

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, March 2, 2017

City of Cape Coral Public Works Building

815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990

9:30 a.m.



Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair, Andy Getch at 9:37 a.m.

The roll was called. There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting but it was achieved when Carl Karakos arrived. Those in attendance included Technical Advisory Committee members Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; Levi McCollum with LeeTran; James Buchanan and Gladys Gonzalez with Lee County School Board Transportation District; Wyatt Daltry with City of Cape Coral Department of Community Development; Persides Zambrano with City of Cape Coral Public Works; Carl Karakos with City of Fort Myers Engineering; Craig Chandler with City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Eric Ortman with Collier MPO; and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's Gary Harrell. Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with Lee County MPO; D'Juan Harris with FDOT; and Ned Baier with Jacobs.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda as there were no members of the public present.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran Report. He said ridership was up 5% for January 2017 over January 2016. He also announced the Beach Park and Ride Groundbreaking would be on March 6, 2017.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

D'Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT Report. He announced there would be a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) workshop. He also gave an update from David Jones on the US 41 project. The update on Status Changes of the project on US 41 from Winkler Ave. to SR 82 [FPN – 431313-1] in Fort Myers is as follows. FDOT will continue coordination with the City of Fort Myers to do a PD&E on this corridor in order to continue to assess the applicability of a road diet on the corridor. The list of notable changes from the first discussion that David Jones gave at the November TAC/CAC meeting are listed below:

- Removing the signal at Oakley Avenue and installing a new one at Jefferson. This is based on the left turning traffic at Winkler. This will allow more storage for vehicles and will provide a way for fire trucks to turn out of Jefferson.
- No longer reconstructing the driveways – this will be done in a subsequent project that comes out of the PD&E

- Full lighting replacement will be done in the following project – in current project we will be retrofitting the existing lights with LEDs and adding supplemental lighting at crosswalks
- Utility Work by Highway Contractors Agreement (UWHCA) with the City of Fort Myers will no longer be done as a part of this project
- Pavement design will be done to extend pavement life for 8 years

Mr. Scott said this is a follow up to what was presented before and it is a bit different. Mr. Harris agreed.

Persides Zambrano asked when the workshop on Safe Routes to Schools is. Mr. Harris said it is in our area on May 17, 2017 but there are other dates scheduled around the state. Mr. Scott clarified that all the meetings are the same and attendance at one is mandatory if you are submitting future applications to SRTS.

There was not a quorum yet so Chair Andy Getch moved to Agenda Item #7.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - +Update on the Southwest Coast Regional Trail Alignments in Lee County

Ron Gogoi introduced this item and gave a slide show presentation. He provided updates on all developments leading to the Florida Greenways and Trails (FGTS) Plan Update and the Southwest Coast Regional Trail Alignments in Lee County. There have been a lot of recent developments on the Florida Greenways and Trail (FGTS) Plan and also the Southwest Coast Connector (SW2C) in Lee County. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) in Tallahassee is currently updating its FGTS Plan, the Land Trail Opportunity Map, and Priority Map. The final Land Trail Opportunity Map is due June 30, 2017. The map updates will be approved December 13, 2017. The significance of this is that in order qualify for SUN Trail funding the trails must be on the map.

Mr. Scott stated that the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) is off the map and that leaves an opportunity for an east west connection since there are no other coast to coast connections south of the Orlando area. As part of the OGT led Priority Trail Update, the MPO has been working with OGT staff at considering an east west regional trail that will connect Fort Myers to West Palm Beach possibly using corridors already identified in the Land Trail Opportunity Map. One of these corridors involves working with Hendry County on an east west trail SR 80 alignment linking to the existing Okeechobee trail. An east west regional trail provides us with an opportunity to include another corridor on the SUN Trail Network thus allowing us to tap into potential SUN Trail funding.

Ms. Zambrano asked if I 75 was an option and Mr. Scott said it was not.

Mr. Gogoi continued that if we are fortunate enough for one of these to be included as a priority trail map, we will have one other corridor as an option. The other corridor is the Coastal Loop. As part of the Priority Trail Update, the MPO staff is also pursuing the elevation of the Coastal Loop alignment (**Attachment A**) from a Land Trail Opportunity Corridor to a Priority Trail Corridor. This concept was vetted and approved by the BPCC at its December 20th meeting. The MPO has now endorsed the concept at its February 17th meeting and adopted a resolution urging the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to include the alignment in the Priority Trail Map (included as adopted Resolution in **Attachment B**). The Coastal Loop will provide a more leisurely coastal detour to the SW2C.

Mr. Scott added that the MPO Executive Committee adopted a Resolution (**Attachment C of the agenda packet**) in support of a Feasibility Study that will evaluate (1) existing bicycle pedestrian facilities on the SW2C alignment from the proposed extension of JYLP Trail to Littleton Road (2) connections between Downtown Fort Myers to SW2C and (3) pedestrian bridge options related to the Caloosahatchee Bridge connecting North Fort Myers and Downtown Fort Myers. This concept was

also vetted and approved at the December 20th BPC meeting. Subsequently, staff has submitted an Appropriation Project Request to the Florida Legislature for \$1.90 million to conduct the feasibility study. Mr. Gogoi said the City of Fort Myers would like the study area moved out to Hanson. Mr. Scott said FDOT is currently looking at the possibility of cantilevering a pathway on the Caloosahatchee Bridge.

Gary Harrell made a point for coordination regarding the east west corridor and the addition of the pathway to connect Babcock Ranch south to SR 78 and SR 80 in the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Scott said this is consistent with the sections that go up SR 31. Ms. Zambrano asked which roadway will go through and Mr. Harrell said it is east along Tuckers Grade through to SR 31. Mr. Gogoi mentioned there was a proposed trail up SR 31 that would connect with Babcock but it is not currently on the Land Trail Opportunity Map.

At this time, with the arrival of Carl Karakos, there was a quorum.

Chair Getch asked what type of action Mr. Scott was seeking, if any, for this agenda item. Mr. Scott said action wasn't necessary. Mr. Getch said the only thing he would add is there are communities along SR 78 that are interested in a trail and if there is an option to go either way that might be a factor. He added that it would be an ambitious project for the county since the right of way is fairly narrow. Ms. Zambrano suggested Kismet tying to Del Prado and going east on US 41. Mr. Scott said he was meeting with the other MPOs later that day and he would see if they had any east west trail suggestions. There was a brief discussion on the trails that are included in the map currently and what trails could be added in the future.

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the February 2, 2017 Meeting Summary

Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the February 2, 2017 Meeting Summary.

Levi McCollum made a motion to approve the minutes. Wyatt Daltry seconded the motion. A correction to the spelling of Bob Herrington in the attendance section was made. A correction was also made to change the Collier County MPO to Collier MPO. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of Preliminary Bicycle/Pedestrian and Congestion Management Priorities

Ron Gogoi introduced this agenda item to review and approve the preliminary bicycle pedestrian and congestion management priorities that were attached to the agenda packet.

Mr. Gogoi explained that FDOT has requested preliminary lists of priority projects by funding categories to be submitted by March 17th. The final list of these MPO annual priorities will be brought before the TAC and CAC at the June meetings for recommendation before the MPO Board adopts them to meet FDOT's July 1st deadline.

Mr. Gogoi continued that **Attachments A and B** of the agenda packet included the preliminary bicycle pedestrian priorities for SUN Trail and TA funds respectively. **Attachment C** included the preliminary bicycle pedestrian priorities for SU 'box' funds. There are no new bicycle pedestrian projects for TA and SU funds this year and all projects in the individual lists include the unfunded priorities from last year. For SUN Trail funds the new projects are the Kismet Parkway Multi Use Trail from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 24th Avenue and the FPL Easement Multi Use Trail Feasibility Study in Bonita Springs. The JYLP project may be ready for submittal next year. There may be additional projects, as these are discussed through the Committees and the local agencies, for the final list of priorities that

are adopted in June. A separate list of Regional Enhancement Priorities using FDOT "Any Area" TA funds will be developed and brought to the joint TAC and CAC meetings, joint MPO meeting, and joint meetings with Collier PAC/Lee BPCC. A separate list of preliminary congestion management priorities for federal SU 'box' funds are included in **Attachment D** of the agenda packet. Congestion management projects include both traffic operation improvements and transit projects. There are two new and two previously submitted congestion management projects on the list and they will compete with the bicycle pedestrian projects for SU funds. The final list of SU priorities in June will include a combined list of bicycle pedestrian and congestion management projects by priority order.

A committee member, referring to the preliminary 2017 Congestion Management Box Fund Priorities, asked what a Burger Queue entrance was and Mr. Gogoi said it is the name of the restaurant at the intersection.

A committee member asked where FPL connected to Livingston Road and how far it is from the county line. Mr. Scott said it shows where it crosses and it is about two or three miles from the county line. Mr. Gogoi added that will be a joint project with Collier County.

Ms. Zambrano asked Mr. Gogoi if Gator Circle is part of Safe Routes to Schools. He answered that it was.

Ms. Zambrano made the motion to approve this agenda item. Mr. Scott said they weren't necessarily looking for a motion but they wanted the committee to review the item and see if they had any suggestions. Ms. Zambrano said she would like to see the Veterans project higher in the priority list. Mr. Scott added that, based on the cost, some are more likely to be funded. Mr. Harris asked if that section of Veterans is county and Ms. Zambrano said it is. Mr. Getch added that some of those projects are in consideration for being included in the county CIP as well and they will have a better idea closer to May/June. Mr. Scott added that it is good to have an approved list with SUN Trail in case other projects in the state are dropped, we have projects ready. Mr. Getch also said we need to look at the regional map and Long Range Plan bike ped priorities.

Ms. Zambrano noted how the TAC has evolved since for 45 minutes the conversation focused on non-highway projects.

Agenda Item #6 - *Unified Planning Work Program Amendments to Add the Forms and Certification

Don Scott mentioned that he would be attending an MPOAC meeting later in the day. He spoke of an MPOAC meeting that Ron Gogoi had attended and how they discussed their reserve of PL funds. He introduced Agenda Item 6E that shows the distribution of these MPOAC funds to the MPOs based on population formula. The Lee County MPO will receive \$71,803 and that will be added to the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2017. \$20,000 will go toward updating the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and the remaining \$50,000+ will go towards updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan. He then further explained this agenda item to approve the amendments to the existing FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program to move funding for the start of an update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and to update the certification and assurance forms.

The MPO staff is proposing amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO's budget) to move \$33,000 in funding from Task 4.5 Lee County Complete Streets Initiative to Task 4.4 Administrative and Planning Consultant Services for the beginning of an update to the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (underline and strike through changes were attached to the agenda packet). Also, the Joint Certification Statement, the Debarment and Suspension Certification, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization, and the Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

forms are being updated current versions and with signatures of the new MPO Chair Rick Williams for the new year and those were **attached** to the agenda packet.

Wyatt Daltry made the motion to approve this agenda item. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Discussion on Updating the Regional Maps and TRIP Priorities

Don Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the updating of the Regional Maps and TRIP Priorities. The Lee and Collier MPOs are seeking to update the Regional Roadway and Pathway maps as well as updating the TRIP priorities, that were last done in 2015, out to the year 2022/2023 (consistent with other project priority requests for submittal this year). These would include resolutions. Draft changes were taken through the Joint Committees back in October but the maps were not approved due to a lack of a quorum by the Collier MPO and issues related to the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG). The ROGG has since been removed from CR 92 down and this is the one definite change. Mr. Scott said there may be other changes that need to be made and this is open for discussion. He also said they would include Charlotte in this discussion as well. **Attached** to the agenda packet is the previously adopted TRIP priority list and the regional roadway map for the Committee's information and discussion on adding projects that are consistent with the requirements (regional facility, included within a jurisdictions CIP, match of 50% or more etc.). He also provided information on potential changes to the regional maps that have been raised since October. He asked for feedback on any potential projects that could be added.

Mr. Getch said Lee County has a couple of projects that might be TRIP eligible. He said Ortiz from Colonial to MLK and Mr. Scott said it does qualify for TRIP funds. Mr. Getch said another project would be the four-laning of Littleton.

Ms. Zambrano said Kismet would be a proposed Cape Coral project. She then clarified it would be the Kismet realignment to 24th.

Mr. Getch said the Littleton project had design and right of way in 2020/2021. Mr. Gogoi asked if it was to US 41 and Mr. Getch said he thinks it is just between the two 41s but he would need to check.

Gary Harrell mentioned cutting out a portion of the Burnt Store project that had been previously discussed near the county line and talking to residents about that project. Mr. Scott said they are trying to gain federal funds to do the whole project and it won't be any time soon. Mr. Harrell said they have their MPO Board meeting on Monday and they will ask. He also questioned the trail and asked if that was using different funding. Mr. Scott said that is part of the widening project. Mr. Scott said it is currently in the Long-Range Plan as 50% county and 50% federal but he isn't sure it will stay that way over time. Mr. Scott said the problem is it a \$100 million-dollar job.

Levi McCollum mentioned that LeeTran has a few unfunded projects on the list and they would like to keep them on there. Mr. Scott said he would keep the list from 2016/2017 moving forward. A clarification was made that the past years would drop off. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. McCollum if he would like to add those same projects since they are recurring. Mr. McCollum said yes, they would like to keep those projects on the list.

Mr. Getch asked if a motion was necessary and Mr. Scott said it was not since this will come back to the committees at a later date.

Other Business

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda as no members of the public were present.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

Ms. Zambrano announced that the Florida Bicycle Association designated the City of Cape Coral the *Bicycle Friendly Community of 2016*. She thanked the Lee County MPO for their support. She said the director of the Florida Bicycle Association will be at the April City of Cape Coral Council meeting to present the award to Mayor Sawicki.

Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering announced the Fort Myers Beach Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan has been under development since November and is almost 2/3 complete. There is a project advisory committee meeting Monday, March 27, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The third project advisory committee meeting is April 26 followed by the second public workshop. They are hoping town council will adopt the plan in May or June.

Mr. Gogoi announced FDOT had approved the bike box pilot. He asked Mr. Harris with FDOT to further explain the pilot. Mr. Harris said he had nothing further to add. Mr. Gogoi asked if they would have data for the March BPCC meeting. Mr. Harris said he would sit down with Steve Walls and discuss the candidates.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

There were no topics suggested other than those previously mentioned in the meeting.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information or distribution items.

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

*Action Items *May Require Action

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