

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1:30 p.m., November 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/Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter.

The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Commissioner Kevin Ruane (1:33 p.m.); City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Michael Miller; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson (1:41 p.m.); City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; Village of Estero Mayor Jon McLain; and Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King. Others in attendance included City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Laura Dodd with the City of Cape Coral; Victoria Peters and Wayne Gaither with FDOT (1:37 p.m.); 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 October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember John R. King made the motion to approve the October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Jon McLain and Vice-Mayor Michael Miller simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approve the TIGER Project Data Collection Scope of Services

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the TIGER Project Data Collection Scope of Services that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [TIGER Scope](#) Vice-Chair Gunter asked if there was discussion on this item. Vice-Mayor Miller asked about the cameras. Mr. Scott explained the camera count system. There was no public comment on this item and no further discussion from the committee members.

Vice-Mayor Michael Miller made the motion to approve the TIGER Project Data Collection Scope of Services. Councilmember John R. King seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

At 1:33 p.m. MPO Chair/Commissioner Ruane arrived and MPO Vice-Chair/Mayor Gunter transferred the meeting to him just before Agenda Item #4.

Agenda Item #4 - +Review and Comment on the Updated MPO/LeeTran Transit Planning Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and comment on the updated MPO/LeeTran Transit Planning Interlocal Agreement that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Chair Ruane asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Gunter made the motion to approve the MPO/LeeTran Transit Planning Interlocal Agreement. Vice-Mayor Michael Miller and Mayor Jon McLain simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approve Updates to the MPO Personnel Manual

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the updates to the MPO Personnel Manual that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott reviewed the changes that were made to the manual and asked if there were any questions or a motion for approval. Chair Ruane asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion.

Mayor Jon McLain made the motion to approve the updates to the MPO Personnel Manual. Councilmember John King seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Information on Transportation Legislation for this Session

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide information on the current transportation legislation. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Proposed Legislation](#) Chair Ruane commented on bundling funds, permanent replacement for all traffic lights in Lee County, and reimbursement of funds expended after Hurricane Ian. Vice-Mayor Miller asked about the approval of the action plan. Chair Ruane explained the approval of funds and submittal of request to revise plan in order to request additional funds to cover shortfall.

Agenda Item #7 - Overview of the November 17, 2023 MPO Board Agenda

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the November 17, 2023 MPO Board Agenda items including approval of amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program and the Long Range Transportation Plan, and adoption of a passenger rail program priority for a Southwest Florida Intercity Rail Study. Chair Ruane asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Fred Burson asked about the funding source for the Challenger project. Mr. Scott replied that it was in the program as funded by the City of Fort Myers. Chair Ruane asked if there were additional questions. 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 mentioned the possible 951 extension. Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes further explained the extension and related information. Mr. Scott provided additional history on the extension. The committee discussed a feasibility study, development in the area, expense of the extension, providing an option for travel east of I-75, connections with Alico and SR 82, improving mobility, needed right-of-way and utilities, toll facilities, examining the area east of I-75 for connections, environmental concerns, examples of successful toll roads in other areas, future projected growth in east Lee and Collier, possible connections from Alico to Greenbriar to Sunshine to SR 80, constructing in phases, ownership of road, M-CORES project, hurricane evacuation, plans for Corkscrew south, modeling to determine use, growth of Lee County, and stress on current roadway system. Chair Ruane asked what direction the committee had for Mr. Scott regarding the 951 extension. Mr. Scott suggested that he conduct some additional modeling, gather data, and frame a feasibility study for consideration at a

future meeting. Chair Ruane noted this was accepted by general consensus of the committee members present. Chair Ruane asked if there were additional announcements. Ms. Barraco noted there was no meeting scheduled for December, and the next MEC meeting was scheduled for January 4, 2024.

Agenda Item #10 - Information/Distribution Items

There were no information or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MEC November 8, 2023](#)

* Action Items + May Require Action

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