

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, January 3, 2019
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. Those members in attendance included Andy Getch with the Lee County Department of Community Development; David Murphy with Lee County Department of Transportation; Tyler Brown with the Lee County Port Authority; Levi McCollum with LeeTran; Wyatt Daltry with the City of Cape Coral Department of Community Development; Anthony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers Department of Planning; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; and Gary Harrell with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; FDOT's Michael Tisch; and a member of the public John Majka.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka requested more signs on SR 80 east of I-75 for no parking in the right of way.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said there was increased service on Fort Myers Beach with trolleys, park and ride, and two free trams. He said in FY 2018 LeeTran had 3.1 million passenger trips which puts them even with FY 2017. Chair Karakos asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT said that FDOT had nothing to report. Mr. David Murphy asked if Mr. Tisch could follow up with Mr. D'Juan Harris on the Richmond/Queens drainage project in east Fort Myers. Mr. Tisch said he would have Mr. Harris follow up when he returns. Mr. Ron Gogoi asked about the RFP for the roundabout at Gunnery/Buckingham. Mr. Murphy said the county is working with FDOT. Mr. Gogoi asked if a NEPA document will be part of the scope. Mr. Murphy said it is a LAP project and FDOT put together the budget.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the December 6, 2018 TAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Andy Getch made the motion to approve the December 6, 2018 Meeting Summary. Ms. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Election of Officers for 2019

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the election of officers for 2019. He said consistent with the TAC bylaws, a Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. He added any voting member or his or her alternate may nominate another voting

member to be an officer. The current voting members of the TAC who are eligible to serve as officers were listed on the roster that was attached to the agenda packet.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to elect Mr. David Murphy as Chair. Mr. David Murphy accepted the nomination. Mr. Matt Feeney seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to elect Mr. Matt Feeney as Vice-Chair. Mr. Matt Feeney accepted the nomination. Mr. David Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

WALK-ON ITEM – Endorsement of the School District Safe Routes to School Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the endorsement of the Lee County School District's Safe Routes to School priority list. He said in response to FDOT's call for proposals for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure funds, the School District of Lee County is submitting 3 (three) applications. He noted of the 3, 2 include the unfunded Bonita Springs and Cape Coral project proposals from last year. He added applications are due to FDOT by January 31st. Mr. Gogoi then reviewed the following list that was also emailed to the committee and handed out at the meeting:

Priority #1: This is a resubmitted application that calls for sidewalks that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Childers Avenue to Dean Street. Cost: \$205,609

Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

Priority #2: This is a new project application. The proposal calls for (1) sidewalk on west side of Schoolside Court and north side of Schoolside Drive and (2) replacement of the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge over the Able Canal. The existing bridge was destroyed during Hurricane Irma. The proposal will benefit Lehigh Elementary located in Lehigh Acres. Cost: \$816,738

Maintaining Agency: Lee County BOCC

Priority #3: This is a resubmitted application that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposed sidewalks are on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle South and along the perimeters of South Gator Circle. Cost: \$862,032

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Ms. Zambrano asked if Priority #2 should be eligible for FEMA funds instead of SRTS funds. Mr. Andy Getch said that Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LA-MSID) maintains the canal system and most of the bridges in Lehigh. He added that this bridge was privately funded by the Rotary Club with no maintenance done since it was built. Mr. Murphy said that someone must claim ownership for FEMA to assist but LA-MSID will not. Chair Karakos asked for the criteria to determine the list. Mr. Gogoi said the criteria used to set the priorities is the number of students that will be served. Chair Karakos asked why the Lehigh project wouldn't be number one based on safety. Mr. Scott said there is a history of funding the least expensive projects, so FDOT can spread out the money to more projects across the State. Mr. Gogoi said that priority wise, the School District looks at the number of students that will be helped by the project. Mr. Scott reminded the committee that Lee County received many years of SRTS funding but there are more entities submitting now. Chair Karakos asked if there was a report with each priority. Mr. Scott replied there is a whole package that

goes with each. Mr. Karakos suggested the entire packet should be included next time. Mr. Gogoi said he will include more information next time. Mr. Getch added that there is a large amount of information that goes into each application packet. Chair Karakos said a summary with justifications would be fine. Mr. Scott said that Ms. Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District does a great job putting the information together. Ms. Zambrano asked if the cost estimate was realistic and if the Rotary Club could be called on again to fund the bridge. Mr. Murphy noted that Lee County will take ownership and maintain the bridge once it is constructed. Mr. Gary Harrell mentioned that a cost-benefit analysis could be done. Mr. Anthony Palermo said that he trusted these projects are the three best but questioned why there wasn't a City of Fort Myers project on the list. Mr. Palermo asked if there were any Fort Myers projects on the horizon for next year. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that Fort Myers was awarded SRTS funds last year. Mr. Scott said that the City of Fort Myers could submit projects to Ms. Huff. There was a brief discussion on whether the Cape project could be broken down into phases to help achieve funding.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the Safe Routes to School Priorities. Mr. David Murphy seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zambrano and Chair Karakos suggested additional information should be included next year when the priorities are presented. Mr. Scott also suggested that Ms. Dawn Huff could attend next time the priorities are presented for approval.

Agenda Item #6 - Update on the Review of the Model Base Year Data and Project Table Modifications

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the review of the model base year data and project table modifications. He said an overview of the 2015 base year data that will be used in the validation of the Regional model was provided at the last meeting. He added we have now had further discussions with our partners in reviewing the control totals, the control totals for each of the data items was attached to the agenda packet, and have talked with Traffo-Data, FDOT's consultant, about some of these data items. He noted Traffo-Data has indicated that if we want to change some of the base year control total items to better match up with our local data to provide that information. Mr. Scott showed slides with control data on population and employment, hotel and school, university, and households. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Harrell if his office staff had any comments on the data. Mr. Harrell said his staff noted some of the data was off. There was a brief discussion on the sources of the control data. Chair Karakos asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #7 - Review of the Statewide and Lee County Mobility Measures from FDOT

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the statewide and Lee County mobility measures from FDOT. He said we recently received the updated mobility measures for the Lee MPO area for 2016 as well as the updated statewide data for 2017. The Lee County MPO area analysis for review was attached to the agenda packet. The following link provides the statewide mobility data: <http://www.fdot.gov/planning/FTO/SourceBook/2018SourceBook.pdf> Mr. Scott noted the Dangerous by Design report would be out soon. Mr. Scott then provided an overview of the trends data including slides on mobility measures, vehicle miles traveled, motor vehicles fatalities and injuries, bicycle fatalities and injuries, and pedestrian fatalities and injuries. He reviewed additional slides on truck miles traveled, aviation trips, commuting to work, and number of vehicles per household. He said that the general decrease in fatalities and injuries is good news. Chair Karakos questioned if the calculations of accidents should be adjusted. Mr. Scott said there is no perfect way to measure. There was a brief discussion on how pedestrian fatalities are calculated. Mr. Harrell asked if there was any correlation to calculate the impact of the TIGER grant projects. Mr. Scott said nothing yet but we will find out as part of the performance data collection. There was a brief discussion on the impact of distracted driving.

Mr. Scott said there doesn't seem to be a replacement method for standing on the side of the road and counting distracted drivers to tabulate. Mr. Scott also noted that one bad crash can skew the numbers.

Agenda Item #8 - Request for Transportation Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the requests for transportation project priorities for FY 2024/2025. He said FDOT has sent out their yearly request for project priorities, the schedule of deliverables, and the priority applications. He added the schedule includes information packages due by February 1, 2019, a preliminary list of priorities due by March 15, 2019, and the final approved priorities due by July 1, 2019. He noted the MPO staff is assuming that there will not be a lot of new priorities this year as there are a lot of previously submitted projects that did not receive funding or there is a need to include follow up phases for the projects that did receive funding. Mr. Scott also reminded the committee that the Big Carlos project will hit next year at \$5 million per year out of Federal funding. Mr. Scott showed slides of the TA/SU Multimodal Box Funds. Mr. Gogoi requested any changes from last year to be submitted to him by January 31, 2019. He also mentioned the list will go to the BPCA on January 29 for their endorsement. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Feeney if he would like to resubmit any projects. Mr. Feeney said he would like to resubmit all of them. Mr. Gogoi added that the maximum amount that will be approved for TA projects is \$800,000 and most of the SU money will be tied up in the Big Carlos Bridge project. Mr. Gogoi also mentioned that Port Authority will possibly be seeking money for a trail project. Chair Karakos asked about funding for possible First Street and Second Street Complete Streets projects. Mr. Scott said the best time to have done that would have been when the state still owned the streets. Chair Karakos then asked about the Fowler/Evans project. There was a brief discussion on the project. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Tisch if he could find out what the status of that project is. Mr. Tisch said he would. Ms. Zambrano said there may be some Cape projects missing. Mr. Scott said it was possible that he only copied one page of the priorities to the slides, but this was the time to check and re-submit. Mr. Gogoi noted there might be some leftover funding for a Cape project. Mr. Eric Ortman asked if there was any change in the status for PD&Es that had a lack of funding for follow-up phases. Mr. Scott replied no. Ms. Zambrano asked if the highlighted projects on the slides were the ones that had been funded. Mr. Scott replied yes. Ms. Zambrano asked if there were funds expected from the Cape for the Cape Coral Evacuation study. Mr. Scott replied yes. Ms. Zambrano said she did not include any in the budget this year. Mr. Scott mentioned that the Cape Councilmembers were vocal at the last MPO Board meeting about the bridge issues. Mr. Harrell asked if the TRIP projects would also remain the same. Mr. Scott replied yes. There was a brief discussion on the ATMS project and funding.

Other Business

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

Mr. John Majka asked if there was anything further he could do to get more signs for no parking in the right of way on SR 80. Mr. Scott suggested coordinating with FDOT with a list of specific areas. Chair Karakos asked if Lee County Sheriff's was the law enforcement agency that patrols the area. Mr. Majka replied yes, and he added they leave a patrol car in the area as a deterrent. Chair Karakos said it comes down to enforcement. Mr. Majka said the state police can also enforce. Mr. Michael Tisch said he would pass the information along to FDOT staff. Mr. Majka noted that the judge in his case closed the case. There was a brief discussion on the widening of SR 80.

Agenda Item #10 – Announcements

Mr. Murphy mentioned the Joel Boulevard project that involves repurposing the existing road to a three lane road with paved shoulders from Country Club to 18th. He said he was asked to speak about the Joel project at the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. He added the area is a safety issue with 104 crashes and five fatalities. Mr. Gogoi asked if the County is expecting peds to use the shoulders. Mr.

Murphy replied yes, currently they are using the travel lanes. Mr. Gogoi asked the long term goal. Mr. Murphy said there may be no need for a four lane facility according to the projections, until possibly 2060 with a potential four-lane divided roadway. Mr. Murphy continued that the ultimate goal when Lehigh is built out is to construct a four-lane divided roadway. He said they are working with LeeTran to get bus pullout lanes, and they are also working on other safety improvements. He said the project will probably not go forward this spring as they are formatting a revised plan based on comments at the public meeting. He added that national studies indicate that accidents decrease when four lanes are converted to three. There was a brief discussion on sidewalks and passing in the center turn lane. Mr. Gogoi asked if the cost had increased for the Three Oaks project. Mr. Murphy replied that the project was broken into two phases. He further elaborated on the phases and funding. Chair Karakos asked if there were any other announcements.

Mr. Scott mentioned the Southwest Florida TransForum being held in Venice on January 28, 2019. He said he would forward more information if it becomes available.

Ms. Zambrano introduced Mr. Tyler Brown, the new TAC representative from the Lee County Port Authority.

Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting

There were no topics suggested for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Craig Chandler to give an update on the Sanibel bike ped project. Mr. Chandler said they are currently working on setting the schedule with completion in June. There was a brief discussion on the once proposed roundabout on Sanibel.

Mr. Majka brought up the SR 80 project again. Mr. Murphy suggested working with FDOT. Mr. Scott mentioned the MPO Board asked for a list of projects to be brought back that could be done instead of the sidewalks on the north side of SR 80.

The information and distribution item included in the packet was the TransForum meeting mentioned by Mr. Scott under Agenda Item #10.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*Action Items +May Require Action

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