

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, May 3, 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 at 9:35 a.m. by Chair Carl Karakos.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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; Paul Goyette and Levi McCollum with LeeTran; 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; Jason Green with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; 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 Nicole Monahan; D’Juan Harris with FDOT; and Don Scott, Brian Raimondo, 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

Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He announced the ridership on the Fort Myers Beach Tram surpassed 100,000 riders. He noted that the tram would run through May 30, 2018. He said there were 355,000 passenger trips for March 2018 which is almost a three percent increase from March 2017.

There was a brief discussion on LeeTran’s Beach Park and Ride service and traffic. Chair Karakos suggested a transit only lane for peak traffic hours.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced Mr. Wayne Gaither is the new FDOT Southwest Area Office Director. He also mentioned the Able Canal Workshop is May 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Veteran’s Park in Lehigh Acres.

New Business

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

Mr. David Murphy made the motion to approve the March 1, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Matt Noble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of the Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He said every two years the MPO develops the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that serves as the budget to indicate what the MPO will be doing over that time period. He added a draft of the UPWP was submitted to FDOT and FHWA and their comments as well as other comments that have been submitted to date have been addressed in this updated version. He noted there was a form that was missed with the draft submission, it had been filled out, and was ready for Mr. D’Juan Harris to sign. He pointed out several highlights of the UPWP including the Estero Bike Ped Plan, the update of the Sanibel Bike Ped Master Plan, the Fort Myers Beach Lighting Study, zonal data collection, performance measure analysis, and the update of the MPO Bike Ped Safety Action Plan. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Karakos asked if this included

the City of Fort Myers Bike Ped Plan. Mr. Scott said it must be put in as a priority first and then it can be funded. There were no further questions.

Mr. Eric Ortman made the motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Matt Noble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Mr. Brian Raimondo presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the minor update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. He said the TDSP was drafted and approved during the summer of 2013 and has gone through a minor update each year. He added there will be a major update after July 1, 2018 that will come back for approval in late fall. He noted the major update would include updating obsolete information in conjunction with LeeTran. He said for this Minor update, staff and Good Wheels made the changes that were listed in the agenda packet. He referred to the page numbers and the bullet points to review the changes as they correspond to the TDSP document. The entire document can be accessed at: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/T06a.2017-18-TDSP-draft.pdf> . Chair Karakos asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Andy Getch made the motion to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. Mr. Levi McCollum seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approval of the Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Federal and State Funded Priorities. He referred to the federal and state priority list, attached to the agenda packet and shown in table form on a slide at the meeting, that has been updated to reflect the addition of a new priority for the US 41/Bonita Beach Road Intersection project consistent with the LRTP amendment back in February. He commented that all of the other priorities that were not funded last year remain the same. Mr. David Murphy asked about the possibility of a TIGER Grant to fund some of the projects. Mr. Scott said the Big Carlos Bridge might be a good project for the funding since it is going through a P.D.&E study, and that is one of the requirements. Mr. Eric Ortman asked about the Old US 41 PD&E. Mr. Scott said it was programmed this year and is also part of Collier's Work Program. There was a brief discussion on the Advance Traffic Management System (ATMS) that had just entered Phase II earlier in the week. Mr. Scott also mentioned the Cape Evacuation Study with partial funding that would hopefully be matched by Cape Coral. Mr. Murphy asked how to get another project on the list, specifically Daniels at Fiddlesticks near I-75. Mr. Scott said it would be difficult to add a project as funding was tight just covering the existing projects. Mr. Ortman asked if this was part of the I-75 Interchange Study being conducted. Mr. Harris replied yes. Mr. Scott said those project limits may not reach that far east. There was no further discussion. Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. Matt Feeney made the motion to approve the Federal and State Funded Priorities. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Review and Provide Input on the Bicycle Pedestrian Project Evaluation Results and Preliminary TA and SU Box Funded Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for review and input on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Evaluation Results and Preliminary TA and SU Box Fund Priorities. He said all the bicycle pedestrian projects that are being considered for TA and SU funds during this year's funding cycle have been evaluated. He added the candidate projects include those projects that have pre-construction phases funded in FDOT's Work Program, projects from last year that didn't get funded, and the new projects from this year that FDOT is currently determining construction viability and project costs. He noted the evaluations were done using the MPO Evaluation Criteria that were attached to the agenda packet. He noted that tweaks to the criteria were shown in blue to make up for changing factors and circumstances. He said the evaluation scores and rankings have been used towards the determination of preliminary priorities for TA and SU Multi-modal box funds. He discussed several projects on the list including Able Canal, Marsh Avenue, and Bell Boulevard. He said approval is not being asked for at this time, it will be asked for at the next meeting. He added there will be one additional column for the City of Fort Myers Bike Ped Plan in the amount of \$150,000. Chair Karakos asked if these projects could be funded in any of the five years between 2019 and 2024. Mr. Gogoi replied yes, but it can be further discussed with FDOT. Mr. Harris noted the

project must be included in the UPWP as an amendment. There was a brief discussion on the pathways and regional maps with Mr. Gogoi stating that these projects have nothing to do with the regional roadways map as this is exclusively for the bicycle network. Chair Karakos asked if the Winkler Canal project was eligible for any other type of funding. Mr. Gogoi replied yes but the study must be completed first. He added then the project can be submitted and ranked. Chair Karakos asked about the possible Carrell Extension to the John Yarbrough Linear Path (JYLP). Mr. Gogoi said a feasibility study must be done first. Chair Karakos asked about the process. Mr. Gogoi replied that the project must be submitted and then it is passed on to FDOT to assess the viability and how it stacks up against the other projects. There was a brief discussion on smaller projects that were gaps or extensions. Mr. Gogoi said the two congestion management projects that were each under one million would get first dip into funds. There was no further discussion.

Agenda Item #9 - Review of the Draft FY 2018/19 through FY 2022/23 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Draft FY 2018/19 through FY 2022/23 Transportation Improvement Program. He noted the draft FY 2018/2019 - FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is located at <http://leemppo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Draft-TIP-042518.pdf> for the Committees review prior to final approval that will occur at the June meeting. He continued with a highlight of some of the TIP projects including the I-75/Corkscrew project and the advancing of the SR 82 project from Shawnee to Alabama. He referred to the CIPs at the end of the TIP and asked the committee members to forward newer versions if available. Mr. David Murphy suggested the Mr. Scott send an email to Eileen noting the budget should be set by June. Mr. Murphy added that at a recent meeting the Board indicated that Corkscrew would be put as a higher priority as well as the Alico Connector. Chair Karakos noted there was incorrect information being distributed to the public indicating funding was available to complete all improvements. Mr. Levi McCollum noted LeeTran was awarded a \$3 million FTA grant that would need to be added. Mr. Scott asked if Mr. Harris had received any documentation. Mr. Harris replied no. Mr. Harris asked Mr. McCollum if he could forward the notice of grant award. Mr. McCollum said he would. Mr. Ortman asked if the funding was coming from Tallahassee. Mr. Paul Goyette responded no, adding the funding was from the Federal Transit Administration.

Agenda Item #10 - Report on the Data Collection at the Intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to report on the Data Collection at the Intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue. He said the Lee County MPO contracted with FTE to monitor conflicts between cyclists and motorists at the intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue through the deployment of video equipment and Monovision traffic data collection system. He added this is being done to get conditions prior to the implementation of bicycle boxes as part of the upcoming resurfacing project. He noted the monitoring was conducted on the following days:

Tuesday, March 6 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Wednesday, March 7 from 7:30 AM to 11 AM
Sunday, March 11 from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday, March 17 from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

He said the days and the times selected for the video recording coincide with regular rides taken by members of the Calusa Riders Bicycle Club. He added these specific days were picked because vehicular traffic was expected to be at its highest in the Daniels Parkway corridor due to the baseball spring training games. He showed tables that illustrate the number of cyclists and pedestrians using the intersection on the 4 days during the study hours, and they are broken down by those that made U turns, made left turn movements using the existing left turn lanes, those who did two stage bicycle left turns, and those who rode straight through the intersection. He noted the tables also include the number of infractions caused by motorists and cyclists while traveling through the intersection. He then showed some video clips taken during the study. Ms. Kitty Sayers asked if training or education was part of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Plan. Mr. Scott mentioned the Florida Bicycle Association meeting he had recently attended and a presentation on how more cyclists from a specific riding group are following the traffic laws now but noted that they had not in the past, and they did a lot of training/reinforcement to get to that point. There was a brief discussion on the importance of education for motorists and cyclists as well as the inconsistency of crash data. Mr. Scott noted that distraction is a huge factor that isn't accounted for. Mr. Scott

added there will be education related to the bike boxes. Chair Karakos asked if cyclists could still make the regular left turn instead of the two stage left turn once the bike boxes were implemented. Mr. Gogoi replied yes, especially the road cyclists since it is faster than waiting for the two stage turns. Chair Karakos indicated it might be best not to give the option to do both in order to preserve safety intention of bike boxes. Mr. Ortman asked about the location. Mr. Gogoi showed the design plans. Ms. Alicia Dixon asked if drones were used. Mr. Scott replied the footage was taken with cameras fixed to posts. Mr. Gogoi said drones will be used for the instructional video. Ms. Dixon mentioned there are regulations that must be followed if drones are used near the airspace of Port Authority. She also announced that Mr. Derek Faulkner had received a promotion to manager of the Page Field Airport.

Agenda Item #11 - Information on the new Interchange Access Request Process Requirements

Mr. Scott presented this informational agenda item on the new Interchange Access Request Process Requirements. He referred to the Power Point that lays out the new process requirements for getting changed or new access to the Interstate that was presented by FDOT to the MPO Board on March 16th and was also attached to the agenda packet. He discussed the types of interchange access requests, requirements for all new interchange proposals, and a comparison of the 2009 and 2017 FHWA policies on interstate access. He noted it may not be an improved process as the request could still be denied at the PD&E phase. He also reviewed the overall process and gave contact information for FDOT's Interchange Coordinator.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Chair Karakos asked the committee for their position on the possible approval of a land sale that would eliminate any future plans for a Hanson Extension. The general consensus of the committee was to hold on to the land in order to preserve the option of connectivity especially due to the projected growth in Lehigh and Fort Myers.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

The topics suggested for next meeting included approval of the priorities and the TIP, an Able Canal presentation, and possibly a SR 78 presentation.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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