

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, November 2, 2017
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990
9:30 a.m.



Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Andy Getch at approximately 9:30 a.m.

The roll was called. A quorum was not present when the meeting was called to order but was achieved shortly after when additional TAC members arrived. Those members in attendance included Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; Alicia Dixon and Juliet Iglesias with Lee County Port Authority; Steve Myers with LeeTran; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Jason Green with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs Public Works; Brandy Otero with the Collier MPO; and Gary Harrell with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Johnny Limbaugh with Wright Construction; and Don Scott and Ron Gogoi 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.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Steve Myers with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said the Beach Park and Ride should be done within the next 30 days. He thanked FDOT for including LeeTran in the fifth year for bus replacement. He said September ridership reports were not out yet due to the interruption of Hurricane Irma.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He noted that the Context Classification Workshop will be held Monday, November 7 in Bartow from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

New Business

Chair Getch went on to Agenda Item #5 while waiting for arrival of additional members to achieve quorum so voting could take place on Agenda Item #4, approval of prior minutes.

Agenda Item #5 - +Presentation of the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2019 through FY 2023

FDOT’s D’Juan Harris presented this agenda item on the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2019 through FY 2023. He said FDOT has published the draft tentative Work Program covering fiscal years 2019 through 2023 for review and input until it is adopted on July 1, 2018. He noted the draft Lee County portion of the Work Program and a summary of additions, reschedulings, and deletions were also included as attachments to the agenda packet. He reviewed some of the key items including the I-75/Corkscrew interchange interim improvements, the Trafalgar SRTS project, LeeTran bus funding, a PD&E study for SR 31, and a Gunnery at Buckingham Roundabout Lee County LAP project. He asked if there were any questions or concerns. He added that written comments to the District or the MPO will still be accepted through November 20.

Mr. Ron Gogoi then provided an analysis of priorities that were adopted this year by the Lee County MPO and those that remain unfunded. He also presented FDOT's revenue projections. He discussed some FDOT projects that the MPO asked FDOT to advance funds for including Iona/McGregor, the Marsh Avenue project and the US 41/Six Mile Cypress intersection project. Mr. Scott discussed the FDOT equity analysis explaining Lee County received less than the 80% statutory formula for funding. Mr. Harris said the work program was locked out and any changes would have to wait until next cycle. Mr. Gogoi said there wasn't adequate time to make recommendations. Chair Getch noted that Dave Loveland had already submitted a comment on the Big Carlos Bridge. Chair Getch added there was still some confusion on the bike ped projects and LAP. There was a brief discussion on LAP projects.

A quorum was attained when Mr. Gary Harrell arrived during the presentation for the previous agenda item. Chair Getch moved to Agenda Item #4, approval of the minutes.

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the August 3, 2017 and October 5, 2017 TAC Meeting Summaries

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve this agenda item for the review and approval of the August 3, 2017 and October 5, 2017 Meeting Summaries. Ms. Juliet Iglesias seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - +Update on the Draft Land Trails Opportunity Map Comments

Mr. Don Scott provided an update on the comments that have been made on the Draft Land Trails Opportunity Map. He said the comments are related to maintaining the rail corridor on the priority map as it is currently shown on the adopted map. He added that he attended the Office of Greenways and Trails public meeting last week. He said he will also attend the Council meeting in January to further the case to maintain the rail corridor. He mentioned the letter sent by the BPCC to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails office urging them to restore the Seminole Gulf Railroad alignment in the draft update of the Land Trails Priority Map. The version of the letter approved by the BPCC was attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned the MPO rail legal review and rail trail funding raised by the Village of Estero and City of Bonita Springs. He said a lot of mileage was added across the state. Mr. Gogoi commented on the Gulf Coast trail alignment. Mr. Harrell discussed the trails in Charlotte County.

Agenda Item #7 - *Provide a Recommendation on the SR 78 Sidewalk/Pathway Alternatives

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to review the SR 78 sidewalk and pathway alternatives. He explained that several years ago a PD&E study was prioritized for SR 78 to look at options for building a sidewalk extending the existing sidewalk that ends at Park 78 and I-75 to SR 31. He said the PD&E study is now underway, but there have been several issues raised as part of this study that have led us to seek input on the preliminary alternatives before proceeding further. He noted that one of the issues is whether the path should be constructed of asphalt or concrete, adding asphalt was less expensive. He said the BPCC indicated asphalt was preferred. He said the development of Babcock Ranch has led to the recent analysis of SR 31 and SR 78 as part of the SR 31 PD&E study. He then provided SR 78 sidewalk/pathway alternatives with cost estimates and asked for input. Mr. Scott added that some of the recent developments impacting the study are the addition of SR 78 to FDEP's Draft Land Trails Priority map and connecting to future planned pathways for SR 31. Mr. Scott said SR 78 isn't currently in the needs plan, but the SR 31 study is indicating that within ten years or so SR 78 needs to be widened to four lanes. Mr. Scott noted that FDOT is currently looking at the congestion at the I-75/SR 78 intersection. He also mentioned the I-75 study included in the Work Program. Mr. Gogoi commented that the BPCC recommended looking at all alternatives in the PD&E

study. He noted that SUN Trail was a possible funding source if the pathway was 12 feet wide. There was discussion as to when the SR 31 widening would occur. Mr. Johnny Limbaugh commented, pending the approval of a state infrastructure loan, construction should begin in July 2018. Mr. Carl Karakos commented that when SR 78 is finally widened the sidewalks will have to come out, but in twenty-five or thirty years when the widening actually occurs the sidewalks would need to be reconstructed anyway. There was a brief discussion as to whether the project area was considered urban or rural. Mr. Gogoi asked the committee for their recommendation. Chair Getch asked for a motion.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to recommend exploring all options including no build. Mr. Steve Myers seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Recommend Project Priorities for FY 2024 SUN Trail Funds

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend SUN Trail project priorities for potential FY 2023/2024 funding. He said they should have all received the solicitation for applications for SUN Trail funds for FY 2023/24. He commented that following staff input, the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee recommended the following projects and priority order:

1. Rails to Trails Feasibility Study on the Seminole Gulf Right of Way
2. Kismet Parkway Multiuse Trail from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 24th Avenue

Mr. Scott noted the deadline for submission of these applications to FDOT is December 15th. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that the City of Bonita Springs would like to have another project added from Hickory Boulevard to the base of the Big Carlos Bridge. Mr. Matt Feeney indicated this was correct. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that if a project was not in the existing plan it would not be considered for SUN Trail funding. He noted the application was easier to fill out this year than in the past. There was a discussion on shortfalls for cost estimates and how much cost and level of completion are factored into the SUN Trail decision.

Mr. Matt Feeney made the motion to recommend the priorities with the addition of Estero Boulevard as priority number three. Ms. Brandy Otero seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Discussion of FDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Don Scott introduced this agenda item to review FDOT's safety targets for all five national safety measures and discuss the development of the MPO's safety targets. He said the safety performance measures are:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Mr. Scott said FDOT has identified they will be going with Vision Zero. He noted the reason the handout states 0.1 is due to the inability of the form to accept zero as a value. He added Florida has become the only state in the nation to adopt Zero. He reviewed the interim targets that set a specific number for each of the target based on the last few years of data, but noted, the target is still zero. Mr. Scott showed slides of the current levels for traffic related injuries and fatalities. He noted Hillsborough County has adopted Vision Zero and had positive results. He said the MPOs

performance measures must be included in the LRTP and TIP and gave dates for those requirements. He added FDOT would provide additional data to the MPOs. Mr. Gogoi said the data should be out January 2018. Mr. Scott noted the MPOs are required to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets by February 27, 2018 in order to meet the new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. Mr. Scott said the MPO will most likely recommend adoption of Vision Zero. There was a discussion on the attainability of Vision Zero. Mr. Scott commented on the possibility of the MPOs being required to use money from other areas on safety. He also mentioned cleaning up the data to better represent the actual incidents. Mr. Scott reiterated that the actual target for FDOT is zero. A discussion followed on the issues regarding adopting a Vision Zero goal.

Agenda Item #10 - Review and Provide Input on Potential Zone Splits

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and input on potential zone splits. He said the update of the Long Range Plan, to a horizon year of 2045 due in December of 2020, has begun with the initial tasks related to the development of base year data for the Transportation Model. He added that as part of the process, the MPO is asking for input on the traffic analysis zone map to see if there are any zone splits that need to be made to address future road connections, development changes, etc. Mr. Scott asked the committee to provide any suggestions directly to him.

Other Business

Agenda Item #11 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #12 - Announcements

Mr. Gary Harrell mentioned there was a Joint Lee and Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Board Meeting on November 17, 2017. He said it will be held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Jason Green introduced himself. He is a consultant with Weiler Engineering Services in Punta Gorda and representing Fort Myers Beach. He is acting interim community development director.

Mr. Harris announced Mr. Gary Harrell is the new Executive Director of the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO.

Mr. Harris also announced that FDOT's interim SWAO Director is Lawrence Massey.

Agenda Item #13 - Topics for next meeting

A committee member suggested model updates. Mr. Scott agreed and said there would be more information, especially related to autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Gogoi mentioned he is trying to set up a presentation with FDOT regarding LAP and SUN Trail.

Mr. Scott said the next TAC meeting is December 7.

Mr. Karakos suggested a presentation on the safety study on SR 80 from Tice to Ortiz.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Scott handed out the MPOAC Legislative Update. He pointed out the electric vehicle item on the last page. There was a brief discussion on electric vehicle taxes and autonomous vehicle preparations.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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