

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, February 7, 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 David Murphy 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; 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; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Eric Ortman with the Collier MPO; Gary Harrell with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO; Charles Kammerer with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; and Mike Cook with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. 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

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 the Fort Myers Beach Tram has ridership of 25,000 passengers to date for this season. He announced Ms. Dawn Huff had been hired in the LeeTran Planning Department. He also mentioned that LeeTran is constantly reviewing routes to better serve Lee County. He added they are currently looking at routes in the City of Fort Myers to improve headway and peak service. Chair Murphy asked when the tram service ends for the season. Mr. McCollum replied May. Mr. Carl Karakos asked if the service was free. Mr. McCollum replied yes. Chair Murphy asked how many trams were running. Mr. McCollum said there are two running and one in reserve. Chair Murphy asked the headway for the trams. Mr. McCollum said it depends on traffic but the schedule is every twenty minutes, and they run from Bowditch to Matanzas.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said the projects for priorities had just been received and are currently being reviewed.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the January 3, 2019 TAC Meeting Summary

Chair Murphy asked for the minutes to be amended to specifically indicate that Mr. John Majka was a public citizen and not a member of the committee.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the amended minutes for the January 3, 2019 Meeting Summary. Mr. Levi McCollum seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approve the Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 TIP to add a Big Carlos Bridge Project Phase for FDOT Work

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review and approve the Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Big Carlos Bridge project phase for FDOT work. He said the amount requested is \$5,000 for FDOT to charge staff time spent on the Big Carlos project. Chair Murphy noted the project will be starting in 2020/2021 and they are currently working to contract for the final design with construction beginning in 2021. Chair Murphy asked about reimbursement. Mr. Scott read the funding schedule. Chair Murphy said they would start working on an agreement with FDOT. Mr. Michael Tisch said if the schedule is firmed up then they can coordinate on the funding side. Mr. Scott mentioned that FDOT has to sign off on PD&E studies now. There was a brief discussion on the sign off process and the funding years.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 TIP to add a Big Carlos Project Phase for FDOT Work. Mr. Andy Getch seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Review the List of Projects for FDOT Construction Viability Review for TA and SU Box Funded Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this informational agenda item for the review of the list of projects for FDOT review for construction viability and updated cost estimates that was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi said the deadline for submitting applications for FDOT construction viability and cost estimate evaluation of this year's projects for MPO allocated TA and Multimodal Box fund priorities was February 1st. He added MPO staff has coordinated with the local government jurisdictions and resubmitted all the applications from last year that did not get any funding programmed. He mentioned the list also includes two projects from Cape Coral that were accidentally left out from last year's priorities including a proposed sidewalk on SW 10th Street from Chiquita Blvd to Skyline Pkwy and on Skyline Pkwy from Cape Coral Pkwy to El Dorado Pkwy. He said the list will be re-evaluated with the addition of the two Cape projects.

Agenda Item #7 - +Review of the Joint Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review the Lee and Charlotte Punta Gorda MPO TRIP priorities that were last approved in June of 2016 and gather input from the committee on possible updates. He noted there was a Joint meeting of the Lee County MPO and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO coming up. He said the TRIP program provides funding for roadway and transit projects on the regional roadway network map and showed the map as a slide. He noted the previously approved TRIP priorities are attached and several of these projects are now funded (Burnt Store Road from SR 78 to Tropicana, for instance) so staff is seeking to update the list. He said the TRIP priority projects that are requesting funding require a minimum fifty percent local funding match, must be a facility on the regional roadway network map, and requires that there are phases programmed in the fiscal year of a local Capital Improvement Element that the funding is being requested to match. Mr. Scott said most of the coordination is done with Collier County and they have a scoring process to evaluate. He said coordination with Charlotte is for projects in north Lee County. He reviewed the projects on the list and asked if there was anything coming up in the Capital Improvement Programs to let him know. Chair Murphy asked about the widening of Burnt Store to the Charlotte County line. Mr. Scott said there needed to be local funds to match. Ms. Persides Zambrano said that could be addressed and the design phase should be added to the list. There was a brief discussion that continued on the project funding and possible commencement year. The committee also discussed the qualifications and criteria for TRIP funds and a possible Corkscrew project jointly with Collier. Mr. Scott noted that Collier was the original regional partner and that is why the list tended to focus on those projects.

Chair Murphy asked if the Cape had any other projects to add. Ms. Zambrano said other projects can be discussed but for now she would just like the Burnt Store segment design to be added. The committee also discussed the bridges and other forms of transportation that could alleviate the current heavy bridge traffic. Mr. Gary Harrell noted the US 41/Carmelita project had been rolled into resurfacing and the Piper Street project is completed so those can be removed from the list. He added the TRIP funds come from Doc Stamps. He explained Charlotte County's process for placing projects on the TRIP list and funding them. Mr. Scott mentioned we have done well compared to the original estimate of available TRIP funds in the LRTP revenues. Mr. Harrell added that the projects go in a rotation between Charlotte and Lee. Chair Murphy asked if there were any other projects to be added besides Burnt Store to the Charlotte line. There were none.

Agenda Item #8 - Review of the LRTP Cost Feasible Table Modifications in Response to the Federal Highway Certification Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Cost Feasible table modifications to respond to the Federal Highway Certification findings. He said the Federal Highway Certification report included a corrective action to modify the Cost feasible Tables to include costs for the 2016-2020 time frame (included as the existing plus Committee projects), identify which projects are federally funded, and show that the costs do not exceed revenues. He said he is working on completing the modifications without doing an amendment. Mr. Scott handed out a large copy of the table that was also included in the packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He added staff has reworked the tables to include a 2016-2020 column that includes the project costs, have included the funding sources to indicate what projects are partially or fully funded with federal SU funds, and have adjusted some of the project phases within the modification requirements, guidance on modifications was attached to the agenda packet, to ensure that the project costs do not exceed revenues for the five year blocks of time and overall. Mr. Scott said he is bringing this up in case there are suggestions or changes to the format. He mentioned FHWA asked for comments on the requirements and if they are needed. He said the MPOAC indicated the year of expenditure could be eliminated as it can cause confusion. Mr. Karakos asked about an old City of Fort Myers project on the list. Mr. Scott said it still has to be included, but it will be dealt with in the major update. There was a brief discussion on inflated costs and year of expenditure. Ms. Zambrano asked about adding the advance design for SR 78 to six lanes. Mr. Scott noted that FDOT is pushing for SR 78 on the other side of I-75 at the moment. Chair Murphy asked if there was anything else. Mr. Scott mentioned that FHWA will be down at the next MPO Board meeting to present the certification report.

Agenda Item #9 - Review of the 2019 Dangerous by Design Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide an overview of the 2019 Dangerous by Design Report that was recently released. He said the report indicates that the Cape Coral Fort Myers urbanized area is ranked number eight based on their PDI (Pedestrian Danger Index) and the State of Florida is ranked number one among states. Mr. Scott showed a slide on the report background. There was a brief discussion on the calculations and PDI. Mr. Andy Getch noted there was a correlation to the weather in the data. Mr. Karakos added there should be a correction factor in the equation. Mr. Getch then gave a brief history of the Dangerous by Design report that had previously been the Mean Streets report. Mr. Scott commented that he was uncertain how to get our area off the list due to the variables involved in the calculations. He said our target matched FDOT's target of zero but some other areas had chosen much higher targets. Mr. Scott also suggested ebikes and scooters may impact the data in the future due to increasing conflicts. Mr. Scott then showed slides on motor vehicle trends, Lee County crash analysis for the past five years, and Lee County Pedestrian fatalities from 2008 to 2017. Chair Murphy suggested that sidewalks recently added might help with safety in high crash areas. Mr. Scott said he examined some sites that added sidewalks and there may not have been a reduction in accidents, depending on the project. Mr. Scott then showed slides on pedestrian fatality crash analysis, infrastructure improvements, planning activities, and outreach

activities. Mr. Karakos said the public needs to be educated, and we should be proactive. Mr. Scott then showed a slide on engineering and asked if there were any questions. He said he would bring back discussion from the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee. There was a brief discussion on an email from BikeWalkLee regarding the Dangerous by Design report. Mr. Getch noted the update of the Bike Ped Safety Action Plan is a good place to start to address the findings of the Dangerous by Design report. Mr. Harrell said the position on the Dangerous by Design report does assist in getting funding.

Other Business

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, commented on a new engineering design proposal he had for the entrance to his business along SR 80. He also mentioned he asked for more signs for no parking in the right of way at the last meeting. Chair Murphy asked Mr. Tisch if that request had been forwarded to the appropriate department. Mr. Tisch replied yes.

Agenda Item #11 – Announcements

Mr. Tyler Brown with the Lee County Port Authority announced they are in the process of hiring a new planner, and they will attend these meetings.

Mr. Craig Chandler with the City of Sanibel mentioned they had recently held their first project advisory committee meeting for the update of the Shared Use Pathway Master Plan. He said there will be an open house on February 19 and there is currently a Wikimap on their website, <http://www.sanibelbikeped.com/>. He said a survey will also be out on February 11. He added Sanibel has a grant to support more public bicycle pedestrian education. There was a brief discussion on helmets.

Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Village of Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan website that has a Wikimap as well. He said the Village will hold a public workshop on February 11 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and a project advisory committee meeting on February 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Scott said there would be a public meeting on the Able Canal Pathway project that evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for Next Meeting

There were no topics suggested for next meeting.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the MPOAC Legislative Update for January 25, 2019. Mr. Scott mentioned the legislative item on micromobility.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

*Action Items *May Require Action

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