

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, April 6, 2017
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 by Andy Getch, Chair, at 9:36 a.m.

The roll was called and there was a quorum. Those in attendance included Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; Wayne Gaither with LeeTran; Gladys Gonzalez with the Lee County School Board Transportation District; Persides Zambrano with City of Cape Coral Department of Public Works; Kitty Sayers with Cape Coral Mini Bus Service; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Mary Gibbs with the Village of Estero Community Development; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; and Gary Harrell with the Charlotte MPO. Others in attendance included D’Juan Harris and David Wells with FDOT; Kayleen Mueller and Akram Hussein with American Consulting; Michael Schimpf with Petroenergy; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda at this time.

Mr. Scott said there is a change to the agenda. He stated Agenda Item #7 will be for presentation purposes only as it needs to go through the BPCC first for approval.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Wayne Gaither with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He announced the early March groundbreaking of the Beach Park and Ride project. He said it is due to be completed by the end of 2017. Mr. Gaither also stated that ridership was down 4.62% for February compared to the same time period last year. He added this could be due to the 2016 being a leap year with an extra day of service in February.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He reminded the committee of the SRTS workshop on May 17, 2017. The workshop is mandatory for those seeking to submit applications.

New Business

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

Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve this agenda item for the review and approval of the March 2, 2017 Meeting Summary. Wayne Gaither seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Scott introduced this agenda item for the review and approval of the staff proposed priority list for Federal and State funds that was attached to the agenda packet.

Mr. Scott explained the federal and state priority list, attached to the agenda packet, is the same priority list and order that was approved last year as we did not receive funding below the top two set aside items (the funding set aside for the Traffic Operations Center, the Bicycle/Pedestrian project priorities, the bus replacement funding and the Congestion Management priorities). The description of the I-75/Corkscrew Road Interchange was revised to match the recently discussed interim Interchange improvements, instead of the design phase for the ultimate interchange improvements. He continued his presentation with the review of the projects in the list of STP and State funded priorities that was attached to the agenda packet.

Mr. Gogoi interrupted the presentation to give an update on regional priorities. He said Mr. Harris agreed to accept them. He confirmed with Eric Ortman that Collier was still working on theirs. Mr. Gogoi said he will send a combined list. He stated Lee County has until the end of April to turn theirs in to the MPO. Mr. Harris asked how long until the application will be sent. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Ortman how much longer until Collier would be done. Mr. Ortman said their Board doesn't meet until May. Mr. Gogoi stated the Lee MPO will provide theirs to Mr. Harris by the end of April.

Mr. Scott said the only changes were to I 75/Corkscrew to match what is being discussed.

Mr. Gaither said LeeTran will be seeking funds for bus replacement and will have the schedule to Mr. Scott soon.

Carl Karakos made the motion to approve this agenda item for the review and approval of the Federal and State Funded Priorities. Mary Gibbs seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Presentation on the I-75/Colonial Boulevard Interchange Modification Project

Mr. Harris introduced this agenda item. He explained that the FDOT Work Program includes a project that calls for the modification of the Colonial Boulevard Interchange. The design phase is currently underway and the construction and right-of-way acquisition phases are funded in FY 2019/2020. The design calls for a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at the I-75/Colonial interchange, a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) at the Colonial and Six Mile Cypress Parkway Intersection, and a Super Street at the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Forum Boulevard to meet existing and future travel demand in the corridor. Mr. Harris then introduced Kayleen Mueller and Akram Hussein from American Consulting to present this non-action agenda item.

Ms. Mueller gave a power point slide presentation on the I-75/Colonial Interchange Modification Project that is funded in the work program. She introduced the project area. She announced the public hearing would be May 16 at the Gulf Coast Church of Christ from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. She went over the existing conditions. She explained the need for the project was based on current and future traffic projections. Ms. Mueller stated the proposed improvements would contain three segments. The segments include a CFI, a DDI and a Super Street. She further explained each segment.

Mr. Karakos asked if this project was coordinated with the Ortiz Avenue project. Ms. Mueller said this project isn't due to go to construction until 2019.

Steve Walls, Southwest Area Office Director with FDOT, introduced himself.

Mr. Karakos asked if there are bike facilities. Ms. Mueller said there are continuous bike lanes adjacent to the through lanes.

Ms. Zambrano asked what is the advantage of the DDI. Ms. Mueller stated it moves more traffic by eliminating conflict points. Mr. Hussein explained that they go continuously and eliminate phases. Mr. Scott added they are also safer. Mr. Gaither asked if transit would be phased out of intersections. Mr. Scott said the bus stops are out further and appeared to not be effected.

Ms. Mueller went over the bike ped accommodations of this project. She then discussed the estimated costs and impacts. She said there are approximately 1.84 acres required for right of way. She also stated the project cost is \$45 million. This price doesn't include acquiring right of way. Ms. Mueller said the right of way acquisition doesn't begin until later this year with construction set to begin in late 2019. She stated Justin Reck and Zachary Burch are the FDOT contacts for this project.

Michael Schimpf with Petroenergy asked if this project would interfere with his gas station located in the area. Ms. Mueller said she will go over the map with him to clarify.

Ms. Zambrano commented that the cost seemed low. Mr. Scott agreed in comparison to the original estimates. Ms. Mueller stated the cost savings is in salvaging the existing bridges.

Mr. Gogoi asked if lighting is included in the project. Ms. Mueller said that it is. Mr. Gogoi asked what type of lighting is included. Mr. Hussein said it has not been determined yet.

Ms. Zambrano asked if the project is fully funded. Mr. Walls said it is. Mr. Walls added the project should be completed by 2021.

Mr. Gaither asked if the transit stops will fit in. Ms. Mueller said all will be accommodated.

Mr. Karakos asked if there will be a presentation to Fort Myers City Council. Mr. Walls said there will be. He stated the project needed to be started due to timelines. He informed the committee that FDOT is working on a video. He added that he has discussed the project with the City of Fort Myers manager. Ms. Zambrano asked if this was going before the MPO Board at their next meeting. Mr. Scott said yes.

Mr. Gogoi asked how traffic will be eased during construction. Ms. Mueller said it will be done in stages. She added the traffic control plans are not done yet. Mr. Wells commented that this is the largest DDI in the country. He said they will be making all considerations for traffic.

Mr. Gaither asked if he could get a copy of the presentation. Mr. Scott said yes.

Ms. Gibbs asked when the next MPO Board meeting is. Mr. Scott responded that it is April 21st.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Plan Update Scope and the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Scope

Mr. Gogoi introduced this agenda item to review the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan scopes for the City of Sanibel and the Village of Estero that were attached to the agenda packet. The Florida Department of Transportation's Tentative Work Program includes a project for updating the 2009 Sanibel Shared Use Master Plan and a project for developing a new Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan for the Village of Estero. Currently, both projects are funded in FY 2019 and the earliest that the projects can commence is July 1, 2018. However, the MPO and FDOT are still looking for funds to advance the projects by a year so we want to be ready with approved scopes for project letting in case that happens. Staff has been coordinating with the City and the Village and have developed the draft scopes that were attached to the agenda packet. The TAC was asked to review the scopes and provide input.

Ms. Gibbs commented that she would like a few minor changes to the Estero Bike Ped Master Plan scope. She would like to make sure the consultant looks at Coconut. She also wants to invite the planning and design board to meetings. She said the scope looked good overall. She added that she appreciates the work of the MPO staff.

Mr. Scott said that the Sanibel CAC member had some comments on the Sanibel scope as well. He said they want to ensure all stakeholders are included. He said they would also like a user profile for the pathway that incorporates bike counts/surveys. In addition, they are looking at funding mechanisms for maintenance.

Ms. Zambrano said that Cape Coral just adopted their Bike Ped Master Plan. She suggested they make sure attendance to public hearings is clearly spelled out to consultant. Mr. Scott suggested they have a specific number of presentations that must be made by consultant to cover what might come up but not include specifics so it can change later on to meet the need.

Mr. Gogoi said that Sanibel and Estero have experienced staff to help manage the project.

Ms. Zambrano also suggested that they have a project advisory committee (PAC). Mr. Chandler said he knows of people who would be interested.

Mr. Karakos asked if the Cape Coral project was lump sum. Ms. Zambrano said it was by task. Mr. Karakos said lump sum projects are difficult to change around. He added that task projects are easier and can transfer money from one task to another.

Mr. Getch said that it is worthwhile to identify stratification of projects.

Mr. Karakos said Bike Ped access is messy along Corkscrew. He felt coordination should be made with FDOT. Ms. Gibbs said FDOT has been helpful. Mr. Karakos also suggested including Lee County because of Ben Hill development. He then added all agencies should be included.

There was a brief discussion on the signal being installed at Grandezza.

Mr. Harrell asked what the budget was for the Cape plan. Ms. Zambrano stated it was \$150,000. Mr. Gogoi added that Cape is bigger so budget was higher. The Sanibel and Estero plans are budgeted at \$100,000 each. Mr. Harrell asked if MPO had the lead. Mr. Scott said yes. He added that the Cape study was funded with SU funds. Ms. Zambrano commented this was beneficial for her as it didn't have to go through the lengthy Cape procurement process.

Mr. Karakos said the City of Fort Myers never lists costs and asked why MPO has cost listed. Mr. Scott said the MPO hires based on qualification. He added the MPO budget isn't a secret as it goes through public review. Mr. Gogoi commented that the JYLP scope for the City of Fort Myers didn't include a price. A consultant asked Mr. Gogoi about the price. Mr. Gogoi told the consultant to ask Mr. Karakos. Mr. Getch said the answer to this is line amounts.

Ms. Zambrano asked if the comments will be taken into consideration and then brought to the BPC. Mr. Gogoi said yes.

Agenda Item #8 - +Review of the Draft Strategic Intermodal System Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review the draft Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) priorities that we approve jointly with the Collier MPO. He explained the Lee and Collier MPO's last updated the SIS priorities back in 2012 and there have been a lot of changes to projects on the list as well as

changes to the SIS network that need to be reflected. Attached to the agenda packet was the previously adopted list (**Attachment A**) and the updated list for the Committee's consideration (**Attachment B**). Mr. Scott went over the changes that were made. He reviewed the updated SIS priorities table that was attached to the agenda. He then asked for input on the projects and priority order.

Mr. Karakos asked about I 75. Mr. Scott said an auxiliary lane may be an option. A brief discussion followed about a store from Texas, Buc-ees, opening in the area.

Ms. Zambrano asked about points and criteria being used. Mr. Scott replied that V/C doesn't work for comparing all projects together.

Mr. Getch wondered if there needs to be some correlation between this list and the LRTP. Mr. Scott said the issue is with the SIS cost feasible. Everything in the LRTP that hasn't been funded is considered a need right now. Mr. Gogoi suggested waiting until cost feasible 2045. Mr. Karakos said there should be follow up since one project wasn't in cost feasible. Mr. Scott said it may have been in the previous needs plan. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the extension near the Forum from SR 82 to Lockett. Mr. Karakos asked if Conservation 2020 would prevent the project. There was a brief discussion about this project.

No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item #9 - Update on MPO Projects

Mr. Scott and Mr. Gogoi gave updates on the MPO projects.

Mr. Scott said that they were still addressing TIGER punch list items. He said the Wayfinding project is processing change order through FHWA. He added they need to develop construction plans. The packages were mailed out to the jurisdictions. They are looking for a location for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mr. Scott said the Cape Coral Bike Ped Plan was approved by the City Council last Monday. Ms. Zambrano added the next step is to make it part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Scott said the Winkler Canal pathway was in the Master Plan, opposition was raised, and City Council voted to not go forward with the project as it was previously assumed. Mr. Karakos revised the scope for advertisement to reflect that Winkler is a no build option. Mr. Karakos added the goal is still to provide connectivity.

Mr. Gogoi said the feasibility study for JYLP should be done soon so application will be ready for the next round of funding. Mr. Scott commented that he just attended a LAP meeting in Bartow. He said funding for two Orlando projects were pulled because there was no activity on the project. Mr. Gogoi urged the City to not hold back on one project because there are issues with the other.

Mr. Scott said there will be an MPO Board presentation on the update to the US 41 Winkler to Victoria project.

Mr. Scott informed the committee that even though a Florida project was included in the Infrastructure projects list, Florida was the only state that did not submit an infrastructure project. He said this was due to the close relationship Governor Scott has with the administration and that he has let them know that seaports are his top priority.

Mr. Gogoi showed a few slides from the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan project. The slides included maps of existing and proposed bike ped facilities. He said the next PAC meeting is April 26. Ms. Zambrano asked if there was an alternate to Estero. Mr. Scott said no. He added that the Bike Ped Master Plan was funded to look at funding issues. Ms. Zambrano asked if they would pursue easements or hidden pathways. Mr. Gogoi said the residents don't want it to go through the nature preserve. Mr. Gogoi said Mr. Moser suggested placing the pathway along the edge of the preserve.

Mr. Karakos asked what was proposed for the bridge. Mr. Scott said there are planned facilities on both sides of the road. Mr. Karakos suggested a separate span for shared use. There was a brief discussion on this topic.

Other Business

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

There were no announcements. Ms. Zambrano showed a picture of an alligator skull found during a crew inspection in a Cape Coral catch basin. Mr. Karakos said Wink News interviewed the City of Fort Myers regarding the Winkler/Challenger roundabout. He said there was a huge response from the public. He is going to try and work this project and the Ortiz shared use path into the CIP. Ms. Zambrano said Cape Coral has a roundabout to be constructed in the CRA.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for next meeting included Draft TIP, Regional Priorities, and LRTP Amendments.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott handed out the latest MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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