Boards. Mr. Scott added the two MPOs have a coordination agreement done in 2009, that was attached to the agenda packet/posted to the MPO website/shown as slides at meeting, which calls for the two MPO Boards to meet on a yearly basis. Mr. Scott explained the two MPO Boards have not met jointly since 2017, following two consecutive years where a quorum was not attained, once by Collier for a meeting held in Bonita and once by Lee for a meeting held in Collier County. He also mentioned the MPO TAC, CAC and BPC have met jointly over the last few years, with the most recent meetings held in October of 2021. He continued the Collier MPO Board member, Commissioner McDaniel, has suggested some ideas to improve this coordination that includes having a much smaller subcommittee of each Board that would meet on a more regular basis and report those discussions, recommendations, and issues back to each of the MPO Boards at their regular meetings for discussion/action. Mr. Scott said per the discussion at the last meeting, staff had invited Commissioner McDaniel to attend the Executive Committee meeting to outline his recommendations for regional coordination moving forward. Mr. Scott introduced Commissioner McDaniel. Commissioner McDaniel then introduced Ms. Anne McLaughlin with the Collier MPO and Ms. Trinity Scott with Collier County. Commissioner McDaniel then discussed the importance of communication, Regional Planning Council issues, politics surrounding past joint meetings, ideas for transit, and possibility of joint subcommittee meetings between the Lee County MPO and Collier MPO Boards. Mr. L. K. Nandam commented that FDOT was supportive of the idea of regional coordination as it could increase the possibility of funding opportunities. Councilmember Fred Forbes said he was also supportive of the idea and suggested a representative of a bordering area with the adjoining county needs to be part of the subcommittee as well as a representative from the Lee County Commission. Mr. Scott proposed incorporating all bordering areas and gave the example of Cape Coral for Charlotte County coordination. Commissioner McDaniel said the respective MPO Boards could appoint their members for the subcommittee and then the meeting frequency could be decided. Commissioner Hamman asked how many members are on the Lee County MPO Executive Committee. Mr. Scott replied seven. Commissioner Hamman then asked how many Executive Committee members Collier had. Commissioner McDaniel said Collier did not have an executive committee. Mayor Gunter noted he had to leave to attend another meeting but briefly commented on agreeing that members from areas that border Collier and Charlotte should be chosen. Commissioner McDaniel mentioned a study done by FGCU that could be part of the subcommittee focus and suggested two members from each county. Mr. Scott suggested a minimum of three from each. Commissioner McDaniel also suggested that no quorum be required and subcommittee discussion reports be brought back to each MPO Board. Chair Errington asked if Mr. Derek Rooney could suggest a motion for this item. Mr. Rooney suggested wording for the motion.

Commissioner Brian Hamman made the motion to form an ad-hoc regional coordination committee consisting of three members of the MPO Board including one County Commissioner and two elected officials from communities adjoining other counties. Councilmember Darla Bonk seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Follow up on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge TIP Amendment and the Request to bring it back to the January MPO Board Meeting

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for follow up discussion on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge TIP Amendment. Mr. Scott mentioned at the last MPO Board meeting, direction was made to bring back the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge TIP amendment to the January MPO Board meeting and for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting. He referenced the TIP amendment that included a design phase for the addition of a sidewalk to the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge. He added that following the November MPO Board meeting, FDOT staff indicated that the MPO could have the additional time to determine the outcome of this project. The proposed TIP project amendment page was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Scott then introduced Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT to present additional information on the project. Mr. Gaither provided a brief history of the project and then introduced Ms. Patty Hurd with Kittelson & Associates. Ms. Hurd then gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on existing bridge design, demand, future demand, comparison with other bridges, connectivity, equity, benefits, and request. Her presentation can be viewed here: [Caloosahatchee Bridge Update](#) The committee discussed the bridge replacement schedule, lifespan of bridge, example of Cape Coral bridge replacement, FDOT bridge replacement list, structural soundness of bridge, functionally obsolete category of bridge due to lack of bike/ped facilities, importance of timing for project, timing of replacement for current bridge, major maintenance done recently on bridge, funding time frame, design build criteria package, necessary TIP amendment, timeline for process, use of existing consultant, funding for this project not taking away from any other project funding, lack of other projects in Lee County to use for this funding, examination of priority list by FDOT, need to start project immediately, ARPA funding, total amount for project, total time for completion of project due to no right-of-way needed, completion time for other projects that require right-of-way and are not shovel ready, pictures of project area, project alternatives, protection for pedestrians, width of lanes, width of sidewalk, reallocation of space, feasibility study completed and presented to MPO Board, LRTP amendment approved, use of facility, creation of loop across river and back, design, current issues with pedestrians/bicyclists on bridge, underserved communities on both sides of bridge, and opportunity for economic development and tourism. Mr. Scott said he would bring counts and comparisons to the MPO Board meeting.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to endorse the project. Commissioner Brian Hamman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Information on the Priorities, Federal Funding and Project Schedules

Mr. Scott presented this informational agenda item on the priorities, Federal funding, and project schedules. He provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides on project timeline, review of priority lists, bike ped and intersection projects, Cape LAP project example, transit capital funding for bus replacement, current replacements programmed, and supply chain/construction price increases. His presentation can be viewed here: [Federal Funding](#) He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Nandam commented on the analysis done by Mr. Scott and its usefulness to FDOT. Chair Errington asked Mr. Scott to keep the committee posted with any updates to this item. Mr. Scott said this item will come back at future meetings. Mr. Nandam commented that the time frame for notice of funding opportunities could take about a year. Chair Errington asked if there were any comments on this item or if it needed approval. Mr. Scott said it was not an approval item. There were no comments. Chair Errington thanked Mr. Scott.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the January 21st MPO Board Meeting Agenda

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the January 21st MPO Board Agenda. Mr. Scott mentioned the upcoming meeting agenda included TAC bylaw revisions, corridor congestion dashboard scope of services, LRTP amendments, TIP amendment, UPWP amendment, highway safety targets, update on the SR 865 study, and items for the joint Lee/Charlotte -Punta Gorda MPO meeting agenda. Mr. Scott then mentioned the February 18, 2022 meeting would be a joint meeting with Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO. Commissioner McDaniel asked Mr. Scott to send the joint meeting information to him. Mr. Scott said he would forward the joint meeting information. Chair Errington asked if there were any comments. There were none.

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

Mr. Scott announced several upcoming public meetings including the SR 865 PD&E and Fowler Street events. He said the public meeting information would also be included in the MPO Board agenda.

Agenda Item #10 - Information/Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included information on the Proposed Florida House and Senate transportation related bills for the 2022 legislative session. Mr. Scott briefly reviewed several of the bills and added that he would provide updates on any that move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/01-12-2022-mecwma?si=25ccef7aabff4ea79cc3f1d931c6f192&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

* Action Items + May Require Action

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