

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, March 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 9:30 a.m.

The roll was called. A quorum was present. Those members in attendance included Rick Burris with Lee County Department of Community Development; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Derek Faulkner with Lee County Port Authority; Debi Stephens with LeeTran; James Buchanan and Gladys Gonzalez with Lee County School Board Department of Transportation; 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; Scott Krawczuk with the City of Sanibel Department of Public Works; Jason Green with the City of Fort Myers Beach; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; and Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO. Others in attendance included Dave Ulrich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition; D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Don Munt with Lee County Department of Community Development; 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.

Chair Karakos gave the floor to Mr. Dave Ulrich from the Responsible Growth Management Coalition. Mr. Ulrich showed two large posters and gave a presentation on projects like the Littleton/Kismet connection and an I-75 interchange north of Del Prado. He asked if there were any questions. Ms. Zambrano commented she was in disagreement with Mr. Ulrich, noting an I-75 interchange at Del Prado would best serve the citizens of Cape Coral. She also noted Mr. Ulrich’s main concern was to not disrupt the area around Prairie Pines Preserve. Mr. Murphy asked if Mr. Ulrich had presented this information to Charlotte County. Mr. Scott responded yes. Chair Karakos asked if this should be on the next agenda. Mr. Scott explained that this had been brought up recently because a resident contacted the news and a story was done. Mr. Scott also noted that unless the interchanges to the north and south are both failing, a new interchange won’t be justified. He added the Origin and Destination study is planned and could provide useful information.

### **Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report**

Ms. Debi Stephens with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. She stated LeeTran has instituted a tram pilot program on Fort Myers Beach. She said the service began February 12 and will run through April 6, 2018 from roughly 6 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. She also mentioned there were two free trams, one for the north end of the island and one for the south, that run approximately every 30 minutes. Mr. Murphy mentioned the current road project on Fort Myers Beach and urged LeeTran to communicate with Lee County Department of Transportation on any perceived needs. He also said trams can be expanded or a new tractor could be purchased to run more trams at once.

### **Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report**

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced FDOT recently had a meeting on SR 865/San Carlos. He noted that Mr. Scott and Mr. Gogoi were both in attendance. He said comments could be submitted through March 12, 2018 at [www.swflroads.com](http://www.swflroads.com) under the public involvement link. There was a brief discussion on the meeting. Mr. Harris also announced FDOT’s Interchange Access Coordinator will be making a presentation on policy points for interchange access requests at the March 16, 2018 MPO Board Meeting. Mr. Dave Murphy referred back to the San Carlos project, asking when funding might be available. Mr. Scott noted there was money available after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Mr. Harris said he wasn’t sure of the exact dollar amount.

## New Business

### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Approval of the February 1, 2018 TAC Meeting Summary**

**Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the February 1, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. David Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 - +Review and Comment on the Draft Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the draft tasks included in the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Scott noted every two years the MPO is required to develop and submit the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He added a draft copy of the tasks and budget sheets are posted on the website at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/T05a.UPWP-FY-2019-and-2020-Draft.pdf>. He said the Committee will be asked to approve the final version of the UPWP at its May 3, 2018 meeting. He then reviewed the MPO planned tasks for the next two years, noting there were numerous typos as a result of converting the document from Adobe to Word. He also noted the page numbers may not match up. He explained how funds for the LRTP were saved up and rolled over. He mentioned other areas use SU funds for the LRTP but the Lee County MPO would rather use those funds to build sidewalks. He reviewed other tasks, like 4.4, explaining the MPO is required to do an audit since funding exceeds \$750,000. He said further discussion was needed on the transit items. He handed out a table on planning studies noting the table needed to be updated and asked for email updates from TAC members on planning studies that should be included. Ms. Debi Stephens asked if a Word version could be sent to her that she could edit. Mr. Eric Ortman asked if FHWA wants all planning studies regardless of funding source. Mr. Scott responded yes, they require any study that is transportation related to be included. Chair Karakos asked how the Veronica Shoemaker project was on the list. Mr. Scott deferred to Mr. Gogoi. Chair Karakos noted it was good that it was on the list as it could be pushed through for funding. Mr. Gogoi said that if it is on the list it is due to conversations with City of Fort Myers employees/staff. Mr. Ortman asked if Lee County MPO adopted FDOT's performance measures. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mr. Ortman asked what the \$55,000 in that task will be used for. Mr. Scott replied congestion management and reporting. Chair Karakos asked about the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan update for the City of Fort Myers. Mr. Gogoi said he would talk about that later in the meeting under a different agenda item. Mr. Scott noted TALU funds were used for Sanibel and Estero. Chair Karakos asked if it will be advertised. Mr. Gogoi said it will go through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process or one of the MPO's GPCs could be used. Chair Karakos noted that given the process, he would much rather have the MPO do it. Mr. Scott said the money would be managed by the MPO. Ms. Debi Stephens referred to the LeeTran references in the UPWP, noting she would like the language changed to "planning and designing ADA compliant bus stops and shelters" and also mentioned the JPA expires on December 31, 2018. Mr. Scott asked about 5307. Ms. Stephens pointed out several minor typos. She also asked Mr. Scott to change "quarterly" to "semi-annually" on page 46 with reference to "mystery riders" and the "Spring 17/18" update to "Spring 18/19" update. Chair Karakos noted the \$20,000 should be \$200,000 with respect to the Veronica Shoemaker project. Mr. Ortman asked if there was an update on the Origin and Destination study. Mr. Scott said he was still working on developing a scope, has put money over both fiscal years, and is coordinating with Collier County MPO.

### **Agenda Item #6 - \*Review and Approve the De-obligation of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds**

Chair Karakos clarified that this agenda item gets a vote. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the de-obligation of \$120,000 of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds for use in FY 2019. He explained the MPO is de-obligating \$120,000 in federal planning funds from Task 4.4 Administrative, Planning and Project Consultant Services so that the funds will be available for use in FY 2019 starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentioned the changes to the existing UPWP, that were also attached to the agenda packet, noting funds were moved for completing tasks related to the Long Range Transportation Plan. He also explained how the money was allocated in the UPWP. He noted the carryforward amount was included on the draft UPWP that will be approved in May.

**Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the De-obligation of FY 2018 Federal Planning Funds. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #7 - Update on the Bicycle Pedestrian and Congestion Management Project Priorities**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update on the Bicycle Pedestrian and Congestion Management Priorities. Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the proposed project priorities that have been submitted as well as some updated project information from the initial reviews. He showed slides of the TA and SU Box Funds for the 2018 funding cycle, showing prior and new applications. He mentioned the projects on Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs. There was a brief discussion on the difficulties of adding multi-use paths to existing roadways. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that the preliminary priorities will be submitted in April. Chair Karakos noted with respect to the roundabout, the intersection does warrant a signal and the roundabout is a fair alternative. He added that an interim signal will be installed for a cost of approximately \$45,000. He asked if this would impact the chances of funding the roundabout. Mr. Scott mentioned that FDOT was installing an interim signal at SR 31 and SR 74 with the eventual installation of a roundabout. Chair Karakos noted the warrant was due to numerous crashes. Mr. Harris asked for the crash data to be emailed to him. Mr. Scott mentioned the Caloosahatchee Bridge sidewalk estimate from FDOT for \$35.8 million. He explained that it would include eight foot sidewalks on each side. He reviewed other modifications that would be made. There was a brief discussion on costs and path widths. Mr. Scott also mentioned the Lee County School District project requesting a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across SR 82 at Griffin near Gateway and the new proposed high school. He said the proposed cost is \$5 million. Chair Karakos mentioned the cost estimate for the bike/ped bridge across Colonial was only \$2 million. Mr. Scott asked Chair Karakos to send the estimate to him. Chair Karakos said he would. There was a brief discussion on the costs and differences between the two bike/ped bridges. Mr. Scott said the School Board is exploring funding options. There was a brief discussion on right of way and maintenance. Chair Karakos asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Discussion on Updating the Proposed TRIP Priorities**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as a discussion on updating the proposed TRIP Priorities. He explained the TRIP program provides funding for roadway and transit projects that are on the regional roadway network map. He said the map was updated last year and our regional partners are seeking updated TRIP priorities to be submitted by the end of June. He noted the TRIP projects are prioritized based on the scoring criteria which takes into account performance, SIS connectivity, matching funds etc. He added the project phases for the projects being requested are identified in the fiscal year that is indicated in the local Capital Improvement Elements. He said the priority list that was submitted last year was attached to the agenda packet and asked the committee for input on potential projects for this year. Ms. Stephens noted the regional connector priority could be left on the list but she would like the other two LeeTran projects removed. There was a brief discussion on Littleton/Kismet. Mr. Scott noted he will speak with Eileen from Lee County to get any further updates. Ms. Zambrano asked if this information was time sensitive. Mr. Scott mentioned there was supposed to be a Big Carlos presentation but it wasn't ready. He added the MPO Board agenda will have different items like the approval of the CTC and the FDOT Interchange presentation. Mr. Scott mentioned he had wanted to cancel the April MPO Board meeting but now it might not be possible. Chair Karakos mentioned the JYLP presentation that will go before the MPO Board in April. Mr. Gogoi noted there was an extension until June. Ms. Zambrano commented that if there is a light agenda, some board members may not attend and there may not be a quorum.

### **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**

Chair Karakos suggested discussing the school zone sign change issues and compliance evaluations at the next TAC meeting. Mr. Gogoi said the County has already put up some requests and those issues might be better addressed at the Traffic Management Operations Committee. A brief discussion followed on the issues

surrounding the school zone sign changes. Ms. Zambrano noted that the City of Cape Coral was doing the assessments in house.

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

The information and distribution items included in the packet were the Hurricane Irma Emergency Evacuation Report and Recommendations and the Hurricane Irma Fuel Distribution System and Recommended Improvements. Mr. Scott noted he included these studies due to prior TAC discussions and briefly reviewed a few key points. Ms. Zambrano asked if there was any information in the reports relevant to our area. Mr. Scott said most of the evacuation issues were in north Florida but some of the fuel issues did relate.

Mr. Gogoi gave a short presentation as an update to the status of the bike box project. He showed a video depicting bike box use. He said there would be four days of location monitoring this month. He also noted the project would be implemented in May or June of 2019. He mentioned Waterman Broadcasting will be doing a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that will involve volunteers and drone footage. Mr. Derek Faulkner mentioned there are special regulations on flying drone near airports.

Mr. Gogoi also mentioned the Sanibel and Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Plans. He noted the plans could move more quickly if the municipalities choose to use one of the MPO's GPCs, but they also have the option of placing a request for proposal (RFP). He said the Village of Estero could begin their plan as early as July 1, 2018. He noted the City of Sanibel will be taking it to their Council for a vote in March. Chair Karakos asked about the City of Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Scott said he couldn't guarantee a time frame as it wasn't funded. Chair Karakos then referred back to the bike boxes, asking if they could become standard practice. Mr. Harris noted this is a pilot project so that is yet to be determined. Mr. Murphy asked if this is being done anywhere else in Florida. Mr. Gogoi said it is the first two-stage bike box project in the state, but the City of St. Petersburg and a few other areas have regular bike boxes. Chair Karakos asked if Mr. Gogoi could send him the presentation information so that he could show it at the next Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.**

\*Action Items    \*May Require Action

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