

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, January 5, 2016

City of Cape Coral Public Works Building

815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990

9:30 a.m.



Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Don Scott, Lee County MPO. Persides Zambrano, Chair, arrived at 9:40 a.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was not present. The meeting was held as a Committee of the Whole. Those in attendance included Technical Advisory Committee members Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; Wayne Gaither and Lee Combs with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with City of Cape Coral Public Works; Carl Karakos with City of Fort Myers Engineering; Matt Feeney with City of Bonita Springs Public Works; Eric Ortman with Collier MPO; and Charlotte MPO's Bob Herrington and Gary Harrell. Others in attendance included Don Scott, Johnny Limbaugh, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with Lee County MPO; D'Juan Harris with FDOT; and Sean Gibbons.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

New Business

Agenda items were taken out of order to allow time for members to arrive and achieve quorum.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on MPO Projects

Don Scott provided an update on the current MPO projects and studies. He stated that the TIGER project is substantially complete with punch list items remaining section on Daniels between Six Mile and I 75. The final Wayfinding Plan will be in this week and then it will be followed up with a cost to complete, approval by FHWA, and a resolution for the jurisdictions. The report is being finalized for the Roundabout study. The aerial video, taken by a drone, of the McGregor/Colonial area will be completed in February. Final presentation to the Board will be in February. The Cape Coral Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan final report is almost complete. The Fort Myers Beach Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan is currently in the phase of conducting data collection and crash analysis. Mr. Gogoi stated there is a project advisory meeting on January 31st followed by a public outreach meeting on February 15th.

Agenda Item #6 - +Discussion on Developing Potential Projects for Proposed Federal Infrastructure Bill

Don Scott introduced this agenda item to discuss developing a list of potential projects in preparation for a Federal Infrastructure Bill.

This item is a follow up to the discussion at the November MPO Board meeting regarding the possibility of a federal stimulus funding program under the new administration and how to best position ourselves for possible funding. Staff went back and researched the requirements that were issued the last time and though there were several iterations of project lists before the final one, listed below are the minimum requirements that guided the process for determining eligible projects:

- Is the NEPA process complete for the project
- Can the project qualify for a Categorical Exclusion
- Can the project be construction ready within 120 days

- Is the project on a Federal Aid eligible roadway
- Has design been completed for the project
- Does the project fit within the existing right-of-way
- Is the local agency LAP certified
- Is the project in the TIP, STIP and/or LRTP

Back in the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, the MPO and FDOT staff developed a list of potential projects that ended up going through three iterations and was then combined into one final list that was prioritized and approved by the MPO Board prior to submittal to FDOT. The project list included capacity, bridge, intersection, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and resurfacing/maintenance projects. Our area ended up receiving about \$68 million in stimulus funds and the projects that were funded were attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott also handed out a list of potential projects.

Wayne Gaither with LeeTran stated he would submit an email to the MPO with additional projects and also a request to augment the bus replacement number. There was a brief discussion on the type of additional LeeTran projects and the sources of funding that could be used.

Mr. Gogoi suggested the possibility of Lee County applying for funds for the Estero Boulevard improvement project. It never went through PD&E and received state funds for a portion of one of the segments. Mr. Scott said that if it was the way it had been in the past, then probably not. Mr. Scott questioned looking at Bridge projects as they go through similar environmental analysis and recalled that being a discussion the last time around. Persides Zambrano clarified that the MPO was requesting feedback from the jurisdictions regarding potential projects. Mr. Scott agreed and then further explained that he is currently completing the FDOT side. Ms. Zambrano asked about the Colonial project. He explained that even though Colonial is funded, the funds could be used for other projects if it is funded through the Infrastructure Bill instead.

Mr. Scott then stated that he also added the Daniels project to the list since it has design completed although he wasn't certain FDOT would still be able to build it. The project isn't even in the Long Range Plan. He said there might be easier projects. He then explained the bus replacement amount was the missing amount in the five years and match to what was in the Long Range Plan. Mr. Scott said he was looking for emails from the local jurisdictions on possible projects although he requested the list be short based on the discussion at the Executive Committee regarding the list we had in 2009.

Lee Combs with LeeTran asked if we would know by January 21st and Mr. Scott replied that he didn't know if the information would be available that soon.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program

Don Scott introduced the agenda item to review and approve the amendments to the FY 16/17 and FY 17/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add tasks and to adjust funding.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to add new task descriptions to cover staff time and make funding revisions. The task changes include adding the unexpended funds for the Round-a-bout study from last year's budget to this year's budget, adding funding for the MPO Attorney services and adding task language for the scoping of the upcoming Bicycle Pedestrian Masterplans in Estero and Sanibel. Attached to the agenda packet are the underline and strike through changes to the task sheets for these amendments.

Mr. Scott requested a Committee of the Whole vote. Ms. Zambrano moved to recommend endorsement of the agenda item. Carl Karakos asked if a second was required. Mr. Scott stated they have recommended agenda items as a Committee of the Whole and the Board is thus informed. Wayne

Gaither moved to second the motion. Bob Herrington brought up a point of order and suggested they ask for a consensus and then ask if there are any objections or issues. He continued that if there are no issues, it carries to the Board as the TAC reviewed the item and it was the consensus of the group to make a recommendation to the Board. Ms. Zambrano then asked if it was the consensus of the group to move the item as recommended. There were no objections.

The TAC as a Committee of the Whole moved through general consensus to support the agenda item. There were no objections.

Agenda Item #4 - Review and Approval of Proposed Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Don Scott introduced the agenda item to review and approve the proposed amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will be voted on at the January 20, 2017 MPO Board meeting.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to address changes in project time frames and to update project schedules consistent with the latest CIP and Work Program schedules. The proposed revisions include the following:

- Move up the Construction phase for the SR 31 from SR 78 to the Charlotte County line project to be consistent with the current proposed project time frames for this Developer funded segment.
- Add in the SR 31 from SR 80 to SR 78 project to allow the Wilson Pigott bridge replacement/widening project to be eligible for potential grant funding.
- Update the Existing plus Committed (E+C) to match the latest CIP and Work Program schedules through 2022.

Attached to the agenda packets were the project tables in underline and strike through format illustrating the proposed revisions. Mr. Scott also handed out a revised version of the E+C that included updated time schedules and the addition of the Littleton project. He asked the committee to review the list and notify him if there are any projects missing.

The TAC as a Committee of the Whole moved through general consensus to support the agenda item. There were no objections.

Agenda Item #3 - *Election of Officers for 2017

This agenda item will be addressed at the next meeting since a quorum was not present to vote.

Agenda Item #2 - *Review and Approval of the November 3, 2016 Meeting Summary

This agenda item will be addressed at the next meeting since a quorum was not present to vote.

Other Business

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

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Report

Wayne Gaither, LeeTran, gave the LeeTran Report. LeeTran had 3.3 million passengers for FY 2016. It is the fifth highest year for LeeTran with the last five years being the highest for ridership. They have added Routes 500 and 505 for the downtown River District. They are working toward having the AVL live and available to the public. Mr. Gogoi asked if the AVL equipment had been installed on all of the busses or just specific routes. Mr. Gaither responded they are in the process of installing the equipment on all of the buses. Mr. Gogoi then asked if in the future, the AVL system will be compatible with Opticom. Mr. Gaither said he was not sure. He further added the buses may be able to communicate with the signal systems and they may be able to enhance a green light for transit services. Mr. Gogoi asked D’Juan Harris with FDOT if he heard the comment regarding the lights and also asked him to bring this up in the coordination meetings on safety projects. Lee Combs with LeeTran clarified the name of the project as queue jump. Ms. Zambrano asked if LeeTran had an app. Ms. Combs responded that they will have a Google app. Mr. Gaither added they are using Google Transit now but with the new equipment they will have another system in place.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT Report

D’Juan Harris, FDOT, gave the FDOT report assisted by Nate Wilbur, a consultant with Atkins (via teleconference). The subject of the report is the priority application packet. FDOT will be sending letters out soon requesting pre-applications for the next work program development cycle. Mr. Harris gave a presentation on the overall deficiencies of the previously submitted applications. The goal is to avoid change orders that cause cost increases and delays. He noted minor changes were being made to the application but since they weren’t approved yet they will be using the same application as last year.

Mr. Harris began his slide presentation and said the first item they look at when they receive the applications is constructability and feasibility. He further stated this is where Mr. Wilbur’s group comes in. They use a Four P system. Mr. Wilbur explained the four p’s stand for priority projects programming process. Mr. Wilbur said they are there to make sure the applications are scope developed, the jurisdictions get what they want, and the budgets are accurate.

Mr. Harris then explained a common deficiency is drainage review. Mr. Gogoi asked when the agencies submit their applications and there is a swale with cost estimates, are they expected to provide cost estimates on drainage improvements as well. Mr. Harris said they would like the local jurisdictions to take an accurate look at drainage and account for all existing features and not rely on the second review from FDOT. Mr. Scott stated the difficult part is addressing the unforeseen in a review and gave the example of Tice. Mr. Harris said that case was an anomaly.

He then discussed environmental issues like protected species and protected habitat and the need to gain proper permitting for those.

Another issue he brought up was right of way. He said they need something more than the property appraiser’s plat. He suggested as-builts or plans for the area. Mr. Wilbur added the documents need to show the right of way and the jurisdictions should provide as much information as possible including easements. Several committee members expressed that those documents are not usually available because of the age of the communities. In those cases, Mr. Wilbur suggested quit claim deed or anything verifying there is actual right of way to avoid the additional cost of surveyors. He also said it saves time and possibly cuts out the right of way phase. Ms. Zambrano added that for pre-platted communities like Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres, it is all that is available. Mr. Gogoi said they cannot ask for surveys because that will cost the jurisdictions and they are not certain they will receive the funding. Mr. Scott said the second part of Mr. Gogoi’s statement is key in that if they don’t know they

will get funding there will be an issue spending money on surveys. Ms. Zambrano asked what problem FDOT is trying to address. Mr. Wilbur said it is to avoid building projects on private land. Ms. Zambrano and Mr. Harris did not think this has been the case in Cape Coral. Andy Getch then brought up the example of Estero Boulevard where the County had an FDOT right of way map that showed right of way that was never actually acquired by FDOT. He went on to say this is an example of what Mr. Wilbur is talking about but the information the County provided should have been good enough. Mr. Getch said that project had to be redesigned. Mr. Wilbur said in those cases where there is FDOT error, the issues will be resolved internally or FDOT will work with jurisdictions to resolve them. Mr. Getch also brought up the example of Pine Island Road and suggested the only way to solve the problem Mr. Wilbur is speaking of is to pay for a survey. He went on to say the basic question is do the local jurisdictions, in frustration of 15 or 20 applications, spend public money to do a survey or is it part of the one or two projects that get selected. Mr. Wilbur said those cases tend to be more PD&E type projects. He is referring to the cases where there is a sidewalk in a residential area and it should be certified that the sidewalk actually sits in the public right of way. Mr. Wilbur said to make it clear on the application if it will be a PD&E or acquiring right of way.

Mr. Harris continued his presentation with a discussion on Basis of Estimates, BOE, or cost unit estimates. Mr. Harris stated FDOT needs more detail on the cost estimates. The committee discussed how challenging this is without design. Mr. Wilbur suggested that the estimates be more granular or itemized instead of just lump sums. The more granular the cost estimates are, the more FDOT can confirm whether they agree or not. Carl Karakos asked if FDOT could provide examples and a checklist. He added that some costs could be difficult to estimate. Mr. Wilbur said FDOT has an LRE application that will make assumptions for projects that will provide cost estimates.

The next slide was on provisions for additional requests on applications. This includes lighting, turn lane extensions and mid-block crossings. These requests need special studies unless they are LAP projects. Several committee members requested information on exactly what is required for each.

Mr. Harris indicated the next step is pre-application submittals beginning February 2nd. They are hoping to provide feedback on the pre-applications by late May. Most MPOs will start submitting their priorities for 2023 in June. Mr. Gogoi asked about the applications submitted last year that didn't get funded and if the new requirements needed to be added to those because it is additional paperwork and there is less than a month to produce the information. Mr. Harris stated that as before, there will be a lot of back and forth between FDOT, the MPO, and local jurisdictions. Work Program development will not begin until July and they will be working together for the information requested. Mr. Scott suggested the existing applications are gathered and then reviewed with Mr. Harris to determine what is needed.

Gary Harrell asked if there was someone local who did lighting justification reports or if FDOT does them. Mr. Wilbur said a special request can be made for a lighting justification report, FDOT will hire a consultant or a consultant could be hired to do the report and it could then be submitted with application. He suggested if a request for a report is made then it could be staggered.

Mr. Harrell then asked if a study from 2009 could be used to project increased traffic to 2019 or if they must start over. Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Harris agreed that was something they should work together on.

Mr. Gogoi then asked if there was any point in resubmitting the Old 41 project. Matt Feeney said it was incorporated into the PD&E study that is moving forward. Mr. Harris said that study is planned for FY 2018. Mr. Feeney said they tried for three years and are disappointed it wasn't picked up as a stand-alone because there is a need.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

Don Scott announced that Johnny Limbaugh will be leaving the Lee County MPO with his last day being January 6, 2017. Ms. Zambrano thanked Mr. Limbaugh for his work and wished him the best of luck. Mr. Limbaugh will continue working in the area for Wright Construction. Ms. Zambrano asked if the MPO will be posting the position. Mr. Scott said yes once he decides what to post it as. Mr. Scott also said Mr. Limbaugh will participate in the completion of the TIGER project. Ms. Zambrano asked about the Transportation Leadership Academy that Mr. Limbaugh was participating in. Mr. Scott said they didn't know what they are doing with that yet.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Harrell suggested Burnt Store Road and looking in to making the roughly half mile section from the county line to the marina entrance a separate project and completing earlier. Mr. Scott said the last direction he received on that was for someone to approach the community and see what they wanted. Mr. Scott also said the funding for the major project was programmed out in 2031-2040. Mr. Harrell suggested that smaller section be moved up as a separate phase. Mr. Gogoi suggested the funding would have to be private. Mr. Harrell suggested the funding could be county, TRIP, or state. He continued with an idea of taking it out of the Federal PD&E process and changing the terminus to the marina and then having another project from Burnt Store Marina to the county line. A brief discussion followed regarding who the project would serve and who should pay. Mr. Getch asked for clarification as to if this was a suggestion made by one of the Charlotte County Commissioners. Mr. Harrell responded no. There was a brief discussion as to who actually suggested the idea and the consensus of the group was Charlotte County Commissioner Constance. Mr. Getch said the dilemma is there is a finite amount of money for projects and an infinite number of projects.

Mr. Scott brought up another topic. At the last MPO Board meeting, Commissioner Kiker brought up the San Carlos PD&E study and that there was a meeting but no presentation to the MPO Board. Commissioner Kiker asked that to be on the next MPO Board agenda. They also asked for Bonita Beach Road's Vision committee to present at a Board meeting. The Board is behind on some information since the committees have seen the US 41 presentation and the Board has not. Mr. Scott said there is a list including the DDI with I 75 and First/Second Streets. Unfortunately, with timing, the presentations are not always ready and they might go to the Board first and then the committees or vice versa.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

Don Scott handed out an updated version of the E + C handout that was attached to the agenda for item #4. He also handed out a potential projects sheet for agenda item #6.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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