

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Thursday, February 1, 2018  
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building  
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990  
**9:30 a.m.**



## Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Karakos at 9:36 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; Alicia Dixon with Lee County Port Authority; Wayne Gaither and Debi Stephens 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; Anthony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers Planning Department; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Planning Department; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs Public Works; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; and Lakshmi Gurram with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included D’Juan Harris with FDOT; David Wagley with Lee County Department of Community Development; and Don Scott 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

Mr. Wayne Gaither with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said LeeTran will begin adjustments to seasonal service around February 12, 2018.

### Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced FDOT would be holding a PD&E study workshop for the SR 865/San Carlos Boulevard project on February 27, 2018 at the Chapel by the Sea on Fort Myers Beach. He added the project Public Information Officer is developing a news release that, when completed, will be forwarded to the MPO for dissemination.

## New Business

### Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Approval of the January 4, 2018 TAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Wayne Gaither made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the January 4, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Andy Getch seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Agenda Item #5 - \*Review and Approval of the Proposed LRTP Amendments

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the proposed LRTP Amendments to add the improvements identified in the US 41/Bonita Beach Road Quadrant Study and to update the Existing plus Committed project list. He said the City of Bonita is seeking State/Federal funding assistance to implement the improvements identified in their recently completed US 41 Bonita Beach Road Quadrant study. He added the City of Bonita is also using about \$4.8 million in local funding for this project. He said 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 intersections. He mentioned the Existing plus Committed tables had been updated to match recent FDOT Work Program and local CIP changes. He discussed the already artificially lowered percentages were now around 20-30%, noting there are only two years left in the plan. He also mentioned he had the graphics from the Bonita presentation if more detail was needed. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Eric Ortman asked if \$15 million would be enough to complete the project. Mr. Scott replied it would be enough for the north side segment. Chair Karakos asked if there was a motion.

**Mr. Matt Feeney made the motion to approve this agenda item for the approval of the Proposed LRTP Amendments. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Presentation on the Corkscrew Road Traffic Study**

Lee County Department of Community Development staff Mr. Andy Getch provided a presentation on the results of the Corkscrew Road Traffic Study using the graphics indicating the improvements needed by 2026 with and without the overlay developments. The graphics were shown as slides and also attached to the agenda packet. First, he reviewed the slide without EEPKO. He explained that EEPKO stands for Environmental Enhancement and Preservation Community Overlay. He noted this traffic study deals with Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendments that may be needed in the future, adding many roads were already in the LRTP. He pointed out the Alico segment that has a minor failure and the SR 82 section that may be relieved with the Alico Connector. He also mentioned the level of service was based on carrying capacity. Mr. David Murphy asked if the Three Oaks extension will help. Mr. Getch said it was included. Mr. Scott commented the intersection was off from an operational standpoint. Mr. Getch noted the residents of the Corkscrew area brought their needs to the Lee County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Getch added the focus of the study was to develop a proportionate share to apply to the developments and also to determine what is needed for the LRTP. He continued his presentation with a review of the next slide, showing the area with EEPKO. He said four developments at buildout were added. He pointed out this would call for a segment of Corkscrew to be six lanes, another segment of Corkscrew to be four lanes, and widening for a portion of Alico. He mentioned the steering committee meeting and the consultant progress. There was a brief discussion on the Estero area, the traffic study done by the Village of Estero, and possible roundabouts/signals. Mr. Scott asked how far the interim improvements will go. Mr. Getch noted they are just adding turn lanes. Mr. Murphy further explained two-turn lanes will be constructed in the same footprint as the existing one. Mr. Scott asked about how the new development in Collier County would impact the traffic on Corkscrew. Mr. Ortman replied a small amount may trickle to Corkscrew. The committee briefly discussed possible signals and developer responsibility along Corkscrew close to I-75.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - Discussion Regarding Hurricane Irma Evacuation Issues and Current Activities Addressing those Issues**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on Hurricane Irma evacuation issues and current activities addressing those issues. He said at the last CAC meeting, one of the suggestions for an agenda item for this upcoming meeting was a follow up on any issues related to the evacuations during Hurricane Irma. He added the State is currently studying several issues related to the evacuations and staff is still researching these further. He discussed the following two examples of current studies on issues that occurred:

- The Governor directed FDOT to review ways to expedite evacuation routes during emergencies from the I-75/Florida Turnpike Interchange near Wildwood to the Florida/Georgia border. This area is where the worse congestion occurred during the evacuations. The evacuation numbers for the storm were estimated at 6.8 million people. In the past, making the Interstate a one way roadway for both directions was considered an option but more recently the FDOT has been studying/implementing the use of the shoulders instead (and that they were used in some areas during the Irma evacuation).
- The Governor has also directed FDOT to examine ways to increase the fuel capacity, distribution and availability to the customers as this was a major hindrance to drivers evacuating, storm responders and people trying to get back home after the storm.

He also discussed the one way function of the interstate that had been used in the past is now obsolete, and FDOT is opting for using the shoulders instead. Chair Karakos noted these are issues that should have been planned for years ago.

**Agenda Item #8 - Discuss Tasks for the FY 2018/2019 & FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on tasks for the FY 2018/2019 & FY 2019/2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He discussed planning tasks for the upcoming FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program, the MPO's budget. He explained this is the time of year to start identifying any new tasks and refine the scopes of ongoing tasks to include in the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that will come back in draft form at the March meeting and final approval at the May meeting. A significant portion of the consultant fees will be used on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update as the 2045 LRTP is due to be adopted by December 2020. He also mentioned the tasks for the TIP tool, accounting, legal, audit, and the Bicycle Safety Action Plan. He added the Estero and Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plans would be developed using TALU funding. He commented that the evacuation study could be moved forward if the City of Cape Coral funds a portion. Mr. Scott asked if there were any additions. Mr. Getch mentioned the socioeconomic update with regards to applying data to autonomous vehicles. Mr. Scott said that Traffodata was the consultant for the modeling of the LRTP. The committee discussed autonomous vehicles and the impact they may have on the data. Chair Karakos asked about autonomous buses. Mr. Gaither mentioned that Babcock Ranch will have them. Mr. Scott verified they are up and running. Mr. D'Juan Harris commented on an autonomous truck currently running a route on Alligator Alley. He said he would send the information to MPO staff.

**Other Business**

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

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

**Agenda Item #10 – Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting**

Topics suggested for next meeting included the draft UPWP and the Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project. Mr. David Murphy noted there were approximately 480 people at the recent Big Carlos Pass Bridge meeting. He said the comments from the meeting are being compiled and there will be another meeting in January of 2019.

**Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information and distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.**

\*Action Items    +May Require Action

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