

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, January 4, 2018
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 9:33 a.m.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Those members in attendance included Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Derek Faulkner with Lee County Port Authority; Wayne Gaither and Hunter Abel with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Kitty Sayers with Cape-Coral Mini-Bus; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Scott Krawczuk with the City of Sanibel Public Works; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs Public Works; 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; Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering; 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 that ridership was down 5.5% for the month of November. He announced the Beach Park and Ride at Summerlin Square and Pine Ridge had its grand opening ceremony on December 18, 2017, and service out of the facility began on December 19, 2017. He noted there are 250 parking spaces available and three bus berths that can be extended to five. He said there is also Wi-Fi coverage at the Beach Park and Ride facility. He noted there were system changes that involved expanding Sunday coverages for Route 50, from the airport to Summerlin Square, and Route 130, from the Edison Mall to Summerlin Square. He added that these changes did not increase the annual budget.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said FDOT is on schedule with the application process for preliminary priorities from the MPO. He said the preliminary project priorities will be due by February. Mr. Harris said the FDOT SUN Trail coordinator mentioned that the SUN Trail application had been received from the MPO. Mr. Harris also announced there will be TIP development tools submitted for the MPOs towards mid-March. Mr. Eric Ortman asked what the TIP development tool would be. Mr. Harris said the materials would be a snapshot taken in March.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the December 7, 2017 TAC Meeting Summary

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the December 7, 2017 Meeting Summary. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Election of Officers for 2018

Chair Andy Getch presented this agenda item for the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair for 2018. Vice-Chair Gaither nominated Ms. Persides Zambrano as Chair. Ms. Zambrano declined the nomination.

Ms. Zambrano nominated Mr. Carl Karakos to serve as Chair. Mr. Karakos accepted. Mr. Matt Feeney seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zambrano made the motion to nominate Mr. David Murphy to serve as Vice-Chair. Vice-Chair Gaither seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5a - *Review and Approval of a Proposed TIP Amendment to Add Local Funds for the US 41 WINKLER AVENUE TO SR 82 PROJECT

Mr. Scott presented this walk-on agenda item for the review and approval of a Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment to add local funds to the US 41 Construction Project. He explained the existing FY 2017/2018 through FY 2021/2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add \$3,168,000 in local funds for contamination remediation to the US 41 construction project from Winkler Avenue to SR 82. He said this project includes bicycle pedestrian safety improvements, utility work, and the resurfacing of this roadway segment. FDOT's request and a description of the total funding for the construction phase was emailed to the committee and handed out at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi asked about the phases. Mr. Karakos said there will be utilities and signalization followed by a road diet and a PD&E. Ms. Zambrano asked if any contaminants were found. Mr. Karakos said nothing was found, but this needs to be added just in case. Mr. Harris said this needed to be added because utilities were not a part of the original project. Mr. Ron Gogoi questioned sink holes. Mr. Karakos said DOT qualified this as a special type of project and will remediate those areas as necessary. Ms. Zambrano asked if the funding will come from the City of Fort Myers. Mr. Karakos replied yes. Mr. Eric Ortman asked if this was a 3R project. Mr. Harris responded yes, explaining the utility portion is a separate project. The committee briefly discussed the road diet aspect of the project.

Mr. Murphy made the motion to approve the proposed TIP Amendment to add local funds for the US 41 Winkler Avenue to SR 82 Project. Mr. Feeney seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - +Review and Provide Input on the Proposed LRTP Amendments

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and seek input on the proposed amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He said the MPO is proposing LRTP amendments that will come back for approval at the next meeting and be voted on at the February MPO Board meeting. He said the purpose is to amend the Plan to reflect the project phases for the US 41 and Bonita Beach Road improvements. He commented the City of Bonita Springs is seeking State/Federal funding assistance to implement the improvements identified in their recently completed US 41 Bonita Beach Road Quadrant study. He showed a slide of the Quadrant plan. He referred to the E+C table for the amount spent by the City of Bonita Springs. Mr. Feeney said it is around \$1.2 million. Mr. Scott noted there is also \$4.88 million slated for FY2017/2018. He added the MPO had previously identified a project in the MPO Cost Feasible Plan that is listed as Major Intersections to address intersection improvement phases at major intersections. The funding from that item is then broken out when there is more information that can be used to describe the project phases and corresponding costs for projects as they move forward. He mentioned the project at Colonial from US 41 to McGregor. Mr. Murphy said it was from the river to US 41. He discussed the amounts for

possible studies and then asked if there were any additional comments. Mr. Feeney expressed gratitude and commented they are excited to pursue an additional network to alleviate congestion at the intersection. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the south quadrant won't be addressed at this time. Mr. Feeney concurred. Mr. Scott added the cost estimate is for the north quadrant. Ms. Zambrano asked if any action was needed. Mr. Scott replied none, just comments. Mr. Murphy mentioned the Del Prado interchange. Mr. Scott said the IJR is the first phase, but the Cape Evacuation study will be done first. There was a brief discussion about First and Second Street in Fort Myers and the transference of this area to the City from the State of Florida. Mr. Karakos asked for the list to be forwarded to him so he could pass it on. Mr. Scott discussed funding and revenues mentioning that the numbers are already artificially lowered to 80%, and the trend is discouraging. Mr. Murphy commented that Lee County DOT is pushing for the Big Carlos Pass Bridge project. Mr. Scott said it is the number one priority. He also commented on the revenues from gas tax and electric vehicles. Mr. Murphy discussed the bridge alternatives and options. He also noted there was a meeting regarding the bridge project on January 18, 2018. Chair Getch asked if there was additional input. There was none.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the Lee County Mobility Measures from FDOT

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review the Lee County Mobility Measures that FDOT recently sent to the MPO. He said the Florida Department of Transportation has committed to provide mobility reports for each Metropolitan/Transportation Planning Organization in the state that will include vehicle miles travelled, hours of delay, and severe congestion among other data. He reviewed the large table he received from FDOT. He noted the data was from 2015. He discussed the average speed at peak hour column for several areas in Lee County. He said according to the table, sidewalk coverage is at 66.8% and bike lane coverage is at 27.7%. Mr. Scott commented that he has requested a list of the acronyms used and mentioned the table might be uploaded to the website. Mr. Karakos asked if these roads were on the state highway system. Mr. Scott said yes, although some of it is NHS and off system. Mr. Karakos asked who calculated the data. Mr. Scott said FDOT. Mr. Karakos asked if the table included 85% speeds. Mr. Scott responded there might be. He said he is still researching the table and acronyms. Mr. Karakos asked what the data would be used for. Mr. Scott said performance measures. Chair Getch discussed the concept of travel time reliability. Mr. Scott said the data could also be used for the LRTP update. There was a brief discussion on where the data came from.

Agenda Item #8 - Update on Research of Origin Destination Options

Mr. Scott provided further information on the research of the origin destination study collection options as a follow up to the prior meeting's discussion on this topic. He referred to a previous quote from AirSage that ran approximately \$70,000 for a week of data from two national carriers. He commented that he has done some more research on the origin destination study options. He added he is now looking at StreetLight GPS extraction data. He said it uses INRIX data and can be done regionally for a given time period. He noted he will try to set up a presentation. He said queries can be run from zone to zone and zone to street. He mentioned they are starting to use this to count cars as well. Mr. Scott said he will research more studies and have a more definitive scope soon. Ms. Zambrano asked the cost. Mr. Scott replied it is variable depending on what is being done. He added the data will need to be analyzed. Mr. Ortman asked if the data was verified. Mr. Scott replied yes, there are levels of data verification.

Other Business

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

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

Mr. Gogoi introduced Mr. Jason Green from Fort Myers Beach to discuss a project they are hoping to have added to the priorities. Mr. Green presented a slide show on the Fort Myers Beach Times Square project. He said the project limits are from the Lani Kai to Old San Carlos. He noted the project may be broken into phases and includes landscaping and lighting as well as addressing accessibility and safety concerns with the goal of improving connectivity. Mr. Karakos asked what is proposed for the fenced in area. Mr. Green said it is a staging area for Lee County. Mr. Murphy said it is only short term for a utility project. Mr. Karakos asked who owns the property. Mr. Murphy said it is county property. Mr. Green said there is another adjacent segment being developed by a hotel. Mr. Green said the project also includes decorative lighting and stamped concrete and will incorporate a custom branded color palette. Mr. Scott asked if this information is being shared with FDOT in regards to how this could have parts done as part of the San Carlos project. Mr. Green said yes. There was a brief discussion on crosswalks and signals. Ms. Zambrano noted it was a great project but wasn't sure what type of funding it would qualify for. Mr. Green said it could be broken into smaller phases. Mr. Gogoi added there will be local matching funds. Mr. Karakos asked if there have been any meeting with the local business owners. Mr. Green said one owner offered to pay for his portion of the sidewalk. Mr. Karakos asked about the beach erosion in this area. Mr. Green said they are looking into ways to correct that issue. Mr. Murphy suggested the town should coordinate with FDOT. Chair Getch commented this is a maintenance project. Vice-Chair Gaither commented that there are many bus stops and LeeTran would like to be involved. Ms. Zambrano asked if there were enough agenda items for the MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

Vice-Chair Gaither mentioned LeeTran begins seasonal service of Routes 410 and 490 today, January 4, 2018.

Mr. Karakos mentioned some of the lights in downtown Fort Myers will be replaced with four-way stop signs. He said the street lights will be replaced with LED lights that will save the City approximately \$200,000 per year.

Mr. Gary Harrell announced the Babcock SIB was approved by the Lee County MPO Board on December 15 and also by the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board on December 18, 2017. He said FDOT is working on liability numbers that were requested.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

Chair Getch mentioned the EEPKO, Corkscrew traffic study, was completed and available. He said he would take staff direction on this item as it will require an LRTP amendment.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Information on the Big Carlos Bridge Project meeting was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Scott announced the meeting would be on January 18, 2018 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Mr. David Murphy mentioned the Littleton meeting that will be taking place on January 9, 2018. Mr. Gogoi said he is expecting new applications for TA funds that will require new signatures and dates and possibly new cost estimates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

*Action Items *May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.