

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, December 7, 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 Vice-Chair Wayne Gaither at 9:36 a.m.

The roll was called. The committee members introduced themselves. A quorum was present. Those members in attendance included David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Derek Faulkner with Lee County Port Authority; Wayne Gaither and Deb Stephens with LeeTran; Gladys Gonzalez with the Lee County School Board; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; and Gary Harrell and Lakshmi Gurram with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District; 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.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Vice-Chair Wayne Gaither with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He commented September ridership was down due to Hurricane Irma. He added LeeTran was down for roughly 11 days related to the storm. He stated October ridership was down 3.95%. He reported Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was down approximately 6% with ridership of 3.126 million passenger trips for the year. He said this reflects the national transit trends that are down.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He commented that FDOT is wrapping up the Draft Work Program for FY 19-23. He added they recently presented it to the MPO Board with a video and summary of changes spreadsheet as well. He noted they are moving forward with the next program development cycle. He said letters were sent out to elected officials and the MPO with the schedule remaining the same as this year. He stated applications are due in February, and priorities are due July 1. Mr. Ron Gogoi asked if FDOT still wanted preliminary priorities. There was a brief discussion regarding the due dates. Mr. D’Juan Harris said priorities need to be adopted by June 1, 2018. Ms. Persides Zambrano asked when the Work Program will be officially adopted. Mr. Harris replied July 1, 2018.

New Business

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

Vice-Chair Gaither asked if there were any corrections or comments on the November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary. There were none.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary. Mr. Craig Chandler seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Recommend Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review FDOT's safety targets, attached to the agenda packet, for all five national safety measures and make a recommendation to the MPO Board on the MPO's safety targets. He said the MPOs are required to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets by February 27, 2018 in order to meet new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. He reviewed the following safety performance measures:

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

He explained FDOT has adopted zero as their target for each of the performance measures listed above. He added the MPO staff recommends adopting a target of zero as well, consistent with the FDOT safety performance measure targets. He mentioned the statewide fatality and injury statistics for all of the Counties in Florida that were attached to the agenda packet. He also mentioned a meeting he attended in Orlando with other MPOs, FDOT, and FHWA. He handed out and reviewed the latest data set table provided at that meeting. He indicated there is uncertainty with what will happen but also mentioned the MPO can change what is submitted. He noted there are currently 102 deaths in Lee County and that is likely to increase due to the holidays. There was a brief discussion about how the data was presented on a slide shown in the presentation. Mr. Don Scott discussed other performance measures and reliability. The committee discussed the National Highway System and classification of roads. Mr. Don Scott mentioned data will be provided for the previous year, only one year of data and not multiple years due to data issues. Mr. Eric Ortman asked what's the confidence in the data. Mr. Scott said there is confidence in the one year of data but it won't show trends.

Mr. Don Scott restated that the MPO staff recommends adopting FDOT's targets. He added the BPCC recommended adopting FDOT's safety performance measure targets at their November 28, 2017 meeting as well. Mr. Gary Harrell brought up factors influencing the trends including historical factors such as fewer people driving and a poor economy. Mr. Eric Ortman noted in charting vehicle miles travelled vs. fatalities, vehicle miles traveled is a strong indicator in fatalities. Ms. Persides Zambrano asked what percentage of accidents are related to the 4Ds. Mr. Don Scott responded that distracted driving is under-reported.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to recommend supporting FDOTs safety performance measure target of zero. Ms. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Endorsement of the School District SRTS Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend MPO endorsement of the three Lee County School District SRTS priorities listed below. He reviewed the following priorities:

Priority #1: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Dean Street to Ragsdale Street. Cost: \$163,130

Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

Priority #2: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposed sidewalks are on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle South and along the perimeters of South Gator Circle. Cost: \$1,708,516

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Priority #3: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Edison Park Elementary located in Fort Myers. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Clifford Street from Edison Avenue to Victoria Street. Cost: \$167,963

Maintaining Agency: City of Fort Myers

He discussed the number of students living within two miles of each school and said the priority orders were based on that. He also reviewed maps of each location. He mentioned Ms. Dawn Huff agreed with the priority order and was present to answer any questions. Mr. Carl Karakos asked if students served is the biggest factor. Ms. Dawn Huff replied yes as well as pedestrian fatalities. Mr. Carl Karakos asked how significant is cost. Ms. Dawn Huff responded very. Mr. David Murphy asked the cost for Bonita Springs Elementary. Mr. Ron Gogoi replied it is \$163,130. A brief discussion followed on the project selection process. Mr. Ron Gogoi mentioned the workshop on SRTS applications. A discussion followed on composing applications and the types of applications that are favored. Mr. David Murphy asked how much money will come to Lee County. Mr. D’Juan Harris said it is typically \$1-2 million. Mr. Ron Gogoi advised applicants to help Ms. Dawn Huff as much as they could.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve this agenda item for the endorsement of the School District SRTS Priorities. Mr. Craig Chandler seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Review and Discuss Candidate Projects for TA and Multi-modal Box Funds

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to review and discuss candidate projects for consideration of MPO allocated TA and SU Box funds for the 2018 funding cycle. He said the City of Fort Myers and the City of Cape Coral had candidate projects. He noted the City of Bonita Springs requested three projects be added. He reviewed slides on each of the box funds and discussed projects on the lists. He also showed maps of some of the projects. He mentioned the Buckingham project that was removed at the request of the county. He also said the School Board will evaluate walking conditions along SR 80. He commented that SR 78 design phase is critical to be funded and that will be the number one priority. He stated the City of Bonita Springs would like a feasibility study to be done on Bonita Beach Road. Mr. David Murphy said he would like to arrange a meeting with Bonita to discuss this, as the project is not in the 5 year or 15 year capital plan. Mr. Ron Gogoi said he would send out an email to the County and Bonita requesting a meeting. There was a discussion on submitting projects without the proper credentials or approval. Mr. Ron Gogoi mentioned the Estero Boulevard project removed due to possible SUN Trail funding. Mr. David Murphy asked about bridge project funding. Mr. Don Scott said there isn’t funding currently, but he called out a planning study for the Caloosahatchee Bridge. He also said they are attempting to get funding for Big Carlos Bridge on the State and Federal funded priority list.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the Origin Destination Study Scope of Services

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the background of the project and review the draft origin and destination scope of services. He mentioned the Unified Planning Work Program

includes a task to conduct an origin destination study using cell phone data in support of the 2045 Long Range Plan update, land use scenario analysis, and the Cape Coral evacuation study. He added the data from the project could also be used for other future traffic studies depending on how the data is collected and reported. He said we could do Lee County and the urbanized portion of Collier County for approximately \$70,000. Mr. David Murphy mentioned Cape Police Department is looking at installing license plate readers. Mr. Don Scott noted tracking and collecting cellular data is fairly simple but processing and analyzing may be the more difficult task. He added Stantec does have a way to data mine the information. He also said there will be further discussions with Collier to possibly make the project a joint venture. There was a brief discussion on cellular data. Vice-Chair Wayne Gaither asked if this will come up again at future meetings. Mr. Don Scott said it would.

Agenda Item #9 - Review of the 2018 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the 2018 MPO meeting schedule. Ms. Persides Zambrano asked if the TAC would still be meeting in the same location. Mr. Don Scott responded yes. Ms. Persides Zambrano commented on the Joint meeting with Collier and asked if there would be a Joint meeting with Charlotte. Mr. Don Scott said there are currently conversations with Charlotte regarding this. Mr. Gary Harrell said Charlotte County has proposed February 16, 2018 with Babcock Ranch as a possible meeting location.

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

Mr. Don Scott wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Vice-Chair Wayne Gaither introduced Ms. Deb Stephens with LeeTran.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Don Scott said Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted on at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The MPOAC Legislative Update was attached to the agenda packet as an information item. Mr. Don Scott briefly explained the legislation relating to MPOs and their Boards. Mr. D'Juan Harris asked if the new Mayor of Cape Coral automatically is a member of the MPO Board. Ms. Persides Zambrano replied no, the City Council decides.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Adjournment *Action Items +May Require Action

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