METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1:30 p.m., March 8, 2023
Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway E., Cape Coral, FL
Green Room/A200

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by MPO Board Vice-Chair/City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter.

The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane; City of Sanibel Councilmember Michael Miller; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson; Village of Estero Vice-Mayor Jon McLain; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; and Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King. Others in attendance included MPO Legal Counsel Derek Rooney; City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Victoria Peters with FDOT; Laura Dodd with the City of Cape Coral; Ned Baier with Volkert; Charles Heines with the Trust For Public Land; members of the public Barry Freedman, Steve Novosad, Marsha Ellis, Patty Whitehead, Deb Orton, and Emily Porter; and MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments Taken at Each Item

Vice Chair Gunter noted public comments would be taken at each agenda item.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember John R. King seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - +Provide Input on the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Mr. Ned Baier with Volkert provide a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on purpose, team, rails-to-trails program information, example of the Legacy Trail, map of proposed Rail Trail area and SUN Trail network, rail corridor market value, funding, feasibility study content, study area, methodology, alternatives, map of alignments, safety and security on trails, example of Snoqualmie Valley Trail, public involvement, feasibility study status, study findings, and next steps. The presentation can be accessed at the following link: Bonita Estero Rail Trail Mr. Baier introduced Mr. Charles Heines with the Trust for Public Land who provided information on their role in the process. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any member questions or comments. The Executive Committee members discussed option three, additional options or alignments, Estero portion of project funding, time line for funding, options to generate funds, adding time frame to contract for acquisition of funding, hurricane impact, support of bicycling, Bonita Springs Council support, definition of pathway, requirements for SUN Trail funding, right-of-way constraints for option three, large number of crossings for option three, state roads along configuration, types of taxes, funding used in other area, and percentage of support for funding. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any public comments. Members of the public Mr. Steve Novosad, Marsh Ellis, Berry Freedman, Patty Whitehead, Deb Orton, and Emily Porter provided public comments on this agenda item. In addition, Mr. Scott handed out printed versions of public comments on this agenda item received via email prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 - Update on the 2020 Urban Area Census Data Changes and Activities

Mr. Don Scott provided a Power Point presentation on the 2020 Census Data and Maps Release that included slides with information on MPO activities related to the 2020 Census, population changes, 2020 census map, 2000 census map, 2010 census map, urbanized area population estimates, growth, Transportation Management Area (TMA) table, Federal funding allocations, funding impacts, previous actions on urbanized census changes, and current urban area census actions. He asked if there were any comments or questions. The presentation can be accessed at the following link: Urban Area Census Data Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any member comments on this agenda item. The committee discussed urban area and metropolitan statistical area designations, population estimates and sources, coordination with FDOT, allocations, and permanent population. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item. There were none.

Agenda Item #5 - Information on the Safe Streets for All Grant Award

Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation on the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) Grant Award that included slides with information on background, funding, National Roadway Safety Strategy, Safe System Approach, basics of roadway safety, types of SS4A grants, overview of FY 2022 SS4A grants, roles and responsibilities of grant recipient, requirement of grant agreement, execution of grant agreement, and expenditure of Federal grant funds. The presentation can be accessed at the following link: Safe Streets for All Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any member comments on this agenda item. The committee briefly discussed criteria for funding. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there was public comment on this agenda item. There was none.

Agenda Item #6 - Review of the Current Proposed Transportation Legislation and Member Projects

Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation on the current proposed legislation and member projects that included slides on existing legislation and list of appropriations projects. The presentation can be found at the following link: Legislation and Appropriations Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any member or public comments on this agenda item. There were neither.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the March 17th MPO Board Meeting Agenda

Mr. Scott provided information on the upcoming MPO Board meeting agenda items including previous meeting minutes, Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Certification, FDOT Certification, Bonita Estero Rail Trail, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, and legislation. Vice Chair Gunter asked if there were any member or public comments on this agenda item. There were neither.

Other Business

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

A member of the public, Ms. Marsha Ellis, provided a public comment on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #10 - Information/Distribution Items

Mr. Scott mentioned the information and/or distribution item that was included in the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website on an upcoming public meeting regarding a project on SR 78.   Mr. Scott said he would include additional public meeting notices in the MPO Board packet. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: MEC March 8, 2023

* Action Items   + May Require Action