

## Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by MPO Chair/City of Fort Myers Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown.

The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Jon McLain; City of Fort Myers Councilmember/MPO Chair Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Sanibel Councilmember Mike Miller; MPO Treasurer/Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane; and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Richard Perdue with the Lee County School District; Tom Shadrack, a resident of Cape Coral; Wayne Gaither and L. K. Nandam with FDOT; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; and MPO staff Don Scott.

### New Business

#### **Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments Taken at Each Item**

Chair Watkins Brown asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #2 - \*Review and Approval of the June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mayor John Gunter made the motion to approve the June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Mike Miller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #3 - \*Approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Cape Coral for Reimbursement of Half of the Hurricane Evacuation Study Costs**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the interlocal agreement with the City of Cape Coral for reimbursement of half of the Hurricane Evacuation Study costs. The agreement was attached to the agenda packets and [posted to the MPO website](#). He reviewed the history of the agreement, reason for update, approval by Cape Council, and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Councilmember Mike Miller made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Cape Coral for Reimbursement of Half of the Hurricane Evacuation Study Costs. Councilmember Fred Burson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Provide Input on a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Planning Grant Application in conjunction with the Housing Authority of the City Of Fort Myers and the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for review of and input on a Reconnecting Communities planning grant. A map of the neighborhood investment area was included in the agenda packet, shown as a slide at the meeting, and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott provided a Power Point

presentation in which he gave a brief history, reviewed the map, provided additional information on the project ideas, and mentioned funding/matches. His presentation can be viewed here: [Reconnecting Communities Presentation](#) The committee discussed concerns with the area, overpass idea, involvement of the Housing Authority and boundaries, providing access to the new grocery store, coordination with the MPO, different cost sharing of different grants, grant cycles/deadlines, recommendations of staff, coordination with local jurisdiction staff, safety concerns of crossing SR 82, specifics of the grants, traffic signals on SR 82, crossings on SR 82, current pedestrian traffic in the area, competitiveness of Reconnecting Communities grant, issues of connectivity with each side of SR 82, matching process, approval of moving forward with planning grant, and looking at possibility of using Choice grant to supplement match.

**Councilmember Fred Burson made the motion to approve the application for the Reconnecting Communities Grant. Mayor John Gunter seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #5 - \*Complete and Approve the Evaluation of the Executive Director**

Mr. Derek Rooney presented this agenda item for the approval of the Evaluation of the Executive Director. He provided a [summary memo](#) of the evaluations. He reviewed the overall trend of evaluations, explained the responses, and noted the new contract negotiations in January with possibility of cost of living increase at that time.

**Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Evaluation of the Executive Director. Councilmember Fred Burson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Update on the Federal Discretionary and Formula Grant Programs**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Federal Discretionary and Formula Grant Programs. He provided a presentation with additional information on several of the grant programs including the Electric Vehicle corridor grant, carbon reduction grant, Protect program, and RAISE program. He also mentioned upcoming training opportunities, FDOT letters of consistency, and FDOT contact. His presentation can be viewed here: [FEDERAL GRANT PRESENTATION](#). The committee discussed providing the FDOT contact information to the MPO Board members, FDOT letters of consistency, creation of District One grants office and coordination of local jurisdictions with that office, electric vehicle program document for Florida, hiring contractor to address partnerships and technology, grant workshop time, local plans for electric vehicle charging stations and deferring to statewide plan, constant updates to statewide plan, grant process updates, regional considerations, and example of Burnt Store Road.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - Proposed Joint Lee and Collier Board Meeting on November 18, 2022**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Proposed Joint Lee and Collier MPO Board Meeting on November 18, 2022. He provided a brief history of the past meetings/discussions, possible agenda items, and asked for additional items. The committee discussed staff interaction between the three MPOs, coordination of staff of three MPOs, Joint TAC/CAC meetings with Collier on October 24, regional transit opportunities as suggested item for the joint meeting, FDOT presentation on Burnt Store at October meeting and possible invitation of Charlotte – Punta Gorda MPO Board members.

#### **Agenda Item #8 - Overview of the September 16<sup>th</sup> MPO Board Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an Overview of the September 16 MPO Board Meeting Agenda. He said the agenda items include 2023 draft calendar, LCB certification, CAC member

approval, approval of revised priority list, endorsement of aviation priorities, approval of carbon reduction priorities, and Seminole Gulf grant application letter of support. Mr. Scott noted that the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer will all be absent from the next meeting. The committee discussed the procedure for who will be in line to Chair the meeting and suggestion for the City of Fort Myers representative present at the meeting to Chair the meeting.

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion for the City of Fort Myers to Chair the September 16 MPO Board meeting. Mayor John Gunter 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**

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

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

Mr. Scott mentioned the upcoming public meetings on grants, SR 739, and SR 78. Mr. Derek Rooney reported on the status of procuring an accountant for the MPO. He said he would provide additional information as it becomes available.

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

The information and/or distribution items included public meeting notices for SR 739 and SR 78.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:07 p.m.

**An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MEC September 7, 2022](#)**

\* Action Items    + May Require Action

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