

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**1:30 p.m., October 11, 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/Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Sanibel Mayor Richard Johnson; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson; City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Laura Carr and Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; 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; Laura Dodd with the City of Cape Coral; Wayne Gaither with FDOT; and MPO staff Don Scott 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 August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember John King made the motion to approve the August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Fred Burson seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #3 - \*Review and Approve Changes to MPO Human Resources Documents/Procedures**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the changes to the MPO Human Resources (HR) Documents/Procedures that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott noted the last cost of living adjustment was done in June of 2022. He also noted that this his salary was adjusted back in February as part of his contract. He said this agenda item was to update job descriptions and adjust the pay ranges. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Human Resources](#). He asked if there were any questions. Vice-Chair Gunter commented on the MPO Comparison salary slide, asked how many total employees, and asked if Mr. Scott had a recommendation. Mr. Scott noted there were four total employees and suggested an adjustment of Ms. Barraco's salary to the survey base rate of \$56,810 and then provide a cost of living adjustment of five percent for employees. Councilmember Laura Carr commented on the method to compare, data reflected, and the reasonable request of five percent for a cost of living adjustment. Vice-Chair Gunter asked about the last cost of living adjustment. Mr. Scott replied it was done in June of 2022, and the recent average cost of living adjustments in the local area were 5.29%. Vice-Chair Gunter commented on the MPO current salaries and the request to add the five percent increase to existing salaries. Mr. Scott said that was correct. Councilmember Carr noted there should also be an adjustment made to ensure everyone is at least at the base rate. Mayor Richard Johnson asked if any of the MPO staff were below the base rate. Mr. Scott replied yes, and Councilmember Carr noted that Ms. Barraco was below the base rate. Vice-Chair Gunter clarified that only Ms. Barraco was below the minimum. Mr. Scott replied yes. Vice-Chair Gunter further clarified that the five percent cost of living adjustment would be provided to each MPO staff member and Ms. Barraco's salary would also be adjusted to the base rate. Mr. Scott

replied yes, that Ms. Barraco's salary would be brought up to the base rate and then a cost of living adjustment would be applied to each staff member. Vice-Chair Gunter asked for a motion.

**Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes made the motion to raise Ms. Barraco's salary to the base rate and then apply a five percent cost of living adjustment for each MPO employee. Councilmember Fred Burson seconded the motion.**

Mayor Johnson noted he agrees with the five to five and a half percent increase as it was consistent with what Sanibel had just done. Mr. Scott said Sanibel data had also been pulled and reviewed. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if a roll call vote was needed. Mr. Scott replied no. Vice-Chair Gunter called the vote.

**There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #4 - Presentation on the SR 78 Corridor Vision & Action Plan**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the SR 78 Corridor Vision and Action Plan. He reviewed the Power Point presentation that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott asked about the timeline. Ms. Laura Dodd replied FY 2025. Mr. Wayne Gaither agreed. Vice-Chair Gunter noted the PD&E study had been moved up due to a contribution of five million in funding from Cape Coral. The committee briefly discussed prior plans to extend Hancock through the vacant shopping lot to Old 41, study done, lanes added to Pondella, new development of vacant shopping center, involvement of Commissioner Hamman in the redevelopment of the area, old plan for on street parking and two through lanes, and modeling.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Information on the Proposed 2045 LRTP Amendments to Address Appropriations, Local Funding Commitments, and the Moving Florida Forward Program**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the Proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments to Address Appropriations, Local Funding Commitments, and the Moving Florida Forward Program. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [LRTP Amendments](#) Mr. Scott noted he would update the SR 78 PD&E amount to five million. Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there was any discussion or public comment. There was no discussion and no members of the public present. Mr. Scott noted this would come back to the MPO Board as a draft. He said it was added to the MEC agenda to discuss Burnt Store for Commissioner Ruane as he would not be at the MPO Board meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Update on the 2050 LRTP Revenue Discussions**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Revenue discussions. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Revenues](#) Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there was any public comment. There was none. He asked if there was any committee discussion. There was none.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the October 20, 2023 MPO Board Agenda**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the October 20, 2023 MPO Board Meeting Agenda. He reviewed the meeting topics including review and approval of the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan scope, adoption of the 2024 Highway Safety Targets, approval of the SUN Trail Priorities, review of the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2025 through FY 2029, and review of the proposed 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments. Mr. Gaither said the work program was expected to be released on Friday and explained the new process of standardization of the work programs through central office. Mr. Scott noted that any adjustments

needed to the LRTP could be made, and it would come back in November for final approval. Mr. Scott also mentioned the SR 31 public hearing that was included in the information and distribution items.

### **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 mentioned the MPO Board meeting was scheduled for October 20, 2023.

#### **Agenda Item #10 - Information/Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included the notice for the SR 31 public hearing. Vice-Chair Gunter asked for an update on the Del Prado North extension to I-75. Mr. Gaither said he would provide information on the managed lanes study and present a report at the MPO Board meeting. Deputy Mayor Forbes noted that the Lee County MPO does not want to be merged with the Collier MPO and action should be taken. Mr. Scott said both MPO Boards have made that clear and action would be up to the members. Vice-Chair Gunter asked about legislation. Mr. Scott provided the example of Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough. Deputy Mayor Forbes noted that the study should present both positive and negative aspects. Vice-Chair Gunter said he could incorporate a recommendation to oppose the Lee and Collier merger into the upcoming delegation and also individual members could reach out to their delegates. Deputy Mayor Forbes also asked about the Old Route 41 project timeline. Mr. Scott said the design is scheduled for FY 2027 and construction is further out. Mayor Johnson commented on FDOT's continued work on repairing and rebuilding the Sanibel causeway and eagerness to wrap up the project by the end of the year. Mr. Scott asked if permanent repairs would be completed by year end. Mayor Johnson replied yes, that was still the schedule although the causeway islands were not included. He also noted that Sanibel and Captiva were open for business. Mayor Gunter said he had just been out to Tween Waters. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Mayor Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember King seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.**

**An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MEC October 11, 2023](#)**

\* 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](mailto: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.