

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, June 7, 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 Carl Karakos at 9:36 a.m.

The roll was called. A quorum was present at approximately 9:45 a.m. Those members in attendance included Andy Getch with Lee County Department of Community Development; Lee Combs with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Jason Green with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; Lakshmi Gurram with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO; and Mike Cook with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LA-MSID). Others in attendance included Jennifer Marshall, Steven Andrews, Katharine Sampson, and D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Aniruddha Gotmare with Scalar Consulting; 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 not on the agenda.

Chair Karakos asked if there could be a vote since there was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Ron Gogoi said they could do a committee of the whole. Mr. Scott said consensus could be given.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Ms. Lee Combs with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. She announced overall ridership through April 30 was down 1.85% year to year when comparing 2018 to 2017. She discussed the Fort Myers Beach trams that ran from February 11 through May 30, 2018 stating they were a success with over 41 passenger trips per hour. She said LeeTran will probably run the tram next year from January through April. She said the Downtown Fort Myers trolley service, that ran from November through April, had about 11 passenger trips per hour. She mentioned the Rosa Parks Intermodal Facility grant from FDOT to improve the facility and add more bus bays. She closed her report with a comment that LeeTran is currently seeking to hire a transportation planner.

Mr. Don Scott mentioned that Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO is also looking to hire a transportation planner.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said there will be a public meeting on the SR 78 pathway project from Park 78 to SR 31 on June 19, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Civic Center. He said the MPO will also send out the official FDOT email notice to the committee.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the May 3, 2018 TAC Meeting Summary

Chair Karakos asked how Mr. Scott would like to handle the vote on the minutes as there was still not a quorum at that time. Mr. Scott said the minutes could be brought back. Chair Karakos asked if anyone had comments on the minutes or had even read the minutes. Mr. Andy Getch stated that he does read the minutes.

Mr. Andy Getch made the motion to approve the May 3, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Matt Noble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Endorsement of the FY 18/19 through FY 22/23 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and endorsement of the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), that was attached to the agenda packet. He noted there were not that many changes this time as the information provided from the consultant was more reliable. He said the comments from FDOT, like adding the adopted date to each project page, were addressed. He added the freight plan and asset management plans need to be included, and the MPO had until November to decide if they would adopt FDOT's or something different. He said he didn't see any reason to deviate from FDOT's recommendations. He also mentioned the LeeTran comment regarding the level of funding for 5339 and 5307 allocations as more money is received than what is shown in the TIP. Mr. Scott said he could change it in the TIP but not in FDOT's Work Program. Mr. Eric Ortman asked if this was extra funding from Tallahassee. Ms. Lee Combs noted it was federal funding that needs to be changed to what they are actually receiving due to local matches. Mr. Scott then discussed the 5307 funding including the Bonita Springs transfer that was almost \$6.3 million. He reviewed other LeeTran funding and asked Mr. Harris if the numbers could be adjusted in the TIP. Mr. Harris said that would be acceptable as it wouldn't impact anything. Ms. Combs also brought up additional 5339b funding. Mr. Scott said he already added that page and called this out. Mr. Scott asked if there were any additional comments and asked for endorsement. Ms. Calandra Barraco announced that there was now a quorum so the committee could vote. Chair Karakos asked if there were any questions or if the committee was ready to vote. Ms. Persides Zambrano commented that the wrong Chiquita project was mentioned in the introduction, and she will forward the correct details to Mr. Scott. Mr. Getch asked about the Big Carlos Pass Bridge project as it has not received funding yet. Mr. Scott said that it would be discussed in Agenda Item #8.5. Mr. Gogoi said there was a spelling error on one of the project titles, and "Pam Beach" should be changed to "Palm Beach."

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the endorsement of the FY 18/19 through FY 22/23 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Lee Combs seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Karakos moved back to Agenda Item #4 for an official vote as there was now a quorum.

Mr. Andy Getch again made the motion to approve the May 3, 2018 Meeting Summary. Mr. Matt Noble again seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of the Bicycle Pedestrian and the Operations and Management Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the federal TA and SU Multi-modal Box Funded Priorities, that were attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He said at the May 1, 2018 meeting, staff presented the results of the bicycle pedestrian evaluations and the preliminary priorities for TA and Multi-modal Box funds for committee input. He said staff is now bringing the priorities back for approval. He added the only change to the list that was presented at the May meeting is the addition of the Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update. He said staff has recommended a priority of 7 for this project, which costs only \$125,000, but is critical for identifying future bicycle pedestrian projects within the City. Mr. Gogoi also discussed the SR 78 project noting he used estimates provided by the consultant last year and after the June 19 meeting he should have better estimates. He also mentioned the estimates for the Able Canal pathway were conservative and based on the Hybrid Option 2 that will be presented by the project team today. He said a motion was needed. Ms. Zambrano noted that project number sixteen could be removed from the list as there is now another funding source for that project.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the Bicycle Pedestrian and Operations and Management Priorities with the deletion of number sixteen. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approval of the Safety Project Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the roundabout priorities for highway safety program funds that were attached to the agenda packet and also shown as a slide at the meeting. He explained

the MPO Roundabout Feasibility Study that had identified and ranked 5 locations in Lee County for potential roundabouts. He said of those, only the proposed roundabouts at the intersection of Gunnery and Buckingham and the Winkler Avenue and Challenger Boulevard met the minimum thresholds to qualify for Highway Safety Program funds. He added consistent with the MPO request from last year, FDOT has programmed the design and right of way phases for the Gunnery and Buckingham roundabout. He noted the MPO is now requesting highway safety funds for the construction phase and project development phases (design and right of way) for the Winkler Avenue and Challenger Boulevard roundabout. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the City of Fort Myers Councilmember Gaile Anthony asked about the Winkler Roundabout at the MPO Board meeting. He said there will be a conference between the City of Fort Myers, FDOT, and the MPO. Mr. Harris asked if the City of Fort Myers was willing to do the project as a LAP. Chair Karakos replied yes, and then asked how much public involvement plays in the roundabout decision. Mr. Harris replied most likely considerably.

Mr. Matt Feeney made the motion to approve the Safety Project Priorities. Mr. Lakshmi Gurram seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Review and Approval of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) priorities. He said the TRIP program provides funding for roadway and transit projects on the regional roadway network map. He noted the map was updated and adopted by the two MPOs last year. He said the updated TRIP priorities, that were attached to the agenda packet and shown in slide form at the meeting, were scored 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 by the local Capital Improvement Elements. He mentioned the new projects added to the list include the construction of the new Veterans Memorial Parkway in Collier County, the extension of Three Oaks Parkway and the widening of Corkscrew Road in Lee County, and the construction of Hanson Boulevard in the City of Fort Myers. He noted the Collier TAC and CAC approved the priority list at their meetings held on May 21, 2018 and the Collier MPO Board will hear this item at their meeting tomorrow. He said the Lee County MPO is seeking approval from the TAC and asked if there were any comments or questions. Chair Karakos asked about the funding amounts for Hanson. Mr. Scott replied \$4 million overall. Chair Karakos said the current estimate is \$22 million. Mr. Gogoi said the numbers will be adjusted. There was a brief discussion on the funding for the project. Chair Karakos asked if there was a motion.

Mr. Andy Getch made a motion to approve the Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities. Mr. Eric Ortman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8.5 – Recommendation on Pursuing Funding Option for the Big Carlos Bridge

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the committee's recommendation on a funding option outlined by FDOT for the Big Carlos Pass Bridge. He said the project is for a new or rehabilitated bridge on the south end of Fort Myers Beach, and it has been a top MPO roadway priority for last three years. He noted the County is requesting \$25 million in federal funding, which is about 50% of the construction cost. He said to move this forward, FDOT is proposing \$10 million in any area funds, to be matched with \$15 million in our federal allocation of funding in 2025, 2026 and 2027. He added this will require other programs, off the top box funding, for those three years to be reduced by at least \$1 million a year. He said Mr. L. K. Nandam asked him to bring this forward now to get items lined up. He referred to the priority box and showed a map of the bridge location. He explained the MPO is now looking for a recommendation for this to move forward. Chair Karakos asked if the new bridge will also be two lane. Mr. Andy Getch replied yes. Chair Karakos asked why the new bridge will not be four lanes. Mr. Getch replied it is a constrained roadway. Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. Andy Getch made the motion to pursue FDOT's funding option for the Big Carlos Bridge. Mr. Jason Green seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Karakos moved to Agenda Item #10 as Mr. Gogoi prepared the presentation slide show for the Able Canal Pathway PD&E, Agenda Item #9.

Agenda Item #10 - *Review and Approval of the General Planning Consultant Scope of Services and select a TAC Member for the Selection Committee

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the scope of services for the General Planning Consultant activities that will be undertaken over the next three years and to select a volunteer to participate on the selection committee. He noted the scope was attached to the agenda packet. He said the Lee MPO currently has nine general planning consultants under contract that were selected back in 2015 to cover a variety of projects/tasks that are included in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He added these contracts expire at the end of November, and we are now going out for selection of general planning consultants and the draft scope of work for the committee's review and approval was attached to the agenda packet. He said in addition, we are seeking a committee member to participate on the selection committee. Chair Karakos asked the requirements for the General Planning Consultant (GPC). Mr. Scott said they must be on the FDOT approved list. Mr. Gurram asked when the current GPC's expire. Mr. Scott said November through January, a three year limit. Ms. Combs commented that during LeeTran's FTA procurement review they were told not to lump engineering in with general planning. Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. Lakshmi Gurram made the motion to approve the General Planning Consultant Scope of Services. Mr. Matt Noble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott asked for a volunteer to sit on the selection committee. Ms. Zambrano said she would. Chair Karakos asked if a vote was needed for that. Mr. Scott replied no.

Agenda Item #9 - Presentation on the Able Canal Pathway PD&E Study

Ms. Jennifer Marshall with FDOT began the presentation on the Able Canal Pathway PD&E Study. She showed a Power Point slide presentation that can be viewed here: http://leemppo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/435351-1-Able-Canal-BPCC-presentation_r2.pdf Ms. Marshall began with a slide on the project limits. Mr. Eric Ortman asked how long the pathway was. Ms. Marshall said it is approximately five miles. She then showed slides on planning consistency and the PD&E before turning the presentation over to Mr. Steven Andrews, also with FDOT. Mr. Andrews said he is the project manager for the Able Canal Pathway PD&E study. He then introduced the Scalar Consulting President, Mr. Aniruddha Gotmare. Mr. Andrews continued with slides of the pathway details, corridor alternatives, evaluation matrix, project schedule, and contact information. He said the public hearing will be held in January/February of 2019. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Karakos asked about the minimum height at the canal crossings. Mr. Aniruddha Gotmare said they are maintaining the same elevations as the existing structures, and they are also working with LA-MSID. Chair Karakos asked what type of spans. Mr. Gotmare said there are only spans on the hybrid options, and they could be bridges or box culverts. Chair Karakos asked the type of material they would be constructed with. Mr. Gotmare said the estimates are based on concrete. Chair Karakos noted that some cyclists complain about concrete. Mr. Gotmare said they could also be asphalt overlays. Mr. Gogoi asked when the project will conclude. Mr. Andrews replied January or February 2019. Ms. Marshall clarified that would be the date of the public hearing, and the federal process does not require public workshops, it only requires a hearing. Chair Karakos asked if endorsement by the municipality was required. Ms. Marshall said they federal process does not require that. Mr. Ortman asked if there was any opposition, noting the northern alignment seems to be the best. Ms. Marshall said there were comments from residents of Town Lakes. She added that there are pros and cons for each alignment. Mr. Scott noted Town Lakes is the only gated community in Lehigh Acres. Mr. Mike Cook with LA-MSID said they recommend the northern alignment as it has fewer impacts. Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Mike Cook with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LA-MSID), who is now a voting member on the committee following the bylaws change. Mr. Ortman asked who is responsible for maintenance. Mr. Cook responded Lee County. Mr. Gogoi said Lee County and LA-MSID are working on an agreement. Mr. Cook added that once the five miles of the Able Canal Pathway are completed, it will connect to an additional four miles of trails in Harns Marsh. There was a brief discussion on funding. Chair Karakos asked if the pathways would be twelve feet. Mr. Andrews replied yes. Ms. Zambrano asked to see the slide of the pathway cross section. Mr. Andrews showed the slide again.

Agenda Item #11 - *Review and Approval of the General Public Involvement Scope of Services and select a TAC Member for the Selection Committee

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the scope of services for the General Public Involvement scope activities and recommend a member to serve on the selection committee. He said the scope of services was attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned the Lee MPO is seeking to select a small group of public involvement firms, target is three, to be available for UPWP tasks consistent with the selection that was done back in 2015. He noted the contracts have a three year time limit. He said the MPO staff has updated the draft general public involvement scope for the Committee's review and input, but it is essentially the same. He added the MPO is also seeking a volunteer from the TAC to sit on the selection committee. Chair Karakos asked for a volunteer. Mr. Getch said he would. Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. Andy Getch and Ms. Lee Combs simultaneously made the motion to approve the General Public Involvement Scope of Services. Mr. Jason Green seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Scott mentioned the cancellation of the July and August MPO Board meetings and asked if the TAC would also like to cancel their July and August meetings. Mr. Getch mentioned the 2045 LRTP and if there were any items related to that. Mr. Scott said he would have some items as well as a rough scope for the socioeconomic data and Chair Karakos said there would be no July meeting and a possible August meeting. He asked if a vote was needed. Mr. Scott replied no. Mr. Karakos asked about the midtown projects. Mr. Gogoi said that would be useful information to present and discuss. Ms. Zambrano asked what the project was. Mr. Getch gave the project limits. Chair Karakos asked if the county was involved. Mr. Getch replied no. It was agreed that Chair Karakos would coordinate. Chair Karakos said he was putting together a green sheet for the removal of the stop lights downtown and their replacement with four way stops. Mr. Gogoi asked if Chair Karakos could present an overview at the August TAC and the June 26 BPCC. Mr. Feeney asked where the BPCC meeting was held. Mr. Gogoi replied at the downtown library. Ms. Combs asked when the signals will be impacted. Chair Karakos said probably by August. Ms. Combs said bus times will need to be changed to reflect this. There was a brief discussion about Rosa Parks and its SIS designation being updated. Mr. Gogoi said they are trying to find out how regional ridership is defined by FDOT. There was a brief discussion on ridership requirements. Mr. Scott said there is an SIS webinar later in the month. Mr. Harris said it was on June 21. Mr. Matt Feeney mentioned that the City of Bonita Springs is applying for a BUILD grant for the Terry Street corridor and several projects have been rolled into the application. Mr. Scott asked if anyone was able to attend the BUILD webinar. Mr. Gurram said he was, and the deadline to apply for BUILD is July 18. There was a brief discussion on the possible Lee County BUILD application.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

The only information/distribution item that was handed out at the meeting was the staff report for Agenda Item #8.5 on the Big Carlos Bridge funding recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

***Action Items *May Require Action**

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