

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, August 2, 2018
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990



MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Karakos at 9:32 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 the Lee County Department of Transportation; Alicia Dixon with the Lee County Port Authority; Levi McCollum with LeeTran; Richard Perdue with the Lee County School Board Transportation District; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Anthony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers; 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; 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 D’Juan Harris and Sarah Catala with FDOT; Johnny Limbaugh and Robbie Powell with Wright Construction; Amy Wood with the Florida Concrete Association; Steve Belden with the City of Fort Myers; 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

Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said seasonal service will begin in November for the 500 and 505 routes in downtown Fort Myers. He also mentioned that seasonal service will resume in January 2019 for Fort Myers Beach. Mr. David Murphy asked about additional services for Fort Myers Beach. Mr. McCollum said the service will remain the same, from Bowditch Park to Matanzas Pass. He added it was included in a service development grant to FDOT but that will not be until 2020. Mr. Murphy asked if they will be running two trams with two cars on each. Mr. McCollum said yes, and they are in the process of acquiring an additional car for backup. Chair Karakos asked if it was a successful route. Mr. McCollum replied yes, with 118,000 passenger trips in fifteen weeks. He added this route boosted numbers and assisted with obtaining additional FTA funding. Mr. Murphy mentioned the bus pullouts designed for the trolleys. Mr. McCollum said those are being used.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. Mr. Harris said they are developing the new draft work program for FY 2023/2024 with an epublic hearing scheduled for October 15 – 19 and a presentation to the MPO Board on October 19, 2018. He added that the new draft work program will be brought to the committees at their September meetings. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 was moved up due to time constraints for the City of Fort Myers presenter, Mr. Steve Belden.

Agenda Item #7 - Presentation on the City of Fort Myers Mid-Town Development Plan

Mr. Steve Belden, the Community Development Director with the City of Fort Myers, presented this agenda item on the City of Fort Myers’ Integrated Downtown Redevelopment Strategy which includes the Mid-Town Development Plan. He showed a map of the area in Fort Myers that includes Downtown, Gardner’s Park, and Mid-Town. He discussed the objectives of the plan was to increase density, help to redevelop and revitalize, and includes amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. He noted this is a coordinated effort with the University of South Florida. He continued his presentation with a review of the current efforts, the Mid-Town focus area, and

the primary development objectives. He also discussed the downtown redevelopment strategy that includes a framework of connected paths and places. He showed a slide of example densities in Fort Myers. He also discussed the next steps and asked if there were any questions. The full PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Midtown-presentation-6-26-18.pdf> Mr. Murphy asked if the ballfields could be used for concerts instead of being torn down. Mr. Belden said that would be an underutilization of the property. He added the USF team was excited about the full potential of the 25 acres to create a town center with public/private partnership. There was a brief discussion on the current status of the property and possible road or network changes. Mr. McCollum asked how transit fit into this plan. Mr. Belden said that transit would be an essential part. Mr. Richard Perdue suggested using the stadium as a focal point and building around it. Mr. Belden said it is difficult to get a team due to constraints of the area, and the teams don't always stay. Mr. Andy Getch asked if considerations had been given to parking and stormwater management. Mr. Belden said parking structures would be included and stormwater would be dealt with in the new open space. Mr. McCollum asked if consideration was given to the low income residents of the area and their potential displacement. Mr. Belden said a large portion of the area is comprised of rentals. He added the new plan has an affordable housing component. Chair Karakos asked if the new city hall will be located in this area. Mr. Belden said the idea at this point is to put the new city hall where the old one currently sits. Mr. Belden thanked the committee for their time.

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the June 7, 2018 TAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Levi McCollum made the motion to approve the June 7, 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 Aviation Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Lee County Port Authority's priorities for aviation projects at the Southwest Florida International Airport and the Page Field Airport. The priority list was handed out at the meeting and also emailed prior to the meeting. Mr. Gogoi reviewed several projects on the list including the air traffic control tower and Chamberlin Parkway. He noted additional funds would be needed. He said if there were any questions, they could be directed to Ms. Alicia Dixon with the Lee County Port Authority. Chair Karakos asked what study was done to determine growth needs. Ms. Dixon said during peak season there were lines out the doors, and they were also dealing with TSA budget cuts and personnel issues. She noted the airport's annual totals are increasing. She also mentioned that the one runway is still able to support capacity. Mr. Scott mentioned that the airport is the second busiest in the nation with only one runway. He asked how far in the future a second runway would be constructed. Ms. Dixon said the mitigation has been done and there is space, they are just waiting on the need. She said they are monitoring annually to justify need. Mr. Ron Gogoi asked if the air control tower would need to be completed first. Ms. Dixon said yes, as the new tower will have a line of sight for the entire airfield if a new runway is built. Mr. Murphy asked about plans to shorten TSA lines or make the process more efficient. Ms. Dixon said they had brought in dogs to help. She also mentioned the planned terminal expansion.

Mr. Andy Getch made the motion to approve the Aviation Priorities. Mr. David Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of the Roll Forward Amendments

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the fiscal year 2018 roll forward amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which are inserted at the end of the TIP. The list was attached to the agenda packet. He said each year there are projects that are scheduled to be authorized prior to June 30th (when the previous TIP is in effect) but for various reasons they do not get authorized. He added these projects will automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program but need to be accounted for in the MPO's TIP. He said this amendment is being done to account for the roll forward projects within the TIP. He reviewed the list mentioning some of the bike/ped projects and SR 82. He said approval of the roll forward amendments allows the unspent money to be used in future years.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the Roll Forward Amendments. Mr. Lakshmi Gurrum seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the 2045 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan

Ms. Sarah Catala with FDOT presented this agenda item as a review of the 2045 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan. She said 11x17 copies were available at the back table. The statewide 2045 SIS Cost Feasible Plan was also attached to the agenda packet. She began her presentation with a survey of the modes of transportation those present at the meeting had used to get there. She then described what the system is. She also explained the cost feasible plan is part of the funding matrix. She started her Power Point slide presentation. The Plan and presentation can be found here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/T08-7.pdf> Her presentation included the purpose of the SIS 2045 Cost Feasible Plan, the SIS funding and distribution, and noteworthy projects. She asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Karakos asked about the SR 80 improvements. Ms. Catala said it would possibly be adding lanes but the corridor is constrained. She added FDOT is trying to program a PD&E as 2029 – 2035 are the projected impacts for that segment. She said this could be accelerated due to growth. Mr. Scott commented that I 75 was the most important item on the list as the PD&E is this year, right of way is programmed, but there is no construction. Mr. Scott also said this makes parallel roadway improvements even more important. The discussion on I 75 funding and right of way continued. Mr. Murphy suggested connected vehicles may lessen the need for widening to ten lanes. Mr. Gogoi asked when I 75 is projected to fail. Ms. Catala said she wasn't sure for Lee and Collier, but segments north are already starting to fail. She echoed Mr. Scott's comment that a robust supporting grid is important. She also mentioned that other larger districts have a lower budget due to the fact they can't add lanes. She said they have shifted to other solutions like transit. She said elevated lanes could also be a solution. Mr. Perdue asked about Daniels. Ms. Catala said that the District is going through existing interchange considerations for interim improvements. She said Daniels, Corkscrew, and SR 78 were all part of that review. She restated that strengthening the grid would be helpful. Chair Karakos expressed his frustration that the Hanson Street project that would have provided connectivity was just voted down by Fort Myers City Council. Mr. Scott responded with to the connected vehicles comment noting it could be at least twenty years before that is realized. Mr. Scott said ridesharing is causing more trips now but in the future autonomous vehicle use may be cheaper than owning a car. Mr. Getch said a monthly LeeTran bus pass is cheaper than owning a car. Mr. Murphy asked about getting 951 back on the list. Mr. Scott responded with a brief history of the project. There was a brief discussion on ramp metering. Mr. Getch asked if this SIS plan with a 2045 horizon locks in the projects for our 2045 LRTP. Mr. Scott replied yes, it does lock it in, as this is all of the funding that is available. Ms. Catala thanked the committee and said she could be contacted if there were further questions or comments.

Agenda Item #9 - *Review and Approval of a Letter of Support for the Strategic Growth Designation for the Rosa Parks Transit Center

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of a letter of support requesting FDOT to designate Rosa Parks Transit Center as a Strategic Growth Interregional Passenger Terminal. Mr. Gogoi explained that FDOT is updating its Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) policy. He said the update includes changes to structure designation and criteria. He continued that structure designation changes include elimination of the Emerging SIS designation and creation of a new Strategic Growth designation. He indicated the new designation will allow a facility to obtain SIS status within 3 years if it reaches minimum SIS thresholds. He said comments on the changes can be provided online at <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4395271/FL-SIS-Public-Comment-Survey> until August 30th. He further explained that the policy update will impact the Downtown Fort Myers Rosa Parks Transit Center as it being recommended for de-designation as an SIS facility. He said FDOT is also not recommending it for the new Strategic Growth designation, although it meets the criteria. He noted projections for this facility, that is co-located with Greyhound, show that annual interregional bus passengers will meet the minimum 50,000 passenger level to be an SIS facility within 3 years. He noted a sample of the letter was attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott mentioned this would also impact the SIS connector on SR 82. Mr. Gogoi asked if the facility receives a Smart Growth designation, would it apply to the connector as well. Ms. Catala replied yes, it is a package deal. Mr. Gogoi said authorization is needed for the letter to be signed by the TAC Chair and sent. Mr. McCollum thanked Ms. Catala for her input and also thanked the MPO staff for drafting the letter. Chair Karakos asked the consequences of de-designation. Mr. McCollum said it would impact future funding.

Mr. Levi McCollum made the motion to approve the Letter of Support for the Strategic Growth Designation for the Rosa Parks Transit Center. Ms. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - +Update on the Development of the Long Range Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the development of the Long Range Plan and the Regional Travel Model. He referenced the current Regional Model development schedule that was attached to the agenda packet with the completion time consistent with District One MPO's requirement of approving the 2045 Long Range Plans by December of 2020. He noted FDOT's consultant has been working on the 2015 base year and will soon be providing that data for review by each MPO prior to validation work. He added the socio-economic data for the last Long Range Plan update (for 2040) was produced as part of the land use scenario project that was conducted about five years ago. He said this included some small additional tasks that looked at the development of the future persons per household, vehicles per household etc. He commented this time around some of the local jurisdiction have done quite of bit of future housing, population, commercial and industrial projections using forecasting models. He reviewed some of what has been done and provided a rough scope of how we might want to proceed. He also mentioned the Federal guidance for implementing requirements for the Long Range Plan updates that was also attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned that some things were not addressed, like the growth near Corkscrew. Mr. Getch noted that the number of units today is higher than the 2040 projection. Mr. Scott mentioned that he spoke with a consultant firm that had done Lehigh and Cape Coral. Ms. Zambrano commented that the validation done in 2010 was within three percent. Mr. Scott mentioned Babcock growth would encompass the entire projected growth for Charlotte county, if nothing else changes with their population estimates. He referred to the scope, the data that was needed, and asked if the committee would like to bring the local jurisdictions together for a review of the data. Mr. Scott then discussed Federal requirements and FHWA changes that were addressed. Mr. Gogoi asked which projections were used. Mr. Scott replied FDOT's but reality is not close to FDOT's funding projections. He also reviewed new requirements like inclusion of freight measures and emerging issues like autonomous vehicles. He noted that more items will follow on upcoming agendas. Ms. Zambrano asked about the Punta Gorda airport. Mr. Lakshmi Gurram replied they are exploring options to build a new runway. Mr. Scott asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #11 - *Recommendation on Establishing Targets for Bridge and Pavement Performance Measures

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for a recommendation on establishing targets for Pavement, Bridge and System Performance. He said at the January MPO Board meeting, the Board adopted Safety Performance Measures that supported FDOT Performance Measure Targets consistent with the Federal Highway requirements of establishing targets by the due date. He added FHWA has now established an additional set of performance measures for Pavement, Bridge and System Performance for the National Highway System (NHS) and freight. He continued the FDOT performance measure targets have recently been released and that information was attached to the agenda packet. He reviewed the measures. He added each MPO has until November 16, 2018 to accept the FDOT targets, or to develop their own targets. He continued by November 16, 2018, each MPO must also include a narrative description of the Bridge and Pavement measures and system performance, freight, and anticipated effects the projects will have collectively on meeting these targets. He also said the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will also need to include narratives on the performance measures, either by the next major update or if the current LRTP gets amended after July of 2018. Mr. Scott noted that so far, everyone has adopted FDOT's targets. He also commented that Florida already does a great job with bridge and pavement work. He asked the committee if they wanted to recommend the same thing or if they would like additional items brought forward. He then reviewed the statewide and Lee County NHS bridge conditions. He showed the updated spread sheet with all data, noting it was several years old as there was a large amount of data to be compiled.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to adopt the FDOT Targets for Bridge and Pavement measures. Mr. Lakshmi Gurram seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #12 - Review of the 2019 MPO Meeting Calendar

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the 2019 MPO meeting calendar. He said the MPO Staff has compiled dates for the 2019 MPO meetings based on the bylaws of the Board and the different committees to begin scheduling the rooms. The 2019 meeting calendar was attached to the agenda packet. The committee

was asked to check the dates to ensure there were no conflicts with their jurisdictions. Mr. Murphy asked if the committee was off in July and April. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mr. Getch commented on the completion of the LRTP tasks. Mr. Scott said a joint meeting of the TAC and CAC could be scheduled to work on the LRTP. Chair Karakos asked if a motion was needed. Mr. Scott replied no.

Other Business

Agenda Item #13 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #14 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #15 - Topics for next meeting

The topics suggested for next meeting included the LRTP and 951. Chair Karakos mentioned the City of Fort Myers roundabout at Virginia Avenue that had been denied by the Historic Board but would be going to City Council for an appeal. He asked if anyone on the committee would be willing to speak in favor of the project and roundabouts. Mr. Scott commented that was a good location for a roundabout. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Historic Board voting was compromised. Mr. Matt Feeney asked if the roundabout was already designed. Chair Karakos replied yes. Mr. Getch asked if the local jurisdictions would be asked to submit projects and evaluate projects not on the list. Mr. Scott replied yes, the lists will be brought back. Mr. Scott said a PD&E presentation from FDOT might be possible. Mr. D’Juan Harris said that was not confirmed.

Agenda Item #16 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the list of aviation priorities, a rough scope for LRTP socio-economic data, and an 11x17 version of the SIS Long Range Cost Feasible Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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