



JOINT COLLIER AND LEE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Florida Department of Transportation Southwest Area Office/SWIFT SunGuide Center
10041 Daniels Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33913

October 6, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Don Scott, Lee County MPO, at 9:36 a.m. Calandra Barraco with Lee County MPO called roll for Lee County TAC. A quorum was not met. Eric Ortman with Collier County MPO called roll for Collier TAC. They did not have quorum either. The meeting was started as a committee of the whole.

Agenda Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Don Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance for the meeting.

Agenda Item #3 – Election of a Chairperson

Andy Holland with Collier County was elected to Chair the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #5 – Approval of Agenda

Don Scott asked for a requirement of committee action on Agenda Item #7A to approve a resolution for SR82. Ron Gogoi confirmed this request.

Agenda Item #6 – Action Items

A. Review and Approval of the Revised Regional Roadway Network and Review of the Proposed Joint Resolutions for Board Action

Don Scott recommended that the MPO amend the Lee Collier Regional Roadway network, given as handout/attached to agenda, and review the proposed Joint Resolutions for Board action. The regional

roadway network is being revised to reflect projects that have now been completed (like the Metro Fowler connection) and to adopt a joint resolution designating the network, handout and attached to agenda. The county will do a specific resolution for the Burnt Store Road project but now we are required to have a resolution approving the regional map with the two boards. In addition, as part of this process, the Joint MPO Board will be asked to approve the attached resolution for the previously adopted TRIP priorities to help cover us on possible future funding opportunities. These resolutions are being done to allow the local agencies to enter into the new FDOT TRIP funding agreements that now require a joint resolution designating the facility as a regional facility (and including a resolution that covers the TRIP priorities will also help cover the possible future project agreements). Mr. Scott also pointed out that Collier wanted to call out the Everglades at I75 to include wording indicating that it would be somewhere in that area. Mr. Scott opened the item up for comments.

Andy Getch from Lee County Community Development asked if TRIP priorities would be updated as a result of this action or if it is an attachment and would be looked at later. Mr. Scott responded that it will not be updated as a result of this action and they are keeping what was previously done for now. For the next cycle they will add new projects, year etc.

Persides Zambrano with the Cape Coral Public Works Department moved the motion as recommended. Andy Getch seconded the motion. Before it was approved, a request was made that the line "at I75" wording be changed to reflect the change in Collier LRTP wording of proposed "in the vicinity of" Everglades. The other change that was requested is removing the word "proposed" at the CAT transfer at 41/Airport to CAT transfer facility since the facility is completed. A clarification was also made that the Rosa Parks intermodal hub was an actual SIS connector. Persides Zambrano moved to approve the motion as amended and Andy Getch seconded the motion as amended. It was approved unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of the Revised Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network

Don Scott recommended that the MPO amend the Lee Collier Bi-County Regional Non-Motorized Map as shown in Attachment A. At the Joint Lee and Collier Bicycle Pedestrian meeting in the spring, the Lee Collier Regional Pathway map was revised to add and remove segments, revising the status of segments and updating the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail alignments that were recently added to the State maps. Following those changes, the changes were not adopted by the Collier MPO as there were numerous questions raised by staff and the Collier PAC regarding the status of individual projects, the definition of pathways on some of the road segments, and the interpretation of the map by the public and users of the map.

On July 22nd, staff from the Lee and Collier MPO's met to resolve the issues, and it was proposed that (1) we show the network in a single color (2) change the title from Pathway to "Non-Motorized" Network as right of way constraints in certain urban areas within the network will not allow the accommodation of new shared use paths and those segments will have to remain as existing sidewalks, and (3) maintain separate maps as part of the respective local jurisdictions Bicycle Pedestrian Plans for staff and committees' use that illustrate the status/cross-sections of individual segments on the network as well as what type of facilities will be built. At the October 6th meeting, the Joint Committees were asked to recommend MPO approval of the revised map, attached to agenda packet.

In addition, due to recent changes in FDOT agreements that include the need for resolutions for the processing of funding agreements for projects, the staff is proposing to include a resolution approving the Joint Regional Map. A draft of the resolution was attached to the agenda for Joint Committee review, input, and MPO Board action.

Mr. Scott also mentioned that he had been contacted about the environmentally sensitive nature of developing the River of Grass Greenway and how this would affect the project or if it meant the resolution was in support of the project. Mr. Scott indicated there were other issues besides the environmental impacts like the impact to the Native Americans living along the corridor and the cost. The map is simply to make it eligible for funding in the future and it doesn't indicate endorsement of any particular project at this point.

There was a motion to approve the map and the resolution from Carl Karakos and a second from Michelle Arnold. It was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 – Reports and Presentations

A. Review of the Regional Components of the National Highway System and Functional Classification Updates

Ron Gogoi with Lee County MPO recommended that the Lee and Collier County MPO Boards adopt a resolution at the October 21st meeting requesting FHWA to designate SR82 as a National Highway System facility. He provided an overview of the plan to submit a request to the FHWA for adding SR82 to the National Highway System (NHS) that will allow projects on this roadway to be eligible for National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds and FAST lane freight grants. The SR 82 segment is from Fowler Avenue in Lee County to SR 29 in Collier County and proposal request is to classify it as a principle arterial. The additional funding programs open up opportunities to program the capacity improvements on SR 82 in Collier County, and the ultimate 6-lane configuration on those segments which are programmed for 4-lane widening, or construction is under way. The request to add SR 82 to the NHS will require joint collaboration and coordination among the adjoining counties and the MPOs through which the roadway runs. Resolutions have to be adopted by the Lee County and Collier County MPOs, and the Hendry County BOCC. A Statement of Justification was included in the agenda packet. The Draft Justification Document was handed out today for review. The complete list of Lee MPO roadways and roadway segments for NHS designation changes were included in the agenda packet.

The Lee County MPO started the process for the NHS designation changes months ago to achieve more funding. The process requires it to go through FDOT. As part of this process, FDOT asked for cleanup of existing NHS designations. The SIS highway miles should match NHS.

There does not appear to be a downside of this designation. It federalizes the roadway and projects may take a little more time. Local improvements and safety concerns shouldn't be a problem because it must be in compliance with NHS. Certain local segments in Lee, like First and Second Streets, will be deleted to match with local control of those areas. It would not necessarily allow for more outdoor advertising. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Harris to find out about outdoor advertising policy on NHS roadways.

Mr. Gogoi asked for a motion to support this designation. The motion was moved by Andy Getch and seconded by Carl Karakos. It was approved unanimously.

B. Regional Transit Discussion

Michelle Arnold with Collier Area Transit (CAT) stated there will be a reevaluation of the 2 Immokalee Circulator routes (Routes 22 and 23) over the next few months. One public meeting to solicit input from the community in an effort to identify origins and destinations that are not currently being served by the system has already been conducted. They will be doing surveys to solicit more information. They recently purchased the Remix system route planning tool that includes Title VI information and costs of proposed runs.

As part of the process, regional opportunities for connection into Lee and Hendry counties will be evaluated. SR82 is one of those routes that will be looked into. Another example, is service to iTech that has been identified as a destination that both residents of the Immokalee community and adjacent counties are interested in accessing with transit.

Additionally, Collier County and Hendry County are partnering with Good Wheels to provide a rural route that would provide public transportation service between the counties as well as connecting with Glades County. Good Wheels will be awarded a grant from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) to provide this service. Additionally, Don Scott suggested there have been discussions about the need to get from Labelle to Riverdale or from Lehigh to Immokalee. This would require finding money from another source, such as grants.

Connection between Lee and Collier has been very successful in the urban area with the LinC. Connection between counties in the rural area should also be made a priority. This planning effort will provide opportunities for grant funding such as Service Development Grants (SDG) towards the implementation of this regional public transportation system improvements.

Both counties will continue to coordinate to expand on regional opportunities to improve access across county lines.

C. Update on the District One MPO Chair Summit and Coastal MPO Alliance

Bob Herrington with the Charlotte MPO discussed the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO proposal of holding a District One MPO Chair's Summit to discuss regional planning concerns and the formation of a Coastal MPO Alliance. The FDOT has agreed to host the Chair's Summit at its new operations center in Manatee County. The current proposal is to have the Chair's Summit coincide with the Coordinated Urban Transportation Studies (CUTS) meeting in January. The agenda will be discussed at the CUTS meeting scheduled for October 11, 2016. The March 15, 2016 Letter from Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO was included as an attachment to the agenda packet.

Sarasota, Manatee, and Lee are agreeable to meeting. Anne McLaughlin with Collier MPO stated that their Board also gave support to concept of regional voluntary collaboration.

D. Update and Discussion on the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform

On June 27, 2016, the United States Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) proposed a draft rule proposing changes to the transportation planning regulations to "promote more effective regional planning by States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)". Comments on the proposed rule were due by August 26, 2016. A summary of the proposed rule requirements are listed below:

- Changes to the definition of Metropolitan Planning Area would clarify that it must include the entire urbanized area, plus the contiguous area forecast to become urbanized within the 20 year planning horizon.
 - In practice, Metropolitan Planning Area has been synonymous with the MPO boundary.

- But in statute, the Metropolitan Planning Area is intended to be the entire urbanized area. In complex areas, the statute envisions there could be multiple MPOs within one metropolitan planning area.
- Governors and MPOs would determine whether multiple MPOs are warranted within a single Metropolitan Planning Area, based on the size and complexity of the area.
- Multiple MPOs within a metropolitan planning area would jointly develop planning products including a single metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, and performance targets.
- In order to improve State coordination with MPOs, States and MPOs would be required to maintain a current planning agreement, which would include a dispute resolution process, and would be required for coordination for analyses of areas within the metropolitan planning area.
- Metropolitan planning agreements must include coordination strategies and dispute resolution procedures between the States and the MPOs and, MPO to MPO for those sharing UZA boundaries.
- Planning data must be consistent between States and MPOs.

The proposed rule is lengthy so a link to it is provided here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/27/2016-14854/metropolitan-planning-organization-coordination-and-planning-area-reform>.

Both MPO's provided comments on the proposed rule by the due date but now the FHWA and FTA have re-opened the comment period through October 24, 2016 to allow the opportunity for reviewers to provide more detailed comments on two areas:

- Specific and detailed comments on the expected costs of implementing the proposed rule.
- Specific and detailed comments that contribute to the understanding of the impact of the proposed requirements for unified planning products where multiple MPOs serve the same urbanized area, potential exceptions that should be included in the final rule, and criteria for applying such exceptions.

The updated notification was attached to the agenda packet. The Collier County Board, MPOAC, NARC, FDOT, Charlotte MPO, and Lee MPO are opposed to combining. There are existing agreements to coordinate with other MPOs. A combination of MPOs would require a change in funding formulas and an overhaul of the existing system. It would also require a reduction of membership from each Board. A Lobbyist was used by the Charlotte MPO to write letters and might be an option for the other MPOs.

Don Scott explained that the Charlotte and Lee County MPOs have already provided comments to them indicating there is already excellent collaboration between the area MPOs. Additionally, it would be difficult to provide answers to questions asked without more specific information.

Bob Herrington stated it would increase costs because it would require a new LRTP even if one had just been done.

Agenda Item #8 – Florida Department of Transportation Report

D’Juan Harris with FDOT informed the committee that Secretary Hattaway gave his resignation notice and November will be the end of his term. Mr. Harris also informed the committee of the FY2018-2022 ePublic hearing that will be taking place on October 17th at 9 a.m. through October 24, 2017 at 9 a.m. and the website is www.swflroads.com. They will also be soliciting comments from the public in person at South Regional Library in Collier County on Wednesday, October 19th from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and in Lee County at Lakes Regional Library on Thursday, October 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. These events are part of a 21-day public notice process. Mr. Harris will forward this information to the Lee County MPO and they will forward to committee members.

Ron Gogoi asked Mr. Harris if there were any updates on the SunTrail Awards. Mr. Harris said announcements would be made soon. Mr. Harris also questioned Ms. Reina, FDOT, and she said it would be soon.

FDOT will bring the information on additions, deferrals and deletions to the committee meetings or speak individually with the MPOs. The MPOs will get a first glance at work programs when they are available.

Agenda Item #9 – Transit Update

Michelle with Collier Transit deferred to Lee since she gave a CAT report in Agenda Item #7B.

Wayne Gaither with LeeTran reported that they finished the year with 3.3 million passenger trips. It is one of the top five passenger years. He noted that their TDP should be complete by next week.

Agenda Item #10 – Members’ Comments

No member comments.

Agenda Item #11 – Information Items

Don Scott explained that when using the TIP reporter tool projects may be shown as funded in FY 2022 , just outside the five year work program but FDOT just places projects that may be funded soon just outside the work program to be considered with future funding. These may or may not be funded in this new sixth year and as such those projects need to be screened out when considering what is funded.

Agenda Item # 12 – Adjournment of Meeting

Andy Holland adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

All meetings of the Joint Lee County and Collier County Technical Advisory Committee are open to the public and citizen input is encouraged. Any person wishing to speak on any scheduled item may do so upon recognition by the Chairperson. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact **Mr. Johnny Limbaugh at the Lee County MPO** at (239) 330-2239; or **Ms. Anne McLaughlin at the Collier County MPO** at (239) 252-8192, 48 hours prior to the meeting; if you are hearing or speech impaired, call (800) 955-8770 Voice (800) 955-8771 TDD. Or, e-mail jlimbaugh@leempo.com or AnneMcLaughlin@colliergov.net.

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 that within the MPO's planning process they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with either the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator Johnny Limbaugh

at (239) 330-2242 or by writing Mr. Limbaugh at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045 or the Collier MPO Title VI Specialist Ms. Anne McLaughlin at (239) 252-8192 or by writing Ms. McLaughlin at 2885 South Horseshoe Dr., Naples, Florida 34104.

Any person who decides to appeal a decision of this committee will need a record of the proceedings pertaining thereto, and therefore may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.