

## Meeting Minutes

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

The roll was called and recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those MEC members in attendance included Commissioner Kevin Ruane; City of Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Michael Miller; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Jon McLain. Others in attendance included City of Cape Coral Police Department Officer; Derek Rooney with Gray Robinson; Laura Dodd with the City of Cape Coral; Victoria Peters, Wayne Gaither, and L. K. Nandam with FDOT; Riley Kempton with Quest; Ralph Bove and Ned Baier with Volkert; 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

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

#### Walk-on Agenda Item XX – Review and Ratify BPCB Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Gogoi presented this walk-on agenda item for the review and ratification of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCB) Bylaws Amendment that was emailed to the committee and [posted to the MPO website](#) on Tuesday, January 9. Mr. Gogoi noted this agenda item was being brought to the Executive Committee due to the cancellation of the January 19, 2024 MPO Board meeting and the need for ratification before the January 23, 2024 BPCB meeting. Mr. Gogoi then reviewed the amended bylaws. Mayor Gunter asked about the BPCB membership. Mr. Gogoi listed the members and explained the purpose of the BPCB. The committee briefly discussed the different processes to add members to the BPCB. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any additional committee member questions. There were none. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Vice-Mayor Michael Miller made the motion to ratify the BPCB Bylaws Amendment. Mayor Jon McLain seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### Agenda Item #2 - \*Review and Approval of the November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made the motion to approve the November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Vice-Mayor Michael Miller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### Agenda Item #3 - +Review and Provide Input on the Draft Scope of Work for the CR 951 Extension Feasibility Study

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and input on the Draft Scope of Work for the CR 951 Extension Feasibility Study that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [CR 951 Draft Scope](#). Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Ralph Bove with Volkert who conducted the prior CR

951 study and added that Mr. Bove would also be doing this updated study. Mr. Scott said this item was being brought for review and comments now, it will be brought back as an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for funding, and then the study will be conducted. Mayor Gunter asked if there was any discussion from the Executive Committee. There was none. He asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #4 - Review and Provide Input on the Lee, Charlotte/Punta Gorda, and Sarasota Manatee Joint Regional Agreement**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and input on the Lee, Charlotte/Punta Gorda and Sarasota Joint Regional Agreement that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott noted he was not asking for approval now as the item will come back as an item at the Joint Lee/Charlotte meeting or at our next MPO Board meeting. He said that Mr. Derek Rooney was reviewing this agreement that was composed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) attorney. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any comments from the Executive Committee. There were none. He asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

#### **Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on the Proposed Legislation to do a Study on Combining the Lee and Collier MPOs**

Mr. Scott presented this discussion item on the Proposed Legislation, SB 1032, to do a Study on Combining the Lee and Collier MPOs. A link to the proposed legislation was included in the [staff report](#) of the agenda packet. Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [SB 1032](#) Mr. Scott also distributed [a letter from Representative Adam Botana](#) to Mr. L. K. Nandam. The executive committee discussed a lack of a companion bill in the house, regional coordination, addressing legislators' concerns, joint meetings, formation of a subcommittee to focus on regional issues, need for quorum, recommendations, dilution of voting power, recording opposition to merging the MPOs, similar study done with Pinellas/Pasco/Hillsborough, results of census, Collier MPO Board member attendance at prior meeting, lack of quorum at past joint meetings, ensuring a study would examine both negative and positive aspects of combining MPOs, examples in other areas of Florida, growth between Lee and Collier counties, bill sponsor, ensuring advisory board consists of representatives from areas bordering the Lee/Collier county line, advisory board consisting of three members plus alternates from each county, possibility of a neutral non-political chair, advisory group bringing recommendations back to individual MPO Boards, possibility of amendment by Representative Tiffany Esposito, need for some cities to drop off MPO Board if combined due to cap in statutes, preparation of joint resolution to authorize Executive Committee to assign members to a regional advisory committee which would meet quarterly, possibility of changing interlocal agreement, lack of formal executive committee of Collier MPO Board, coordination between Lee and Collier attorneys, and taking steps to address regional concerns.

**Commissioner Kevin Ruane made a motion to coordinate with the Collier County MPO Board to form a regional subcommittee backed by a resolution and moving forward with the recommended Lee and Collier MPO staff regional coordination activities to include a regional component of the Long Range Plan, a joint congestion management plan, and a CR 951/east of I-75 feasibility study to address regional and legislators' concerns. Mayor Jon McLain seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Review of the Preliminary Crash Statistics for 2023**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Preliminary Crash Statistics for 2023. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Crash Statistics](#)

Mayor Gunter asked if there was any discussion from the Executive Committee. Mayor McLain asked if the presentation could be forwarded to the members. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mayor McLain also mentioned the population growth and resulting increase in traffic congestion. Mr. Scott asked FDOT staff about the differences in the two reporting sources' data. Mr. Nandam was unsure of the reason for the discrepancy. Mayor Gunter asked if there was additional Executive Committee comment. There was none. He asked if there was public comment. There was none.

### **Agenda Item #7 - Discuss Proposed Joint Agenda Items for the February Lee and Charlotte/Punta Gorda MPO Board Meeting**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for discussion on the Proposed Joint Agenda Items for the February 16, 2024 Lee and Charlotte/Punta Gorda MPO Board Meeting. He noted this was the next MPO Board meeting as the January 19 meeting had been cancelled. He reviewed the list of proposed agenda items that as included in the [staff report](#) for this item. He asked if the Executive Committee had additional items for the meeting. The committee members discussed the Burnt Store Road project, FDOT partnership with Lee County, expediting design, grant funding, local funds, amendment to design contract, impatience of constituents, and time frame of three years to bid. Mayor Gunter asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Overview of the January 19, 2024 MPO Board Agenda**

Mr. Scott noted the January 19, 2024 MPO Board meeting had been cancelled due to lack of quorum. Mayor Gunter mentioned that Cape Coral had budget meetings planned for January 18/19 that prevented all Cape Coral members of the MPO Board from attending the January 19 meeting. Mr. Scott added that if either all five of the Commissioners or all five of the Cape Coral members cannot attend an MPO Board meeting, it is difficult to achieve quorum. Mr. Scott noted that one of the action items from the MPO Board agenda was brought to the Executive Committee, one will be brought as a resolution to be signed by one of the MPO Board officers, and the others will be added to the March MPO Board agenda.

### **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 again mentioned the January 19, 2024 MPO Board meeting was cancelled. He said the MPO audit will be brought as an agenda item to the next MEC meeting scheduled for February 7.

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

The information and/or distribution items included [a letter from Representative Botana](#).

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.**

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [MEC Meeting Audio January 10, 2024](#)

\* Action Items + May Require Action